

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES



TM

Miracles on Wheels



PROCESS OF STARTING



What is Mobile Loaves & Fishes?

- Mobile Loaves & Fishes, Inc. (MLF) is a social outreach ministry to the homeless and indigent working poor.
- Founded at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin, TX in 1998
- Serves over 250,000 meals a year in 7 cities and 6 states
- Staffed by over 15,000 volunteers

Our mission:

We provide food and clothing, and promote dignity, to our homeless brothers and sisters in need.



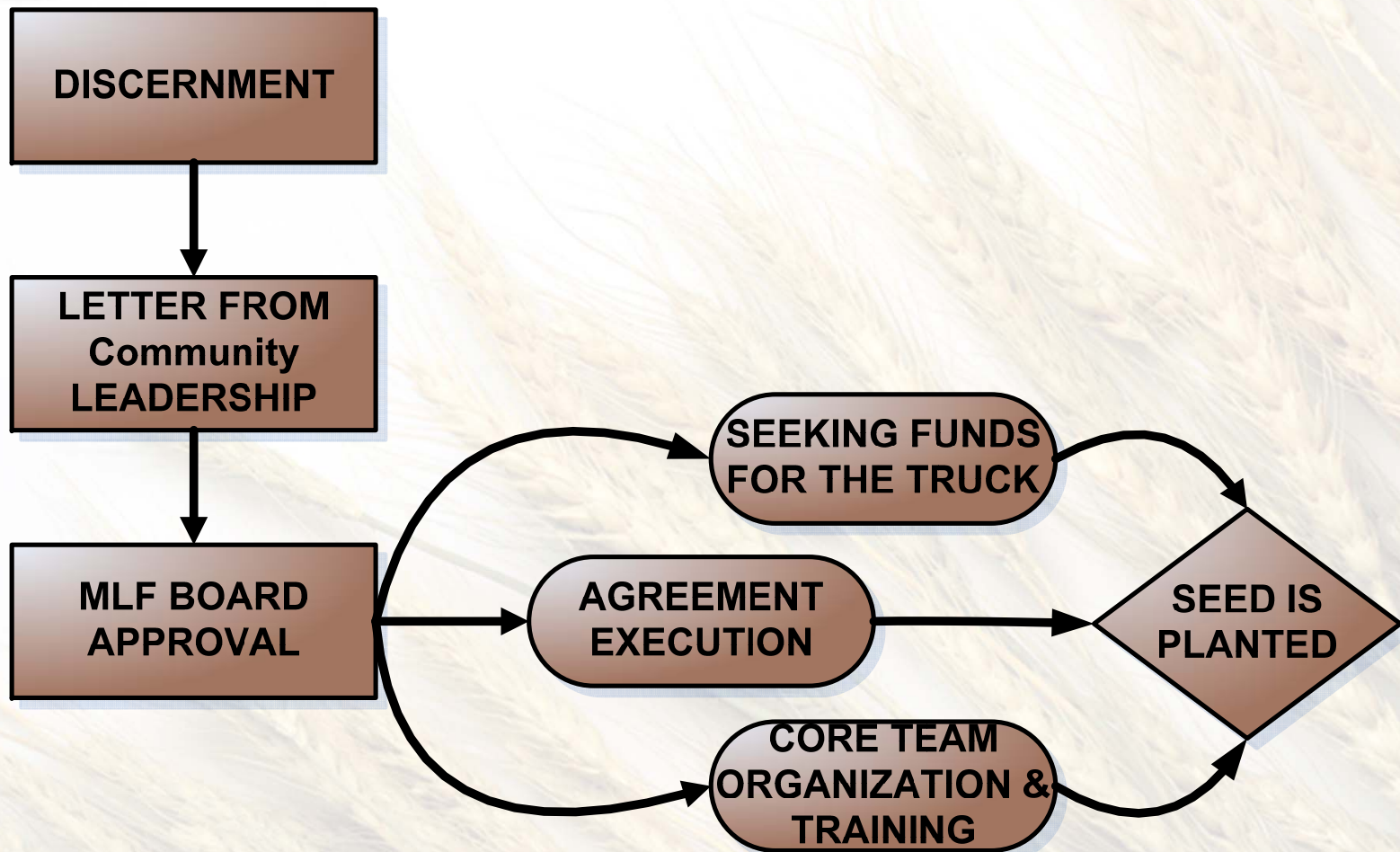
How's It Done

- MLF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
- Customized catering trucks deployed to the streets daily
- Stop at street corners, under bridges, in parks, weekly rate motels and housing projects
- Deliver friendship, meals, clothing and other essential items to the homeless and poor
- See our website (www.mlf.org).





Discernment Process





Discernment

- Each prospective community must discern if they want MLF in their community
- Discernment process must be centered around the community leadership
- Need to travel to Austin or nearest MLF commissary
 - Experience MLF first hand
 - Share experience with your community leadership and core team
- You will see and gain hands-on experience with:
 - Operations from Make Ready to Truck Runs
 - Web-based MLF Volunteer Management and Mapping System
- A MLF representative will gladly travel to your location for further discussions



Are We a Good Fit for MLF?

- Does the leadership of the prospective community support this ministry?
 - This support is the key to your success
- Does the prospective community have a spiritual renewal program in place?
 - Spiritual renewal brings us closer to God's will
- Does the prospective community have a competing endeavor?
 - Could be a conflict for fund development
- Does the prospective community have a kitchen available for food preparation?
 - You will need to check with your local health department regarding permitting for a cold kitchen operation
 - A mobile vending permit may also be required





Are We a Good Fit for MLF?

- Do you have refrigeration?
 - A two-door commercial refrigerator is ideal. Cost is \$1500 (used) to approximately \$3000 (new)
- Do you have an ice machine?
 - You will need a large volume ice machine producing up to 500 lbs per day
- What is the proximity of the prospective community to the central business district?
- Can you assemble a core team of volunteers willing to contribute a **SIGNIFICANT** amount of time to this ministry?





Volunteer Core Team Circle

MLF Philosophy – the most effective management strategy on a Primary Community level is that of the Volunteer Core Team Circle

- Composed of volunteer leadership with a catalyst – a person who precipitates an event or change.
- No hierarchy and not dictatorial – meant to be collaborative and entrepreneurial
- Time commitment is significant
- MLF truck
 - 500-800 volunteers
 - Serving 25,000 meals per year with a truck going out almost every night
 - Operation budget of ~\$64,000



Volunteer Core Team Structure

- Management of Primary Community should be outside the jurisdiction of the staff of hosting community but under the leadership of the community leadership
- Recommend a mix of flexible volunteers included in core team
- Many talents are needed
- Core team to meet weekly during startup
 - Twice per month for two months then once per month
- Sub committees to meet as needed then report to the core team





Volunteer Core Team Circle





Core Team Circle Roles



- Volunteer Core Team Catalysts
 - Role is established early when Primary Community is discerning
 - Discernment process could take 6 months or longer
 - Needs strong collaborative style of leadership
 - 15-20 hours/week service for 2 months until ministry is stabilized
 - Recommend that role be shared by at least 2 people
 - Interface with leadership in other Primary Communities
- Accounting/Bookkeeping
 - Must be internet literate and familiar with QuickBooks products
 - Accounting/bookkeeping background is very important
 - Estimated time commitment is 5 hours per month
 - Interface with MLF, Inc.'s corporate bookkeeping staff



Core Team Circle Roles



- Fund Raising
 - Implement fund raising strategy developed by core team
 - **Significant time commitment raising ~\$64,000 per year**
 - MLF, Inc. developed sample strategy as a template
 - Major gift asks
 - Online fund development
 - Direct mail
 - Corporate sponsor asks
 - Foundation grant writing
- PR/Communications
 - Work with local media to inform them of special activities
 - Provide information for MLF website
 - Estimated time commitment is 3 hours per month



Core Team Circle Roles

- Volunteer Coordinator(s)
 - Most intensive management element of core team
 - Recommend that 3 people fill this role
 - Needed skills include
 - Internet/computer literate become expert with MLF Tracker
 - Responsibilities include
 - Entering all volunteers into database
 - Creating teams and adding volunteers
 - Record maintenance
 - Training of all Make Ready and Truck teams
 - Initial commitment >15 hours per week, tapering to 3-4 hours
- Spiritual Director
 - Ensure all workers are spiritually strengthened and focused
 - Understand all the roles providing spiritual support and guidance





Core Team Circle Roles



- Commissary Management
 - Maintain commissary
 - Ensure adequate food supplies are available for each run
 - Wholesale food supplier/coordinate food order weekly
 - Ensure that all products are ready for each Make Ready team
 - Estimated time commitment is 3 hours per week
 - Recommend hiring part-time person to help prepare inventory for Make Ready teams
- Truck Maintenance
 - Regular truck maintenance
 - Least intensive role



Costs To Take a Truck Out

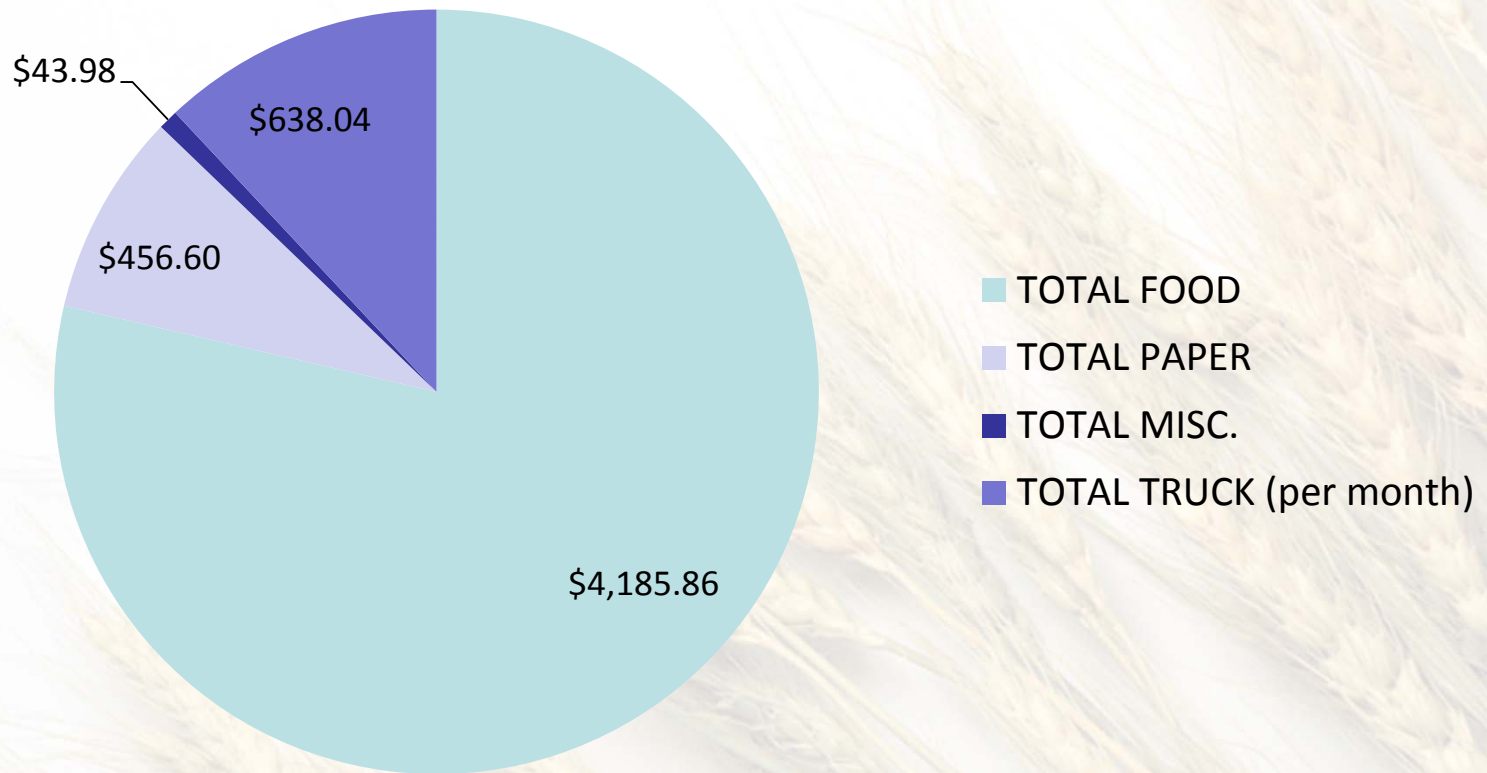
$\$190.16 \text{ per run} \times 28 \text{ runs per month} = \$5,324.48$

Note: Food is a commodity. Prices are estimated based on past MLF experience and are subject to change.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes typically operates on a four week month or 28 evening runs



Total Average Truck Costs per month





Letter from Community Leadership MLF Board Approval

- After discernment has been completed, a letter must be sent from your leadership to MLF inviting MLF, Inc. to plant a truck in your community
- Your request will be placed on the next Board agenda
 - MLF Board of Directors meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month
- Action item will be to plant a truck in your community subject to our ability to raise the money necessary to purchase a truck

**LETTER FROM
Community
LEADERSHIP**

**MLF BOARD
APPROVAL**



The Final Push

- Agreement Execution
 - A Letter of Agreement needs to be signed by your leadership & MLF
 - MLF, Inc. retains title and ownership of all MLF trucks
- Core Team Organization and Training
 - It is essential that a core team of lay volunteers be assembled
- Seeking Funds
 - MLF, Inc. will work with your community to raise truck cost (\$45,000)
 - For start-up, you will need funding for:
 - Refrigerator, Ice Machine, & Supplies

**AGREEMENT
EXECUTION**

**CORE TEAM
ORGANIZATION &
TRAINING**

**SEEKING FUNDS
FOR THE TRUCK**

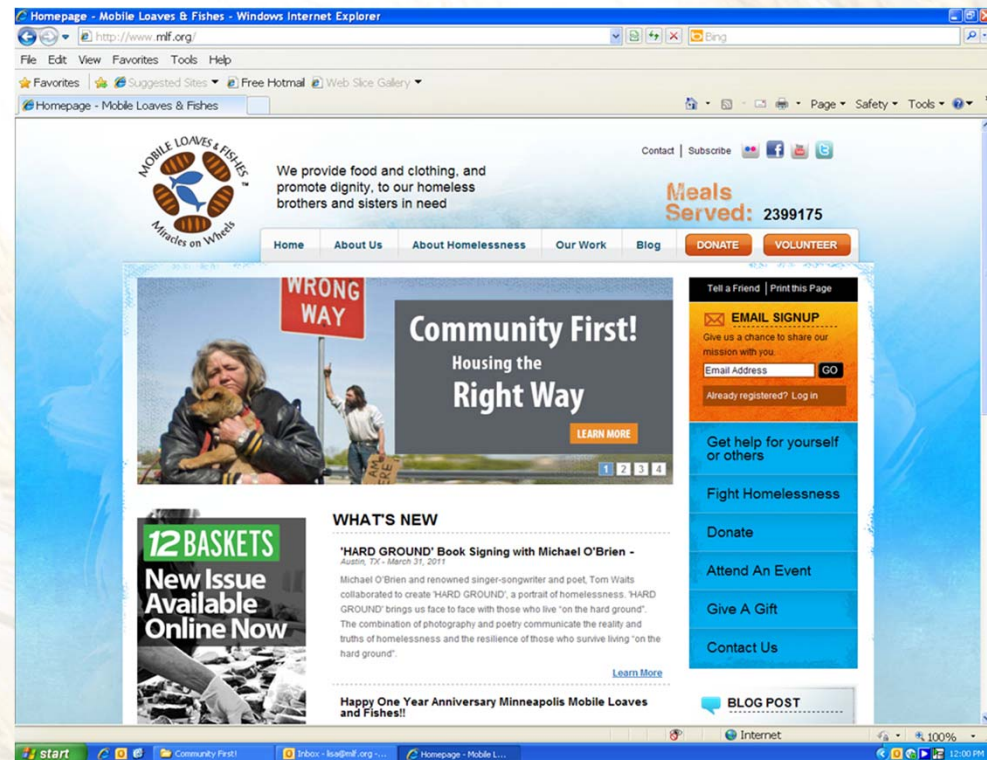


Resources to Help with Discernment

www.mlf.org

Home Page

- About Us
- About Homelessness
- Our Work
- Blog
- Donate
- Volunteer Login (to MLF Tracker)
- Truck Information and Schedules
- Meals Served



Note: “e-mail signup” is only to receive newsletters, etc. You must use Volunteer Log in to register a new volunteer.



Information on our programs, MLF Trucks and Community First!

www.mlf.org

About MLF and all of our communities, including MLF materials and documents

Homepage - Mobile Loaves & Fishes - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.mlf.org/

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES
Miracles on Wheels

We provide food and clothing, and promote dignity, to our homeless brothers and sisters in need

Meals Served: 2399175

Home About Us About Homelessness Our Work Blog DONATE VOLUNTEER

WRONG WAY
Community First!
Housing the Right Way
LEARN MORE

12 BASKETS
New Issue Available Online Now

WHAT'S NEW
'HARD GROUND' Book Signing with Michael O'Brien - Austin, TX - March 31, 2011
Michael O'Brien and renowned singer-songwriter and poet, Tom Waits collaborated to create 'HARD GROUND', a portrait of homelessness. 'HARD GROUND' brings us face to face with those who live "on the hard ground". The combination of photography and poetry communicate the reality and truths of homelessness and the resilience of those who survive living "on the hard ground".
[Learn More](#)

Happy One Year Anniversary Minneapolis Mobile Loaves and Fishes!!

EMAIL SIGNUP
Give us a chance to share our mission with you.
Email Address GO
Already registered? [Log In](#)

Get help for yourself or others

Fight Homelessness

Donate

Attend An Event

Give A Gift

Contact Us

BLOG POST

Volunteer Log In and information



www.mlf.org

About Us

- **Locations** - Headquarters in Austin

Austin, TX

San Antonio, TX

New Orleans, LA

Nashville, TN

New Bedford, MA

Providence, RI

Minneapolis, MN

- **MLF Mission**

- MLF Materials

Annual Reports

Processes Procedures & Guidelines

Financial Audits

Documents

990s

Logos and Brochures

- Board Of Directors



www.mlf.org
Our Work

- MLF Trucks
- Community First!

Karpophoreo Good Soil
Project
LIFT Literacy Program





www.mlf.org
Volunteer

- **Volunteer log in**
- **Learn About Volunteering**
 - Commissary Volunteer Opportunities
 - Make Ready
 - Truck Team
 - Food Pick Up
 - Sandwich Team
 - Food Drive Coordinator
 - Egg Ministry
 - Bread Ministry
 - Candy Ministry
 - Special Events Chair
 - Fundraiser
 - Grant Writing
 - Toiletry Donations
 - Office Help
 - Prayer Card Artist
 - MLF Truck Service & Maintenance
 - Truck Washing
- **My Volunteer Center**
 - Volunteer Training



Training Outline

- Volunteer Coordinator training will consist of three parts:
 - Presentation of materials
 - Handbook for reference
 - Hands-on exercises
- Topics
 - Module 1
 - Where to Start – Exploring the Website (www.mlf.org)
 - Volunteer Login – Add a Volunteer
 - Module 2
 - Build a Team
 - Build an Itinerary
 - Module 3
 - Procedures



Learn More About US

- “12 Baskets” Online Magazine - <http://www.mlf.org/about-us/news-media/12-baskets-magazine.html>
- Blogs - <http://www.mlf.org/blog>
- Twitter - <http://twitter.com/MLFNOW>
- Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/mlfnow>
- YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/user/mlfnow>
- Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mlfnow>
- Website - <http://www.mlf.org>



MLF Contacts

- MLF Headquarters (512) 328-7299
 - Alan Graham, CEO, alan@mlf.org (ext. 100)
 - Dave Sekel, COO, dave@mlf.org (ext. 108)
 - Anna-Marie Phelps, CMO, annamarie@mlf.org (ext. 102)
 - Katie Zunker, CFO, katie@mlf.org (ext.106)
 - Ron Dischert, Volunteer Management System Administrator, ron@mlf.org (ext. 107)
 - Tricia Graham, Corporate Commissary Manager, tricia@mlf.org (512-306-8036)



MLF Prayer

God of the poor and afflicted, soften the hard edges of my heart that I might see Your image in the eyes of those who are outcasts in our world. Open me to embrace those who are hungry and abandoned. Soften me to understand the angry and desperate. Enliven me to offer my gifts and treasures to the stranger and alien. Empower me with compassion toward the imprisoned and forgotten. Enflesh my heart with the loving heart of Jesus, Who lived among us to point the way to Your reign of justice and dignity.

Amen

