

# Annual Report

2016 - A YEAR OF SERVING GOODNESS TOGETHER!

2016

Fiscal year ending December 31, 2016

Our mission to provide food and clothing, cultivate community and promote dignity to our homeless brothers and sisters is accomplished through our core programs: Community First! Village, Community Works and our Truck Ministry.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes is a social outreach ministry that empowers communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.

## 2016 marked our 18th year of serving our homeless neighbors.

In 1998, five friends dared to dream big, but never imagined where the old green van filled with sack lunches would take them. Little did they know those peanut butter sandwiches and loyal volunteers would be the beginning of an amazing journey of serving the homeless and transforming lives.



### Truck Ministry - Delivering More Than a Sandwich

What begins with a sandwich and a conversation with a caring Mobile Loaves & Fishes volunteer soon opens the door to community and relationships where they're needed most. As we faithfully serve our homeless neighbors and deliver meals with a side of hope, lives truly are transformed.



### 5 Million Meals Served

Since we began our truck ministry 18 years ago, MLF volunteers have served more than 5 million meals. This translates into 5 million opportunities to connect human to human and heart to heart with our friends who are struggling to survive on the streets.

### 19,000 Volunteers Make it all Happen

Starting with just 5 volunteers in 1998, now more than 19,000 MLF volunteers have experienced what it means to be empowered into a lifestyle of service with the homeless. Our compassionate and dedicated volunteers serve daily in many ways by sharing their time, talent and treasure. Volunteer opportunities include:

**Volunteer Opportunities** 

**Truck Ministry**  
Make Ready Teams  
Delivering Meals

**Genesis Gardens**  
Garden Prep  
Harvesting  
Canning

**Community First! Village**  
Maintenance  
RV Renovation  
Befrienders



“I carry two meanings for the letters MLF. Of course you know it as Mobile Loaves & Fishes, but for me MLF means My Loving Family!”  
 -Danny, Community First! Village neighbor



### Community First! Village - A Place to Call Home

Construction of more micro-homes, RVs and several community spaces continued in our innovative 27-acre master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing and supportive community for the chronically homeless in Central Texas. Most significantly, 2016 marked a year of homecoming with 70 homeless men and women lifted off the streets and welcomed home to Community First! Village.

More than 2000 visitors took a first look at the Village in our Showcase of Homes event. We opened the Topfer Family Health Resource Center and the McCoy’s Maintenance & Operations building. We wrapped up 2016 with our first annual Village of Lights celebration, and were honored to have U.S. Senator John Cornyn and his wife join us for the official lighting of the Community First! Village Christmas tree.

### Community Works micro-enterprise programs provided dignified income opportunities for the homeless

Community Works provides a variety of opportunities for the disabled, chronically homeless to use their God-given talents to earn a dignified income. The Art House was completed this year, providing a space for our artists, volunteers and guests to create and teach. The Community Cinema introduced movie nights that are free and open to the public, and the Community Grille began serving tasty meals to visitors, providing yet another opportunity for our formerly homeless friends to earn a dignified income. The Community Forge also hosted the first annual Austin Forging Competition which brought in talented blacksmith artists and attracted hundreds of visitors to the Village.

### Genesis Gardens flourished, providing food and opportunity for our homeless neighbors

Through Genesis Gardens, neighbors from all over Austin come together to practice hospitality, recall what it means to put down roots and share the abundance of our harvests. In 2016, Genesis Gardens continued to develop the three-acre fruit and vegetable garden, maintained the chicken operation, provided animal care for our goats and donkeys, and managed the care of more than 500 fruit and nut trees. The training program for our homeless friends to become garden managers continues to thrive with 12 of our neighbors who are now trained and leading teams of more than 200 volunteers each week. This year also marked the addition of the weekly Farmer’s Market stand providing healthy, fresh and free food for our neighbors living in Community First! Village.



## FINANCIAL DATA

By keeping operating costs low, MLF put 86% of all money raised into program services for our homeless brothers and sisters.

### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES 2016



Program Services	\$4,212,308	86%
Fundraising	\$324,025	7%
Management & General	\$333,913	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,870,246</b>	<b>100%</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2016



Total Assets	\$17,585,687
Total Liabilities	\$1,730,203
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$15,855,484</b>