

Taking Care of Business

“What else is all our work to God— whether in the fields, in the garden, in the city, in the house, in war, or in government—but just such a child’s performance, by which He wants to give His gifts in the fields, at home, and everywhere else? These are the masks of God, behind which He wants to remain concealed and do all things.”
(Commentary on Psalm 147; Luther’s Works 14:114 AE).

Martin Luther wrote quite a lot on the importance of sharing faith through our vocations. At the Madisonville Small Business Workshop held Oct. 18, 2014, community members heard about Christian vocation while also learning about many aspects of operating a small business. Sierra Broman, an ambitious 16-year-old member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, worked with The Lutheran Benevolent Society, Inc., to hold a Small Business Workshop. As the project coordinator to fulfill the requirements of the Stars and Stripes Award with American Heritage Girls, Ms. Broman saw an opportunity to educate potential small business owners. The area around St. Paul Lutheran Church includes the low-income community of Madisonville, and in looking to increase self-sufficiency and income, she hoped the workshop would encourage some community members to open small businesses that could lead to economic stability for themselves and others in that community.

THE MINISTRY

At the workshop, 25 participants learned various aspects of small business ownership. The topics included taxes, licensing, employee involvement, marketing, personal finance and loans. Participant heard from experts in various vocations, including a retired executive, a lawyer, a bank manager, an accountant and a chaplain. Also, there were booths with mentors offering advice for small business owners. As the city of Cincinnati is looking for progress, they sent to the workshop members from the Cincinnati’s Small Business Enterprise Initiative and the City’s Business Loan Group.

After the workshop, Angel Vance, an attendee of the workshop and who is looking to open a small business said on the survey, “This workshop encouraged me in my ambitions of starting a small business. I now have a variety

of resources that I need (and) that I never even knew about. Each speaker was excellent; I felt informed, equipped, and encouraged to start my own business. I feel so blessed and so encouraged to move forward in starting my own enterprise and combining it with my faith. Everyone impacted me greatly today! I would absolutely attend an event like this again, and I will bring others!”

Ms. Broman said the event helped her grow as a leader and communicator. She said she also appreciated how at the workshop, people were sharing their knowledge of business and commitment to improving the lives of people in Madisonville, as they were also showing their faith in support of one another with the love of Christ.

“While I already knew at the beginning of this project that I was detail-oriented, which makes me somewhat of a perfectionist, I have definitely learned even more organizational skills. This project was excellent practice for the budgeting, planning, and organizational tasks of adult life, and I have also come to appreciate that while not everything will always turn out exactly the way you want it to, that is perfectly alright, and the result is sometimes even better than the original plan,” she said. “This project reached out to community members in the Madisonville, Ohio, area and offered them opportunities for both greater independence and a better financial state. These people were also shown the love of Christ through those they interacted with, as well as specifically hearing the Law and the Gospel through the vocational speaker during the workshop. As the mission of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is to spread Christ’s love through word and deed, this project absolutely falls under that category.”

The workshop received sponsorship from the LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission (UICM), which works to boost revitalization efforts in city ministries that involve reaching out across cultures with the Gospel. UICM provides resources for churches that wish to provide a spiritual home for people who are searching for hope and healing.

TO LEARN MORE

Deaconess Sara Smith
The Lutheran Benevolent Society, Inc.
5433 Madison Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
513-271-4147
info@lutheranbenevolent.org



Urban & Inner-City Mission

www.lcms.org/citymission

