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### **LCS Sets New Records**

In 2007, LCS helped 68,414 people. – 7.5% more than it was able to help in 2006. That’s because the demand just keeps on going up, and thankfully LCS has been there to help. A big part of the increase was in the emergency food (LIFE) program and was related to the growing number of folks coming to our stationary pantries at St. Stephen’s, Zion and Hope. In 2007, stationary pantries served 24,178 people compared to 17,805 a year earlier. That’s an increase of 36%! Due to limited funds, housing loans and grants stayed exactly the same – serving 513 people both years. Smoking cessation assistance pharmacy vouchers represent the other big growth area. LCS helped nearly 7,000 people quit smoking last year – an increase of about 30%.

### **Predatory Lending**

As part of its plan to help prevent poverty by getting at the core issues, LCS has developed a strategy that involves advocacy against various forms of predatory lending that exist in our state. We have already begun sending letters to key elected officials including the Governor asking that they take steps to enact legislation against predatory lending activities. Pay day loans are one of the main targets of our advocacy. LCS sees people all the time who are burdened by them, week after week, regularly paying fees to extend their debt. Exotic mortgages, rent to own deals, and high-interest credit cards for at risk people are also concerns. If you are interested in writing your legislators and need help with what to say, contact Steve Tindall at 654 8886, x105.

### **New HOME Repair Specialists**

LCS has added a third home repair specialist to help out with its HOME Program (Home Oriented Maintenance for the Elderly). A fourth home repair person is also being considered. This will greatly increase our capacity to help seniors with their home repair needs. We are also seeking funds to provide more “scholarships” for folks that need help the most.