

SUPPORTING THE FULL CIRCLE OF LIFE

Little Sisters of the Poor and Cradle of Hope are two organizations that reflect the Catholic Church's respect for the full spectrum of life, from the unborn to the elderly. Both organizations share a focus of serving those in greatest need and both receive support from the Catholic Community Foundation. In 2009, Little Sisters of the Poor received 14 grants totaling \$24,450 and Cradle of Hope received 17 grants totaling \$19,550 from Foundation donors.

SERVING ELDERLY IN NEED...UNTIL GOD CALLS THEM HOME

For 126 years, the Little Sisters of the Poor has served the elderly in St. Paul by providing residential services to seniors who cannot afford them elsewhere. Sister Theresa Robertson, the Superior - Administrator, explains, "We provide a continuum of care that includes independent living, assisted living and nursing care. Our mission is to care for the elderly in need and provide a loving family environment until God calls them home."

Catholic Community Foundation donor Bob Sahli of Inver Grove Heights has been volunteering at the Little Sisters Holy Family Residence every week for the past 18 years. "I read aloud to the residents for a half hour and after that I visit with them." Bob says. Bob and his wife Mary began volunteering together at the center shortly after he'd retired. For fun, Mary made seasonal vests and ties for Bob to wear when he visited the residents on holidays, including one for Christmas, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Mary passed away in October 2008, but Bob continues to volunteer. When talking about the residents, he says, "They're all friends. I call it my second family." Bob and Mary's marriage of 60 years produced six children and 18 grandchildren. Like his first family, his second one at Little Sisters continues to grow.

Bob not only volunteers at Little Sisters, but has chosen them as one of the organizations he supports through the Catholic Community Foundation. He is one of many donors who make the work of the Little Sisters possible. Sister Theresa observes, "We believe it is divine providence providing for our needs. Without our benefactors, this home would not be in existence."

The need for their work is great. Sister Theresa tells of an 85-year-old woman who recently moved in. She says, "It was a desperate situation. She had five dollars left over for food after she'd paid her rent for the month. Her neighbors were very generous and tried to help, but when she arrived here she was malnourished, so frail and thin."



Catholic Community Foundation donor Bob Sahli does a weekly inspirational reading called *Heaven Bound* for the residents of Little Sisters of the Poor's St. Paul home. Here he visits with Jean Skillings, who has lived at the home since February 2009. "We take so much for granted, but we have much to be grateful for," she said.

Sister Theresa reports that in the months since the woman came to live at the home, she's gained almost 20 pounds. "She's able to attend Mass now and do other things she enjoys. I look at her and can't believe she's the same person." Sister is quick to share credit for successes like this. "We do it through the support of the wonderful people who help us do the work the Lord has sent us to do," she says.



Dena received a \$500 grant from Cradle of Hope to help pay rent while she was on maternity leave. Of the support, she said, "It's not easy being a single mother. I hope that one day I can bless young single mothers who also choose life for their babies. God bless those of you who have contributed to this program!"



Creating a home-like environment is a priority for the Little Sisters. Their Holy Family Residence in St. Paul is home to over 100 elders, and the 13 Sisters who care for them day and night.

PROVIDING RESOURCES AND HOPE TO MOTHERS

Serving those at the beginning of life is Roseville-based Cradle of Hope. The organization was founded in 1973 and program director Kathy Rosenthal says its basic mission has remained the same: To provide financial assistance to expectant mothers and mothers with babies up to three months old.

A woman may apply for cash assistance up to \$1000 to help address a financial crisis that threatens the well-being of her and her baby. Kathy cites many examples of financial need, such as a job loss due to extreme morning sickness or doctor-ordered bed rest, or even to pay for car repairs in order to get to work.

A Cradle of Hope grant might also help a woman whose job doesn't provide maternity leave but who must take time off work until her child is six weeks old, the minimum age for childcare.

Kathy says the grants may be small, but they're targeted and make a real difference. She tells the story of a homeless woman who was two months pregnant and was forced to leave a shelter because her abusive boyfriend was causing trouble. "We got a call from a local Life-Care Center about this woman whose boyfriend was physically abusing her. A hospital lobby became her safe place to spend the night. She needed help to pay for a bus ticket to go home to Louisiana. We made a grant of \$175 for the ticket. It's not much, but in the end, it probably saved her and her baby."

Joseph Kueppers of Mendota Heights has been a supporter of Cradle of Hope since 1991. In addition to serving on their board, he provides pro bono legal counsel to both Cradle of Hope and the Little Sisters through his law firm, Kueppers, Kronschnabel & Daly, P.A. Joe says he first got involved at Cradle of Hope because he had a desire to engage in pro-life work. But what has kept him hooked

for almost 20 years is the stories of the people they've helped. Joe says, "There was one story where a woman had an abortion scheduled and she found out about Cradle of Hope through a crisis counselor." As a result of that contact, the woman got the help she needed to continue her pregnancy and later sent in a photo of herself and her smiling baby. Joe adds, "To see the pictures of the moms and babies and to hear their stories...It's so moving."

FOUNDATION OFFERS WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

As an attorney, Joe works with individuals and families who are motivated to leave part or all of their estate to a charity such as Little Sisters of the Poor or Cradle of Hope. Joe has had the opportunity to partner with the Catholic Community Foundation in

some estate planning cases and notes the Foundation's high level of expertise and service. "Their knowledge of charitable planned giving is unsurpassed. They're so great to work with and so professional. They provide a wealth of knowledge."

The Catholic Community Foundation offers a wide variety of ways for people to give to causes, including options that preserve the donors' assets during their lifetime. Some of the Foundation's most significant gifts have come as the result of an estate plan that included a charitable intention. In such cases, the Catholic Community Foundation works directly with the donor and their professional advisors to establish an endowment that will generate financial support for one or more charities for generations to come.

Foundation President Marilou Eldred, Ph.D., explains the unique nature of such a gift. "Endowments are not for today or even for tomorrow. They are for 50 or 100 years from now," she says. "Endowments ensure that the values of the donors live long after they are gone, and create a permanent source of financial support for one or more organizations that sustain those values."

Little Sisters of the Poor and Cradle of Hope are two of many organizations that donors can support through the Catholic Community Foundation. The organizations have a wide variety of missions, but they all share a commitment to Catholic values and support the spiritual, educational and social needs of our Catholic community. Contributing to charities like these through the Catholic Community Foundation is one way people have chosen to express their gratitude for the blessings in their lives and to ensure those blessings continue to be passed on long after they're gone.