



## **MOTHER TERESA WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE GRANTS \$62,500 TO SIX LOCAL NONPROFITS**

The Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle, an initiative launched in March 2019, is dedicated to bringing together a group of women to learn about the needs in our local diocese and community, and to raise awareness and funds for philanthropic giving.

With over 100 members within its first few months of activity, the members of the Women's Giving Circle and Bishop Shelton Fabre announced on May 14, 2019 the presentation of \$62,500 in grants to these local nonprofits, all with the direct intent of making a difference in the lives of women, children and families within the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux:

- **Crossroads Pregnancy Resources** (\$16,000 to assist with the purchase of an ultrasound machine)
- **Individual and Family Assistance** (\$15,000 for family assistance needs)
- **MacDonell Children's Services** (\$14,000 to assist with a new building for 18+ year olds exiting their system)
- **Catholic Community Center** (\$10,000 for their food bank, feminine resources and family assistance)
- **St. Lucy's Child Development Center** (\$5,000 for teacher training and STEM resources)
- **Upside Downs** (\$2,500 to provide baskets to new parents of children with Down Syndrome)

"The Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle is a way that women of all ages, all wealth capacities, and all backgrounds are able to come together as one to learn about needs within the community, then make a direct impact in the lives of others," said Amy Ponson, executive director of the Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana. "One of the projects that the members were able to help fund was for Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center to help purchase an ultrasound machine for their clinic. It is very exciting to be part of the pro-life movement locally and for over 100 local women to come together and make this possible."

For more information about the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle, please visit <https://www.catholicfoundationsl.org/womens-giving-circle/>. If interested in joining, please contact Amy Ponson at (985) 850-3116, or [aponson@htdiocese.org](mailto:aponson@htdiocese.org).

*Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle Steering Committee members include:* Bonnie Brady Babin, Wanda Birdsall, Andree Casey, Ginny Corte, Rene Danos David, Charlotte Bollinger, Emelie Cheramie, Mary Duplantis, Susan David, Brenda Riviere, Kelly Thibodaux and Amy Ponson.