CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

2022 MOTHER TERESA WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Message from the Executive Director

With gratitude and love in our hearts, our Giving Circle was able to grant $101,000 this year to seven deserving non-profits who directly minister to the needs of women, children and families. After listening to presentations from 13 nonprofits, members were able to vote for seven ministries that would benefit from their efforts:

Catholic Charities Disaster Relief $34,000
Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center $20,000
The Haven $15,000
Friends of Beyond the Bell $8,000
St. Lucy Child Development Center $8,000
Hope Extreme $8,000
Good Samaritan Food Bank and Thrift Store of Raceland $8,000

Over the course of four years, despite continued challenges we face daily, the Catholic women within our diocese have led with their prayers, their hearts and their vision to make our community a better place. Their shared generosity has enabled our Giving Circle to distribute over $329,000 over the last four years. Our vision was to build a community of Catholic women where every gift, no matter how large or small, would make an impact locally. We hope you will strongly consider joining us this year as the more we grow, the more we give.

Sincerely,

Amy Ponson
Executive Director
Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana

OUR MEMBERS ARE THE BEST!

The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana is honored that more than 160 members said **YES** to our call to join the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle. This past year was one of great challenges and uncertainty, which only increased the needs across our local community for families. Your call and your **YES** been the driving force behind ensuring the local nonprofits have the necessary funding to continue to provide support, feed children in low income communities, provide afterschool activities through the summer and ensure mothers receive the support they need. Your **YES** provides women faced with unexpected pregnancies the support they need to choose LIFE for their child!

Your prayers and gifts help these nonprofits to grow in their ministries and cast a stone across the waters to create positive ripples throughout our community! As a member, your **YES** is living out the mission of Mother Teresa! We want to welcome **53 NEW MEMBERS** to our Giving Circle this year and also say thank you to those ladies who have joined us in their second and third year as members. Please know that the more we GROW the more we GIVE, so bring a friend along, invite your family and share with them the great love the Giving Circle has brought to our diocese.

WANT TO JOIN OUR STEERING COMMITTEE??

We are always looking to add new members to our steering committee. If you are interested in joining our steering committee to help plan events, recruit new members and be part of the grant discussions, please email Amy Ponson at aponson@htdiocese.org. We are so appreciative of our steering committee as we simply could not do it without these amazing women!

A special thank you to our steering committee:

Bonnie Brady Babin
Wanda Birdsall
Charlotte Bollinger
Andree Buquet
Pat Caillouet
Emelie Cheramie
Karen David
Rene Danos David
Susan David
Mary Duplantis
Renee Gautreaux
Susan Ledet
Brenda Riviere
Lillie Romano
Kelly Terrebonne
Clarisse Waguespack

SAVE THE DATE FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2022

NONPROFIT TOURS ~ September 8, 2022

We invite all of our members to join us this coming September 8th, as we visit several of the nonprofits who have received grant funding from our members. One of the great beauties of our Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle, is the fact that we as a group are able to see our prayers and generosity in action. Not only does the accountability aspect become important, but the fulfillment within our hearts brings us great joy knowing and seeing the great work our members are able to help do. We will get to see the sweet children who receive food due to family food insecurities; we will be able to see the area where children go to have a safe exchange when there is a hostile relationship between parents or guardians.

That firsthand knowledge has touched the hearts of our members in the past, and we are excited to bring back our visits this year in person! More details will come this summer in regards to the dates and locations. Our members will receive a mailed invitation along with an emailed invitation very soon. To RSVP please call Nancy at 985.850.3122.

Giving Circle Member Retreat ~ August 9th

The spiritual component of our giving circle is the backbone of how our decisions are made and how our members guide the efforts of our organization. While we always start our programs with Mass and prayer, leading our conversations with how the Lord speaks to our hearts, we have not yet had the opportunity to gather together and experience the Lord through a guided retreat.

Our first annual retreat will be held on August 9th at Lumen Christi Retreat Center. We invite all members to join us and please bring a friend who you feel would love the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle as much as you do. Below you will find a working agenda and our guest presenters.

Working Agenda:

11am ~ Welcome
11:15am ~ Rebecca Abboud | His Delight in Us
12pm ~ Lunch
1pm ~ Service Activities
2pm ~ Fr. Mitch Semar | Focus on a special saint
3pm ~ Very Rev. Vic De La Cruz, V.F. | Women in the Bible
4:30pm ~ Mass with Very Rev. PJ Madden
5pm ~ Cocktail Social

The more we **GIVE**
The more we **GROW**

Membership Benefits

- Members decide their level of involvement - voluntary attendance at meetings, site visits and speaker panels
- All members who have given a minimum gift of $250 will have equal voting rights to determine annual grant recipients
- Learn about non-profit organizations throughout the diocese and community
- Hear about projects and needs in the community, directly from the organizations
- Share ideas and opportunities with other women
- Engage in service and fellowship with like-minded women of all ages
- Opportunities to include even the youngest women in your family, to teach future generations about philanthropy

WHO SHOULD JOIN

Women of any age who want to have a meaningful impact on our Catholic and local community are eligible to become a member!

WHEN TO GIVE/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Any gift made to the Mother Teresa Women's Giving Circle from June 2022—May 2023 will be granted out in May 2023 grant season. Membership renewal campaign will begin in Fall of 2022.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMEBR

Give as much as you can, as often as your can. Gifts to the fund might range from $10—$10,000+, but we ask for a minimum contribution of $250 for voting privileges. Non-voting members are free to participate in all activities, outside of the annual grant making vote. Bishop's Society Members contribute a minimum of $1000.

About Us

The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana is a Catholic community foundation established to promote philanthropy, empower priests, inspire our community, and ensure long-term financial stability for the charitable, educational, and spiritual ministries of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Through partnerships with our church parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charites and the many impactful ministries throughout our diocese, the Catholic Foundation offers support to help enhance their ministries, establish a legacy and make a difference in the lives of others.

Why Us

The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana offers a way to leave a legacy of love and faith, uniquely aligned with your Catholic values and beliefs. The Catholic Foundation is happy to work with you, your family, and your advisors to establish a great legacy living out your mission. Additionally, the Foundation invests all funds in accordance with the United Stated Conference of Catholic Bishops guidelines for socially responsible investments.

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