

REPORT OF THE MINNESOTA P.E.O. HOME FUND COMMITTEE May 2018

The Home Fund

“It shall be the chief duty of each sister to express a loving concern...”

All of our P.E.O. projects afford us to opportunity many times over to express a loving concern, not just for each other, but for the people we encounter in our lives each day. Each project focuses on a different demographic of people. Our Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund allows us, as P.E.O.s to make a difference for the women, men, children and families in our state that are experiencing extreme financial hardship due to disability, infirmity or advanced age.

The MN P.E.O. Home Fund was founded as a state project originally to build a P.E.O. Home. However, when the Minnesota P.E.O.s realized that this wasn't feasible, it changed into something much more impactful. The P.E.O. Home Fund exists to help those most in need: those of advanced aged, the disabled, the infirm; that are in need of medical treatment or care, assistive technology, or housing assistance and have exhausted other sources of funding. The Home Fund board meets 4 times per year (quarterly) to award grants. The board does not entertain emergency grant requests and isn't an emergency source of funding. The Home Fund is intended to be a short-term solution for situations for which there is no other source of funding and should not interfere with other sources of funding, including other P.E.O. projects, for this reason we do not entertain applications for educational assistance. We prefer to pay vendors rather than individuals.

Who serves on the Board of Trustees? The Home Fund Board of Trustees is made up of 5 appointed board members, and 2 ex-officio officers from the MN State P.E.O. board. Each appointed board member serves a 5 year team, holding 3 different offices during this time: Program Chair then either Administrator and Treasurer, or Secretary and Chair-woman. Serving on the board in 2017-2018 were:

Jennifer Lanthier – Chair
Jill Seinola – Secretary
Christine O’Hotto – Treasurer
Sue Sailer – Administrator
Carol Jackson - Program/Courtesy Lauri Cushing – Ex-officio
Jan Briones – Ex-officio.

Where does the money come from? The Home Fund is funded directly from contributions from P.E.O. dues, memorials, and bequests. Home Fund money is invested in a portfolio managed by Wells Fargo Investment Services. The Home Fund Board, in conjunction with Wells Fargo works to insure that our investments are made in a way that represents the values of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, donations totaled: \$69,181. This included \$6,285.00 in chapter dues, \$62,896 in gifts and memorials, including \$25,484.80 from the Mary B. Patton Trust.

In the 2017-2018 year, the Home Fund paid out \$204,806 in grants. Some examples of the awards include: motorized scooters and power chairs, lift chairs, vehicle chair lifts, assistive devices, hearing aids, dentures, utility, gas and grocery assistance.

We are called to care!

When the MN P.E.O. Home Fund board meets, it is a very emotional day. We hear the stories of those requesting assistance, and regardless of what angle we are coming at the information from, as we come from varied backgrounds, we bring our best to the conversation. With our differing points of view and knowledge, we come to a place that allows us to do the very best we can for the applicants. We leave the board meetings exhausted but also satisfied that we have done everything we can to help others.

And does it make a difference? Absolutely.

This was a verse from a card received from a recipient:

“A day is made more beautiful when touched with kindness. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.” Examples of the difference the MN P.E.O. Home Fund has made:

“Thank you for your support in my stroke recovery. It has been a long road. With your help, I hope to reach my goal of a better life and continue my therapy. You entered our lives at the perfect time and we are so grateful.”

“I’m so blessed to have people like you in my life! I am still in awe. God has been so good to me. I’ll never forget you people. God Bless you all. “

“I’m writing to express sincere thanks to the MN P.E.O. Home Fund for making my sister’s life more comfortable and safe, with the recent power wheelchair she was awarded from your organization. Words cannot express what a difference this will make for her.”

The little things you do...the sacrifices you make...they may not always be noticed by others...but God sees every one of them and smiles. You’re Making a Difference.”

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