



MINNESOTA HOME FUND

A short program about the Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund

2019 is the year of P.E.O.'s sesquicentennial, 150 years!

P.E.O.s have donated millions of dollars to our six International projects, including Cottey College.

Minnesota P.E.O.s have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to our state project known as the Minnesota P.E.O. Home fund in the 50+ years of this fund.

The Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund might be the most inappropriately named project because we have no "home". But the early seed money for this project was going to be designated for a home for aged and infirm P.E.O. members.

Instead, this project is sometimes referred to as a TLC or SOS project. It is a lifeline for people in need, a bridge to help those in need recover from some event that has pushed them to the end of their financial resources — and to the end of their emotional resources. For if you do not have money to meet your basic needs, how can you deal with the other aspects and needs of daily life?

The seven members of the Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund board feel privileged to serve where we are given glimpses into the lives and hardships of those around us. What an honor it is to make grants on behalf of Minnesota P.E.O.s to fellow Minnesotans in need.

Home Fund Board members are frequently asked two questions: Who receives grants from the Home Fund and where can we find people who may qualify for a grant?

The MN P.E.O. Home Fund is designed to assist the elderly, infirm and disabled. Grants are made to people in many kinds of situations. For example:

1. A single mother, with 3 special need children, is completing her elementary degree and needs gas money to be able to complete her student teaching in a nearby community so she can provide a more financially stable life for her children and herself. While the Home Fund



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does not pay for education, we were able to assist with gas money for 3 months.

2. A woman in a rehabilitation unit had few teeth in her mouth at age 65 and needed to have the remaining teeth pulled and dentures made so she could eat more than scrambled eggs at every meal. She submitted the estimate from her dentist and the grant was made.
3. A grandmother raising two young granddaughters was still working at age 74 in order to put food on the table and provide for her grandchildren. She needed car repairs in order to continue her job. The Home Fund does not pay for car repairs, but we could help with utilities and/or groceries for several months to free some money from those expenses to allow this grandma to pay for the car repairs.
4. A 66-year old man with MS needs to have a motorized wheelchair. His insurance will pay 80% of the chair cost, but he does not have the money to pay for his 20% responsibility. The Home Fund assisted him by providing the \$3,600 needed.
5. A 52-year old woman is a paraplegic living in a care center for the remainder of her life following an accident. Her friends ask, "Could the Home Fund purchase a computer with voice capabilities that would enable her to use email, Facetime and get news?" The local P.E.O. chapter worked with a local computer company to find the hardware and software she can use while confined to bed 24x7 for the remainder of her life and the Home Fund was able to grant the funds.
6. A little boy needing a kidney transplant is living at a Ronald McDonald House with his dad while his mom and older brother live 210 miles away so mom can continue to work and provide health insurance. Would the Home Fund provide gas money for the weekly trips the mom makes to the Cities to spend time with her son and husband? Yes!
7. And the list goes on ...



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To answer the other question, “where can we find people who may qualify for these grants?” I would ask you to think about the people you find in your life who have hit a rough patch:

1. someone who needs crowns/implants/dentures and does not have dental insurance,
2. someone who needs hearing aids (and did you know that Medicare does not cover these and thus many insurance companies also do not)
3. someone who struggles to put food on the table and puts the mental health of themselves and their children at risk
4. someone who lives in senior housing that now must move because the housing is closing or the building owner has decided to no longer accept elderly waivers for rent assistance
5. someone needs a mobility device — wheelchair, scooter, shower chair — and insurance will not cover this and neither will their meager resources
6. And this list also goes on ...

We on the Home Fund Board are honored to be given insight into the lives of the people who submit applications. These applicants share their struggles and their dreams with us. And we, who have been given much, are grateful to serve as the stewards of the funds you provide to improve the situation of others.

This fiscal year, 2018-2019, the Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund provided about \$240,000 to assist people in having some improvement in the quality of their lives, a bridge to a better situation. We thank you for the donations made to the Home Fund and we thank you for finding candidates for Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund grants.