

P.E.O. Newline Show
Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund

Greetings! Welcome to the P.E.O. Newline Show, where our motto is “If you want to know about P.E.O., this is the place to go!” Of course, there are a couple of things we still won’t tell you, so for those of you who were about to ask “What does P.E.O. stand for?”, you are out of luck!

We’ve been watching our mailbag and have noticed a great many questions about the Minnesota P.E.O. Home Fund. In response, we would like to introduce you to a new segment of our show – “Just Ask Hattie”. Listeners can send in their Home Fund questions, and we’ll do our best to answer them. And so, without further ado, here’s the host of “Just Ask Hattie”, the queen of questions, Hattie Homefund! “Here’s Hattie” (Like Johnny Carson introduction) (Applause sign)

Hattie: Hello everyone and welcome to “Just Ask Hattie” radio show. We’ve gotten all kinds of letters from our listeners, and we’ve chosen just a few for our first show: Jean Frikenback from St. Paul writes:

*Dear Hattie,
My husband, Fred, and I are just starting out and want to buy a new home. I heard about the P.E.O. Home Fund. Will you buy us a house? Or pay a Home Depot bill or two? What exactly is the Home Fund?*

Hattie: Well, Jean, I’m glad you asked. The vision for the Home Fund began with a monetary gift of \$437 in 1936. It was incorporated in 1974 as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation and is a project of the Minnesota State Chapter, P.E.O. Sisterhood. A five-member board of trustees, who are appointed by the state chapter president, administers the Home Fund. Trustees represent all areas of Minnesota and serve for a period of five years. Thanks to the generous support of P.E.O.s the Home Fund has grown to over \$1.4 million dollars!

The Home Fund provides grants for aged, infirmed and indigent Minnesota residents. The grants are focused on three different areas of need: housing, medical treatment and care, and necessities of life. We do not finance capital improvement projects. Jean, sorry we won’t be buying you and Fred a new house. Best of luck to you.

Here’s another letter, coming to us from Ethel GoodDeed in Chapter XOXO in ColdSpot, Minnesota:

*Dear Hattie,
My chapter wants to do as many good deeds as possible. If the Home Fund has about \$1.4million dollars, why did it only give grants totaling \$210,354 last year? Does the Home Fund really need more money?*

Hattie: Yes. The Home Fund has several sources of income. Chapters like yours gave \$29,840 last year to the Home Fund. In addition, 5% of the state dues (\$8.00) collected from each Minnesota P.E.O. are given to the Home Fund. This amounts to \$.40 per member. Individuals and chapters can make donations to the Home Fund by sending checks to the Executive

Secretary-Treasurer, Susan DeFranco. Her name and address are in your yearbook. The Home Fund also has invested income from bequests, trusts and foundations. The interest from the invested income or principal is used for grants, and a certain percentage of the interest is reinvested to help the fund grow. The Wells-Fargo Capital management team has given us wise and successful investment advice.

Remember, every dollar your chapter gives to the Home Fund will be spent on grants to recipients. It is sometimes a juggling act to meet the growing need. Please consider increasing your chapter gift to this worthy project.

Well, as you can imagine, it was hard to choose which letters to read in tonight's program. Here's one more that we know will be of interest to you:

Dear Hattie:

I was wondering how recipients of the Home Fund grants hear about the Home Fund and how the trustees decide who will receive a grant? Should I tell my pastor about the Home Fund? I told one P.E.O. Sister about the Home Fund because I thought she should apply for a grant. She hasn't told me whether she got any money yet. Shouldn't she tell our chapter or me if she applied?

Betty BusyBee

Chapter BBB, Bixby

Hattie: Betty, you've packed a lot of questions into your letter! Let's start with the question of how recipients hear about the Home Fund. Some recipients are P.E.O.s and contact the Home Fund themselves or with the help of a P.E.O. sister. The first step is to tell the person – whether or not they are a P.E.O. – about the Home Fund and to ask if they are interested in applying for a grant. Certainly you can offer to help with the process if that seems appropriate, but ultimately, the application is a private matter between the applicant and the Home Fund Trustees. Give the person the name and phone number of the Home Fund Chairman – it's listed in your chapter's yearbook! The chairman will send the applicant an application and answer any questions she or he may have. Yes, I said "he" as well as "she"! The Home Fund gives grants to men, women and children in Minnesota.

It would be very appropriate for you to tell your pastor about the Home Fund and give him or her the number of the chairman. Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, for instance, sometimes refers clients to the Home Fund. The Home Fund wants to focus its grants on those who are truly in need, and pastors and agencies like Lutheran Social Services are in a position to know where the need is.

When a person applies for the grant, they will be asked about their income, the prognosis of their medical condition if that is why they need a grant, the estimated costs for the equipment or help they will need and an indication as to whether their need is ongoing or a one-time request. A letter or referral from someone who has personal knowledge about the applicant is also part of the application and is very helpful to the trustees.

The Home Fund board meets four times a year to consider applications. Once a grant is approved, it takes some time to get the money in place; in most cases, the grant money is sent directly to the vendors rather than to the recipients.

Finally, in answer to your question about the P.E.O. sister you were concerned about. Remember that one of the key principles of the Home Fund is confidentiality. The application and grant process is very confidential. Your sister may have received a grant and may not want that information made public. You may never know if she applied for or received a grant, but you will know that you have expressed a loving concern for your sister. This is what the Minnesota Home Fund is all about.

Well, listeners, it's just about time to go. Before we sign off, we want to give you an idea of the kinds of assistance provided by the Minnesota Home Fund Grants. This is just a partial list – it is amazing what a difference your gifts can make in the lives of our recipients.

Nursing home payments, lifeline, eye glasses, mental health counseling, adaptive equipment for physical handicaps, moving expenses, prescription medications, medical care, heating bill assistance, telephones, “lift” chairs.

Help a sister, a friend, or an acquaintance in need benefit from the Home Fund. This year's Home Fund Chairman is

Sally Baker
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Until next time, this is Hattie Homefund signing off for “Just Ask Hattie!”

(Applause Sign)