

Nazareth Home

2015 Gratitude Report

a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Celebrating 2015!



JANUARY

Enjoying the Snow!
Thanks to you, we can just be kids!



FEBRUARY

You responded to a special match challenge and helped to raise nearly \$80,000 for the Olga C. and William H. Brinkman Fund at the Legacy Foundation!



MARCH

Residents of Catherine Kasper Home visited. They read to the children and brought them goodies such as puppets and books!



APRIL

Joyce Koch and Peggy Guernsey host "Char-a-Tea" to raise funds for Nazareth Home and we celebrated our volunteers at a special reception.



MAY

We enjoyed being able to play outside and enjoy spring!



JUNE

We went on a special outing to the St. Thomas More Festival



JULY

We got to see the Railcats play and went to a White Sox game thanks to the Lakeshore Chamber and other generous donors! We also held our annual reunion picnic!



AUGUST

A new group of friends met to help us! They are the Advisory Council. We got to visit Mayor McDermott!



SEPTEMBER

We had such fun at Lincoln Park Zoo and Bishop Donald J. Hying visited us!



OCTOBER

We went to the annual Nazareth Home Gala and enjoyed Halloween. We got to Trick or Treat at St. Catherine Hospital.



NOVEMBER

We have so much to be thankful for, including Cavin Porter, who used to be at Nazareth Home, and his family, who had a diaper and supplies drive for us!



DECEMBER

Nazareth Home volunteer, Joyce Koch, created a Christmas tree for the Center for Visual and Performing Arts Festival of Trees!

Dear Friends,

It is our honor to celebrate YOU, your kindness and generosity, in this year's Gratitude Report. You might have noticed that we've changed the name of this report that we produce annually for our donors. We chose this year to begin calling this our Gratitude Report, because we are so extremely grateful for you. It is because of you that we have had the capacity, and therefore the privilege, of caring for 190 children since our founding.

Gratitude is defined as *the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness*. You have shown our babies such kindness this year, each and every day, that we have much to be thankful for. We can only hope to return this kindness by sharing what the children at Nazareth Home have been up to each month last year.

Foster babies come to us with addictions, trauma, and medical challenges. Most foster homes cannot effectively care for these infants and toddlers. Your gifts are what make our services possible. To provide the specialized care it costs \$240 per child, per day. Without your financial support and without our faithful and loving volunteers, these babies may not get a healthy, caring foundation of support.

You are giving these beautiful children a great start to an amazing life.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,

Jean Bowman

Jean Bowman
Director

Ernestine Edwards

Ernestine Edwards
Foster Mother

Celebrating Children – First Midwest Bank and First Midwest Charitable Foundation



First Midwest Charitable Foundation board members Namrata Kanal and Brad Vosberg present a donation to foster mother, Ernestine Edwards and director, Jean Bowman

The First Midwest Charitable Foundation is focused on funding programs that improve the lives of women and children in its market area. “Nazareth Home is a perfect fit for us,” says Brad Vosberg, senior vice president and regional retail sales manager for First Midwest Bank. “One of the nice things about supporting children and infants is that you’re helping someone so early in life, and so the impact you can have carries on for years and years into the future. It just has a huge impact going forward.”

Every child should grow up in the warmth and protective care of a loving family. But some new parents in our community who suffer in poverty, struggle with drug and alcohol addictions, or are recovering from the trauma of their own abuse cannot provide the warmth and care that their babies and toddlers need and deserve. Their challenge is intensified when their children are born with drug addictions or serious physical and developmental disabilities.

Nazareth Home is the loving foster family for these medically-fragile children. Through the generous support of community businesses like First Midwest

Bank, together we care as Christian stewards for the most poor and vulnerable babies among us.

Sister Barbara Kuper, PHJC, retired foster mother and director of Nazareth Home, first shared our mission with Brad. “She was so passionate. You could tell how much she loved what she did and every child in her care.”

The First Midwest commitment to making an impact on the future for children in Northwest Indiana translates into a decade of generous charitable giving. First Midwest Bank and its private foundation, The First Midwest Charitable Foundation, have been supporting Nazareth Home since 2006.

“It is money well spent,” says Brad. “You see the impact of the support for many years to come. It’s very well run. The team of individuals carrying out the mission each and every day at Nazareth Home is totally committed. You can tell they do it because it’s personally rewarding for them and that they want to make a difference in these children’s lives.”

In 2015, First Midwest Charitable Foundation celebrated its millionth grant dollar given to charity. “Jean and Ernestine were at the table with me,” says Brad, “and listening to them talk about the challenges they have on a daily basis, I was so touched by their passion and commitment. That really prompted me to say ‘we have to give again!’”

First Midwest Charitable Foundation, a private foundation headquartered in Itasca, Illinois, is funded by First Midwest Bank. First Midwest Bank is a full-service bank providing a full range of business and retail banking, trust and investment management services through nearly 100 offices located in 64 communities throughout Illinois, northwest Indiana and eastern Iowa.

Thank you, First Midwest Bank, First Midwest Charitable Foundation, and Brad Vosberg for your kindness.

Celebrating an Answer to Prayer - Jadwiga Cias

Jadwiga Cias is a volunteer and donor who came to learn about Nazareth Home in a most unusual and surprising way. In 2010, Jadwiga suffered sudden cardiac arrest and as she lay in the hospital in a deep coma, the principal of her son's school visited her and prayed for a miracle. She prayed for intercession of Blessed Mary Catherine Kasper – the foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, which is the congregation that founded Nazareth Home in 1993.

When Jadwiga woke from her coma one week later, she found a prayer card and medal of Blessed Catherine Kasper on the nightstand next to her hospital bed. “I hadn't heard of Catherine Kasper before this, but I began to pray to her. When I was back home from the hospital, my son's principal sent me more information about her and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, as well as their ministries. As I read about Nazareth Home, I immediately felt a great desire to work there.”

“I was a little surprised when I came to visit for the first time,” says Jadwiga. “I expected Nazareth Home to be like a hospital. Since I'm from Poland, I was unsure if my foreign accent would be understood by the children. My mind was quickly set to rest when I met amicable, open-hearted people, and beautiful children.” Jadwiga continues, “The place is like a real home, filled with a warm, pleasant and loving atmosphere. From my first visit until now – three years later – my positive feelings have not changed. I'm amazed at the exceptional work done at Nazareth Home.”

Jadwiga is inspired by the compassion and patience of director, Jean Bowman, as well as foster mother, Ernestine Edwards. “They sacrifice their time to make those kids feel safe and happy,” she says.

Caring for needy children is something that the Poor Handmaids have done throughout their nearly 150 year history in America. Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago, Illinois was among the ministries that they served. This orphanage cared for thousands of neglected, needy and orphaned children. From 1868 until the orphanage closed in 1974, approximately 400 Poor Handmaids would work there.



Jadwiga is a cherished volunteer. “She gives so much of herself to the children,” says Jean. “God was keeping an eye on her. Because of the prayer of so many people, it wasn't her time.”

“Whether I'm cuddling, kissing, playing, changing diapers, or feeding the children, my spirit is lifted and my day is brighter. The few hours I spend at Nazareth Home each week not only benefits the children, but benefits me as well. It's impossible not to smile when you see the faces of the children.”

“Every moment we spend with the children is a treasure,” says Jadwiga. “We feel that Jadwiga is a treasure, too. As a volunteer and a donor, Jadwiga is an important and vital part of Nazareth Home and we are so grateful for her,” says Jean.

To read more about Jadwiga, please see the next edition of *Word Gathering* magazine, published quarterly by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. If you don't receive *Word Gathering* and would like to, please call Terry Sanders at (219) 947-8565 or email her at tsanders@ancilla.org.



Celebrating Warm Fuzzies! – Marsha Kuhn

After retiring, and with the encouragement of her husband of 40 years, Marsha Kuhn decided to give some time to others who were lonely and in need of some “good old one-on-one,” Marsha says. She began by volunteering at Hartsfield Village, where she worked with the elderly. “I learned so many things from each and every one. Although I treasured my time with the elderly, I wanted to become involved with children again.”

Marsha had taught 1st and 2nd grade for six years for the School Town of Highland and then stayed home to raise her two children, Kelly and Chris. “I learned about Nazareth Home through other volunteers and friends who were familiar with the home,” says Marsha. “I was encouraged to get involved as I love children and since I didn’t have grandchildren, I knew I would love the “cuddle time” with infants and the fun interaction with the toddlers.”

Marsha is so pleased to be a part of the growth and development of the children at Nazareth Home. “So much can change in a weeks’ time and it is remarkable to see a toddler crawl one week and walk the next. It is a real “warm fuzzy” when a child recognizes my face and gives back a smile that leaves a lasting memory, says Marsha. She finds volunteering to be a heart-warming experience that, in her words “makes my day and fulfills me as a person.”

Although Marsha feels blessed to have each child in our care for a designated amount of time she says it does make her feel sad when it’s time for a child to leave Nazareth Home. “Knowing we have loved, nurtured, and cared for them to the best of our ability helps to make the send-off a bit easier,” she says.

“There is a sign above the door to my health club that reads, ‘It is not how you feel when you get here; it is how you feel when you leave’ that sums up my feelings about Nazareth Home,” says Marsha. “I can walk into the house with my mind racing and with all kinds of things to do, but when I walk out that door, I am refreshed and

have a calm, peaceful, state of mind.” She especially enjoys the time she gets to rock and cuddle infants. “The toddlers are fun because they are so busy and inquisitive. They keep us on our toes!”

It’s easy to see that Marsha loves her time with the children at Nazareth Home. “They make me laugh, she says, laughing herself. And then adds, “They each have their own unique personality which makes my time with them interesting and puts me in a happy place.”

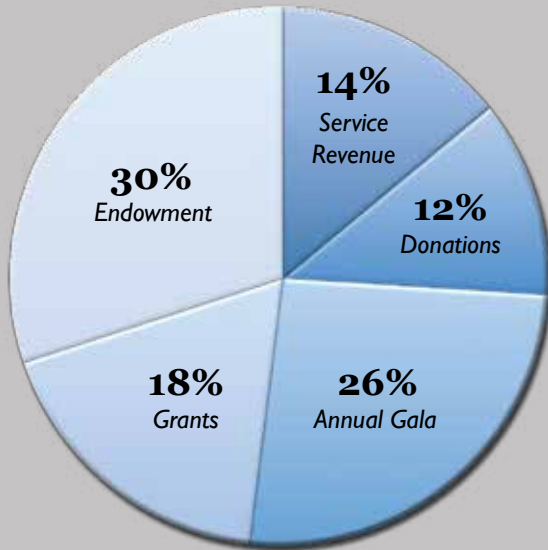
Nazareth Home director, Jean Bowman, says that the children love Marsha just as much as she loves them. “They clamor to sit on her lap and just love when she is around.”

Marsha also has great love and adoration for the staff of Nazareth Home, who she says, “make my volunteer experience delightful.” Marsha continues, “As the foster mother, Miss Ernestine has such a warm, loving, contagious personality that gives everyone an automatic feeling of welcome. She brightens the room with her appearance and the children cling to her for love and hugs. She always takes time out of her busy day to stop in the play room, say hello, and spread a little cheer as only she can do. How lucky we all are to have a “Miracle Team” that provide a wonderful environment for all who live, work, and volunteer at the Nazareth Home.”

We feel equally blessed to have you, Marsha, as one of our hardworking, committed volunteers.

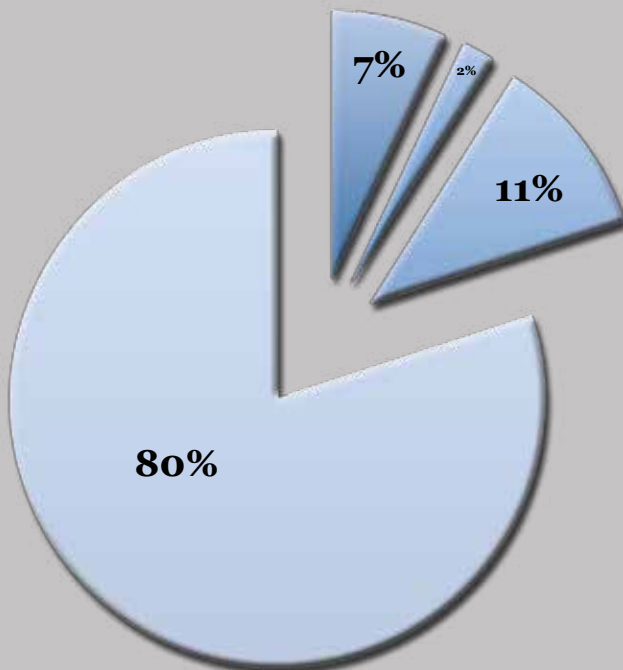


2015 Income = \$434,216



The financial information presented in this report was extracted from financial statements audited by Swartz Retson & Co.

2015 Expenses = \$490,152



- 7% Buildings and Equipment
- 2% Fundraising
- 11% Household, Purchased Services and Other (Meetings, Printing, Postage, Transportation, Misc.)
- 80% Salaries (Direct Care of Children)

Nazareth Home Advisory Council



Nazareth Home Advisory Council members enjoy the 2015 Gala

The Nazareth Home Advisory Council was formed in 2015 to serve as advisors, advocates and ambassadors of Nazareth Home. Co-chaired by Kurt Koch and Dave Ryan, the Council consists of thoughtful community leaders who serve as champions of the organization. Members of the Advisory Council share their gifts in service to Nazareth Home through their connections to local resources and colleagues; through their philanthropic support; or through other forms of needed assistance. If you would be interested in learning more about the Advisory Council, please contact Terry Sanders at (219) 947-8565.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

In 2015, 42 volunteers donated 2,589 hours of their time. Although this selfless gift of precious time is priceless, Nazareth Home uses the figure calculated annually by Independent Sector to put a monetary value on volunteer contributions. In 2015, an hour of volunteer time was “worth” \$23.07, for a total contribution to Nazareth Home of \$59,728.23.

Volunteers cuddle babies, play with toddlers, change many diapers, clean up spills, and complete many tasks that would otherwise go undone without expense to the ministry. Our volunteers are people who care about our children and their future. Their warmth, kindness, care and concern for each and every child is appreciated more than we can put into words. Thank you for loving our children.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Jean Bowman, director, at (219) 616-8845.

Celebrating Unconditional Love – Janelle and Isaiah



Isaiah pictured with his mother Janelle

Isaiah was just turning two years old when he came to stay at Nazareth Home. Recalling his first days, Jean Bowman, director, says, “He was very withdrawn. He wouldn’t speak.” But with patience, and a lot of love, this scared little boy blossomed. “The relationship took time, but once he opened up, we saw how very bright he was,” says Ernestine.

“He had a very strong personality. You knew when Isaiah was in the room! He was such a boy, too. Always wanting to pretend play that he was a Ninja Turtle or driving a truck.”

Isaiah’s mother, Janelle, shares what a scary time this was for her and her husband when they temporarily lost custody of their son. “We were so afraid he would begin to believe we had forgotten about him, and we worried that he would feel rejected and abandoned.

Our greatest obstacle was moving to Indiana [from Minnesota] with very little money and no employment. But by the grace of God we were able to. Through a series of miracles and a lot of prayer, we eventually found proper housing and gainful employment and moved to Indiana. We began to visit Isaiah more and more. We never forgot about him, and he seemed to have not forgotten about us as well.” And she was right. “When he started going on visits with his parents, he didn’t want to return. He was very close to his mother and father,” says Ernestine.

Isaiah’s parents are convinced that the love and care he received at Nazareth Home “sustained him and shielded him from being negatively impacted by his separation from us.” Janelle continues, “It has always been very apparent that Isaiah received more than his basic needs from the staff and volunteers at Nazareth Home, and that he was given a type of nurturing only perfect parenting can provide. I will be forever indebted to all of the men and women at Nazareth Home for holding my precious little boy’s life in their hands the way I hoped and prayed they would, and in a manner I know God Himself honors.



Celebrating Community – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO)

“We truly believe in being a part of the community we are privileged to serve,” says Rick Calinski, NIPSCO Public Affairs Manager. NIPSCO believes its responsibility is more than just making sure customers have the quality service they should expect from their utility company. “Our goal is to positively impact the quality of life of the communities we serve, says Rick.



As a corporate partner of Nazareth Home, NIPSCO is a wonderful example of a community leader

striving to improve the lives of its youngest and most vulnerable children.

“Visiting Nazareth Home was a real eye opener for me,” reflects Rick. “My three daughters mean the world to me, and my family does our best to provide a solid platform for them to grow and be the best they can be.” says Rick. “But you can’t pick the life circumstance that you’re born into.”

Rick feels that the passion of the staff and volunteers who help provide a positive start for each baby at Nazareth Home “is pretty amazing.” He adds, “I have been engaged with Nazareth Home for a few years now, and every time I interact with someone from the organization or visit the home, I really feel the passion from everyone involved to make a difference in these babies’ lives.”

Celebrating a Servant's Heart – Mary Paquin

“After I retired, I wanted to give back by volunteering,” says Mary Paquin, long-time volunteer at Nazareth Home. “My mom and I visited, and we saw all the good that was being done there. I am very blessed to volunteer at Nazareth Home.”

Mary has been a volunteer for nearly 10 years, and she especially looks forward to her weekly time at Nazareth Home. “When I arrive, the children run to me and give me a big hug. I’m warmly welcomed by the staff, as well,” says Mary. “When the weather permits, I take the children for a walk, or we may visit the park or the library.”

Mary enjoys being with the children and feels very close to them. “I look forward every week to rocking and cuddling the babies. I think of the kids who’ve left, and I love seeing them when they come back for a visit.” Mary recalls a little boy who had severe medical issues and passed away after he left Nazareth Home. “I feel honored that I was able to hold and cuddle him, even though he was hooked up to several machines and monitors.”

“The children just love her,” says Ernestine Edwards, foster mother at Nazareth Home. “To see the joy in their eyes is so precious.”

Mary has had a life-long relationship with Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and their ministries, like Nazareth Home. She was taught by Poor Handmaids at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) in Hammond. She was a member of OLPH for 65 years, where Poor Handmaids served, and she has been a member of the

Associate Community of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ for 24 years. Mary is now a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Crown Point where she is an Extraordinary Minister and member of the choir.

Mary has been married to Alan for 53 years, and they have three children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren... with another on the way. “When my teenage grandchildren are on vacation from school, I bring them with me to volunteer at Nazareth Home. They enjoy being with the children and the children enjoy being with them.”

“It is wonderful when volunteering at our home becomes a family affair,” says Jean Bowman, director of Nazareth Home. “It’s invaluable for our children to experience the love of families.”

Mary and Alan are very generous donors to Nazareth Home and several other Poor Handmaid ministries. “I know that my monetary support is put to good use for the children,” says Mary.

***We love you, Mary!
All of the children and staff of
Nazareth Home are so thankful for
your support and unwavering
commitment to our babies.***



(Celebrating Community, continued from page 6)

Rick sees Nazareth Home as a “Guardian Angel” to many less fortunate babies, and adds that “Nazareth Home is a selfless organization that provides such a great human service to babies in need. NIPSCO is just proud to assist in that mission.”

Thank you, NIPSCO, for providing care and love to foster babies born addicted to drugs or alcohol, suffering from the trauma of abuse or neglect, or coping

with severe physical or developmental disabilities. Your financial and volunteer support helps these medically-fragile infants heal mentally, physically, and spiritually so that they begin life anew.



Celebrating Your Generosity

Thank you for making generous financial contributions to Nazareth Home during 2015. The following list includes gifts from individuals, families, organizations, corporations and foundations. Our work on behalf of children would not be possible without our generous donors and friends.

Gifts of \$10,000.00 or more

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We have made every effort to ensure that lists of donors are both accurate and complete. If your name or the name of your company has been omitted, misspelled or otherwise improperly reported, please contact Terry Sanders at (219) 947-8565. We truly regret any inaccuracies.

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Gifts to \$99

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We also celebrate the thoughtfulness of our in-kind donors who provide many items such as clothing, diapers, and gifts for our children during the holiday season and on special occasions like birthdays. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as we strive to make the best use of all resources.

Gifts of Tribute

We gratefully acknowledge the many gifts of tribute given for the following:



Gifts received in Honor of Dick Burgess 90th Birthday

John Burgess
 Charles and Mary Campbell
 Yvonne Delbene
 Father J. Patrick Gaza
 Dorothy Kurtz
 Jeanne Lawrence
 Mason and Diane Maddox
 Marcia Mizen
 Duane and Fannie Rogers
 Denise and David Swinehart

Gifts received in Honor of Leroy Fassett

Toni Mola and David Block

Gifts received in Honor of Deborah Ferguson

Dr. Daniel Smith and
 Angela Murray

Gifts received in Honor of Sister Magdala Oswald, PHJC

Diane and Duane Kreighbaum

Gifts received in Honor of Janice Woods

Dorothy Williams



In Memoriam

We wish to honor the memory of these devoted friends and patrons:

In Memory of Pamela Dawn
 Kurt and Catherine Matz

In Memory of Delores Detella
 Budd Mechanical Systems

In Memory of Yolanda Guernsey
 Joyce and Kurtis Koch
 Toni Mola and David Block

In Memory of Mary Ann L. Karwatka
 Marion and Vernon Harris
 Jane and Raymond Hitney
 Edmund Karwatka
 Donald Weberus

In Memory of Mildred McMahon
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In Memory of Merrily R. Nelson
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In Memory of Josephine M. Paluga
 Janet Paluga

Kathy Riebe
 Budd Mechanical Systems

In Memory of William F. Snyder
 Richard Neely
 Judith Snyder

In Memory of Linda A. Triana
 JoAnn and John Birdzell

In Memory of Rubin Velez
 Robert Acosta



Nazareth Home not only cares for the physical healing of the children, but also for their spiritual healing as well. As with all ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Nazareth Home provides holistic care and genuine compassion “to the least of our brothers and sisters.”

Celebrating the Growth of the Nazareth Home Endowment

Thanks to forward-thinking donors, the Olga C. & William H. Brinkman Endowment Fund for Nazareth Home grew significantly in 2015. This Endowment Fund, managed by Legacy Foundation, earns interest on contributions from donors. Each year a percentage of that interest is distributed to Nazareth Home to support ongoing needs. The principal remains untouched. Tom Sourlis and Sue Eleuterio enlisted the help of Scott Vidimos, Vidimos, Inc., and Dave Bochnowski, Peoples Bank, to help them reach out to other friends interested in supporting the future of Nazareth Home. 152 donors answered the call and added nearly \$80,000 to the Fund! We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following donors:

Alkon Consulting Group, Inc.	Expert Tutoring	Matthew and	Margie Sheffer
Trish Alt	Rev. Leroy H. Fasset	Christine Mannhard	Richard and Barbara Sierra
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Gerard Ardelean	Joan Ferguson	Christopher and Adrienne May	Angela Murray
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Janice Evans and	Susan and John Mackin	Ramon and Barbara Saunders	
Robert McMahon	John Mahler	Lynda Schneider	

“At Christmas, my sister-in-law and I both ask that our gifts be directed to Nazareth Home when our family draws names to exchange gifts.” “Mary” (who wishes to remain anonymous) says, “I was introduced to Nazareth Home by my sister-in-law. I decided to read more about the home and fell in love with the mission. My husband and I put you at the top of our list whenever we can contribute.”

Celebrating Family – Lela Adams



Jolie “Lela” Adams came to Nazareth Home on December 28, 2004, when she was just one week old. Her birth mother was unable to care for her, and Lela was struggling to reach development milestones. Sister Barb Kuper, former director and foster mother remembers Lela as a very good baby. “I went to pick her up at the hospital,” says Sister Barb, “and thought how cute she was!”

Danielle Adams, Lela’s biological aunt, adopted her. “I was so happy that a family member wanted custody of Lela,” recalls Sister Barb. Today, Lela’s older sister Danielle Lewis feels strongly that Nazareth Home gave Lela the start in life that she needed. “We were told that Lela would not do well in school and that she would not be able to walk very well because her legs would not be strong enough,” says Danielle. “It is because of

Nazareth Home that Lela has a family and a promising future,” she continues. “She is excelling in school, an amazing athlete and has many accomplishments to be proud of.” Danielle was able to share Lela’s remarkable accomplishments at the Nazareth Home Gala in October 2015, during a part of the program known as “Miracles.”

Lela, now 11 years old, is an honor student and very passionate about her favorite sport – softball. She plays on the Northwest Indiana Sox travel softball team. As an all-star player, Lela was selected to be on the USA Elite Select All-American team. She not only made the team, but she was also named the All-American Top Performer in her age group. Lela represented the Great Lakes Region of the country, and her team went on to win the National Championship! “We’re so proud of Lela and so happy that she is a part of our family,” says Danielle, Lela’s older sister.

Thank you for your generous contributions to Nazareth Home. Because of you, Nazareth Home gave Lela the start she needed in life. Because of you, our most vulnerable children will have a bright future.

Giving Tuesday Donors Give Nazareth Home Reasons to Celebrate

Donors generously supported the Olga C. & William H. Brinkman Endowment Fund for Nazareth Home on December 1 during a national initiative known as Giving Tuesday. The following donors helped to support this Fund, held at the Legacy Foundation, through their generous gifts:

Anne and George Benington
Jeffery and Andrea Camp
Ralph and Julie Dowd
Edmund and Monica Drzewiecki
Deborah Ferguson
Deanna Hollingsworth

Kenneth and Vickie Juhasz
Marilyn Kania
Diana Krist Gard and David Gard
William and Tammi Lewis
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Mary and Gerald Mazur

Toni Mola and David Block
Regina and Joseph Rurode
Audrey Sabinske
Margaret Saliga
Ramon and Barbara Saunders
Eileen and Richard Snearly

Carrie Sovola
Phyllis and Ronald Sovola
Eileen Speranza
Virginia Vega
Alice and Edward Vockell
Daniel and Janice Wiegmann

Planned Giving

The Catherine Kasper Society, named for the foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, provides a unique opportunity for you to partner with Nazareth Home during your lifetime and to plan for the future at the same time. Leaving a legacy allows you to maximize the benefits of philanthropy while completing your financial and estate planning. Joining the Catherine Kasper Society is as simple as completing a non-binding membership form. For more information about planned gift options please contact Terry Sanders, Vice President, Development, at (219) 947-8565 or tsanders@ancilla.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.