



Joanne McGuire Honored for Life of Giving



Joanne McGuire, a long-time donor to The Catholic Foundation, has been selected the 2008 winner of the **Central Ohio Planned Giving Council's *Leave A Legacy Award***. We are so proud to count Joanne among the friends of the Foundation.

A Life of Service

Joanne thought of her life as rather ordinary. For 34 years she worked as a civilian at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, retiring as Comptroller for Non-appropriated Funds for the former Air Force Logistics Command. She started there in an entry-level position and by the time she retired, she had reached one of the highest levels available to civilian employees. "This was at a time when there still weren't many women in high-ranking positions," she adds with a twinkle of pride.



She and her brother, an accountant, had made their home together in London, Ohio, until he died in 1991. She also cared for her mother in her later years, which ended in 1999. Joanne had always enjoyed giving, and after her brother and mother passed away she found herself with a comfortable portfolio. She felt moved to do something to help others with this unexpected blessing.

The Call to Philanthropy

"At first I was unsure," Joanne shares. "Then one day I was sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament praying, and a confidence just washed over me. It was like someone said, 'Joanne, you know how to make good decisions with that money.' Since then, I've just looked for ways to provide help for those who really need it. I truly believe in divine guidance, and I know I am guided to the right decisions." In 1998 she had helped her mother establish an endowment to benefit St. Patrick Parish in London, Ohio. After her mother's death, Joanne has adopted that endowment as her own and donates to it annually. She contributes to it and several other established endowments on an regularly.





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In 2002 and 2005, Joanne established charitable gift annuities with The Catholic Foundation. She also has named The Catholic Foundation as beneficiary on a life insurance policy.

In addition to these gifts, we know that Joanne is a generous donor to other charities, especially those affiliated with the Catholic Church.

In 2007, Joanne married Ora Fry, a widower and fellow Bible study participant with whom she had been friends for seven years. Joanne says that Ora shares her love of giving, which is one of the attributes that made them so compatible. They enjoy working together to evaluate their giving options.

Leave A Legacy Award

Greg Sharkey, President of the Central Ohio Planned Giving Council, tells us that Joanne was selected from a very strong field of candidates for this award. “The thing that made Joanne stand out,” he says, “Was that she had shown such a long commitment to giving, and that she had given in so many ways. In the end, she was clearly the strongest example of a donor who is Leaving A Legacy.”

For The Catholic Foundation, it is a wonderful to have an outside organization recognize what we have known for so long: Joanne McGuire is a woman who understands the joy of giving. Congratulations, Joanne, on this well-deserved honor.

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-Greg Sharkey, President of Central Ohio Planned Giving Council