



## Women's Giving Circle

### Women's Giving Circle Invitation-Only Grant Application

Thank you for accepting our invitation to apply for a grant from the Women's Giving Circle (WGC), an initiative of the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Cleveland. Please respond clearly and concisely and adhere to the word limits below.

**Organization Name:** [Blessing House](#)

**Address of Organization:** 6115 Olivet Ave., Elyria, Ohio 44035

### Organization Snapshot (75 words max)

*Briefly describe your organization's mission, whom you serve, and where you serve.*

Blessing House serves as a safety net for families in crisis by providing a safe shelter for children and support for their family. We provide compassionate care for children up to 12 years old when their families are experiencing an emergency, serving families in Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties. We provide safe care for children and case management for their parents or caregivers. There is no cost for services and parents maintain custody of their children.

### Project Summary (100 words max)

*Describe the specific project or program for which you are requesting Women's Giving Circle support.*

**Purchase of Commercial High Capacity Washers and Dryers**

Blessing House has a need for new high capacity washers and dryers. The ones we are currently using are 5 years old and are in need of constant maintenance because of heavy usage. We typically have 8-12 children in our care at all times with our 2 current machines in use multiple times each day. We need commercial units that will be able to accommodate these needs.

### **Community Need (100 words max)**

*What need does this project address, and why is it important at this time?*

Families are facing more challenges than ever before trying to provide the basics of safe shelter, food and health care for their children. Children's mental health is suffering because of the trauma they experience when these critical resources are not available. Having clean clothes to wear each day that fit and are seasonal appropriate contributes to their self-esteem. Proper laundering of clothing and bedding is also crucial as a safe hygienic practice. A recent flood at Blessing House highlighted the need for more effective dependable laundry equipment.

### **Impact & Outcomes (100 words max)**

*What impact do you expect this project to have? Include one or two measurable outcomes*

The impact of this project would be the ability to provide appropriate, clean clothing for the children who stay at Blessing House. When children are with us, they wear clothes provided by Blessing House. They are able to choose from a selection of clean clothing each day that fits them, building self esteem and giving them a positive start to each day. They also go to bed each night with clean sheets and blankets, washed in fragrance free detergent, minimizing allergic reactions.

### **Use of Women's Giving Circle Funds (75 words max)**

*How will Women's Giving Circle funds be used?*

The funds from Women's Giving Circle would be used to help purchase two super-capacity washers and dryers to fulfill the laundering needs of our facility. We have included an internet pricing and description for a Maytag Commercial Electric Super-Capacity Stack Washer and Dryer. While we have not decided on this particular model, this would be the type of equipment we would purchase. (See attached.)

**Alignment with Catholic Values (75 words max)**

*The Women’s Giving Circle supports projects that respect the dignity of the human person, serve those most in need, and contribute to the common good. Please describe how this project reflects these values and how its activities are consistent with the mission and teachings of the Catholic Church.*

Blessing House's mission aligns with Jesus' mission of helping those who are sick, the disadvantaged, those living in poverty. It aligns with Jesus' directive to care for and protect children. We respond to God's call with our "yes" whenever we are called upon, trusting that God will provide what we need when we need it. We refer to ourselves as "God's Project of Hope," understanding that Hope is the most valuable gift we can offer.

**Partnerships (50 words max, if applicable)**

*Briefly describe any project partnerships.*

While there are no specific partnerships for this project, we work with a significant number of partners to provide support and resources for our families.

**Funding Request:**

Amount Requested: \$ 8,000

Total Project Budget: \$ 10,000

**Signature:**



**Name:** Sr. Mary Berigan, S.N.D.

**Title:** Executive Director