

# Maggie's Fund

A legacy of help and hope for families



February 13, 2012

Over the last seven years, the individuals and families who place a request to Maggie's Fund for assistance are folks who are living very close to the edge. Back rent due, utilities about to be turned off, gas for the car that is sucking vapors, needing the co-pay for a child's antibiotic, purchasing a crib so that parents can move their baby out of the towel-lined dresser drawer, helping move a homeless adult off the street into an apartment by paying the security deposit, buying food for a family of five whose cupboard is bare, installing a new water pump in the family van so that a parent can get to work tomorrow, or helping with day care payments so that kids are properly supervised while mom's working.

But on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, while the hallways of Bethany for Children & Families grew still and quiet as many employees left for home and their families or hurried to the malls for last minute Christmas shopping, a call was transferred from the front desk to one of the remaining supervisors on duty. It seemed to grow even quieter as she listened to the voice on the other end of the phone, a young mother asking if there was any way Bethany could help her bury her babies.

Between soft sobs, the mother explained that she had gone to the hospital on Monday nearly nine months pregnant. The quiet of her womb, the missing heartbeats of her twins betrayed the tragedy that had befallen her. She was induced on Tuesday. Her two stillborn baby boys, 19 inches long and 6½ pounds each, had lost their tenuous hold on life sometime in the last few days.

The boys' mom thought they deserved a burial, but she couldn't afford one, despite calling around to several funeral homes. The supervisor explained to her that Bethany usually didn't pay for funeral expenses. But perhaps Maggie's Fund could help. The supervisor made a quick call to Steve Pressley at Wheelan's-Pressley Funeral Home. The Quad Cities' community is full of caring people, and Steve is one of the best. With his help and generosity and the assistance of the many donors to Maggie's Fund, this young mother in need was able to put her babies to rest.

When Maggie died seven years ago, my brother-in-law, Dennis, called to ask Laurie and me if we needed financial help in laying Maggie to rest. Their presence and loving support is what we needed, and he and the rest of our families, and the many families of our parish and school, joined us in sending her back to the Lord. Laurie and I were fortunate to enjoy the spunk and spirit of our daughter for six years. The twin's mom never had even a day to hold them. But she had her family to stand with her and many unknown and unnamed friends who through Maggie's Fund helped her give her sons an honorable and loving burial.



Thank you for being one of the unknown and unnamed friends, not only to the twin's mom, but also to all who have been helped over the last year by Maggie's Fund. My daughter would be deeply honored by what you do in her name.

Gratefully,

Bill Steinhauser  
Maggie's Dad

