

A program of

Catholic Community Services

PO Box 20400 Keizer, Oregon 97307-0400  
ccswv.org

# Fall Newsletter

Father Taaffe Homes

## Former Father Taaffe Mom Gives Back Through Art



Growing up, Kaylee's mom struggled with sobriety. Being the oldest of her siblings, Kaylee was left to take care of her younger brother and sister. Soon after she discovered she was pregnant, Kaylee moved in with extended family. The home was small and crowded. She shared a bed with two, sometimes even three, other family members. Kaylee was referred to Father Taaffe Homes by her counselor at school. She was looking for stability and structure for herself and her daughter, and she found it at Father Taaffe Homes.

"I've always been on my own," she said. "So being able to be in a safe, stable home where there was always someone there to support you was really helpful."

*"...being able to be in a safe, stable home where there was always someone there to support you was really helpful"*

Having their own space came with freedom that Kaylee had never known before. "At the Father Taaffe Home, we had our own room, so we would do little art projects," she said. Kaylee enjoys sharing her love of art with her daughter and with other people. She hopes one day that she will be able to help others through art.

"I want to go into art therapy. I really love the whole idea of how humans work and why we feel what we feel and think what we think," Kaylee said. During her time at Father Taaffe Homes, her counselor at school helped her find a volunteer opportunity at one of Catholic Community Services' group homes for adults who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*"...for me to be able to help someone through art is an amazing feeling"*

Kaylee started as an art coach for Brenda, a resident in the CCS Adele Home. "I just loved that Brenda loved art," Kaylee said. "I love to help people, even if it's just the smallest thing, but for me to be able to help someone through art is an amazing feeling."



Former Father Taaffe Homes mom Kaylee with her daughter, Amiraclae, and Adele resident Brenda

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## Welcome! Father Taaffe Homes House Parents and Babies



Welcome Marcus and Emma Roberts! Our new house parents of St. Brigid Home moved in with their 2-year old daughter Daisy in September. Marcus and Emma have another little one on the way. Being parents and expecting another themselves, they can relate to our expecting and parenting young moms.



We welcomed two newborn babies to St. Brigid Home last month. Baby Perceus (right) was born Tuesday, October 8, weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces. Baby Christina (left) was born Tuesday, October 22, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Mothers Kayla and Kenzee and the babies are happy, healthy and flourishing thanks to your support!



## A Letter from *Jim and Josh*

Dear Friends,

In 1975 on St. Patrick's Day, Father Taaffe opened St. Brigid Home to meet the growing need for safe, stable housing for pregnant and parenting young moms.

Last year, the Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services helped 60 young women say **Yes** to life. Today, as you read this, two newborn babies and their moms are receiving compassionate around-the-clock care, support and coaching at St. Brigid Home.

Our focus in both Father Taaffe residential services and neighborhood-based pregnancy support services is not only the physical health of the baby, but the health and well-being of the mom. Our house parents and community health workers help the young moms develop their knowledge of parenting skills, form safe, stable, nurturing relationships with other healthy adults, and support them in becoming independent.

The young women and babies served by the Father Taaffe Homes turn to us when they don't have a safe, stable place to raise their babies. They turn to us when they don't have healthy social connections or a support system. Your support makes it possible to provide all of these things.



Newborns Christina and Perceus

Please continue to pray with us for the young women and babies served, and consider making a gift of financial support. Like Kaylee, whose story is on page 1, the young women who graduate from Father Taaffe Homes leave with an awareness of the importance of community and with confidence that they can reach for their dreams. Like baby Christina and baby Perceus pictured here, the babies at Father Taaffe Homes are surrounded and nurtured by your love through your support of our staff.

On behalf of moms like Kaylee, Kenzee and Kayla, and babies like Amiraclle, Christina and Perceus, *thank you*. Many blessings to you and yours.



*Jim Seymour*  
James Seymour  
Executive Director  
Catholic Community Services



*Joshua L. Graves*  
Joshua Graves  
Deputy Executive Director  
Catholic Community Services

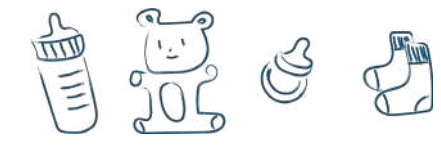
## Father Taaffe Homes Needs

It is a very exciting time at the St. Brigid Father Taaffe Home. We welcomed two new babies this fall. Thanks to generous and loyal supporters like you, Father Taaffe Homes is a 100% donor funded program.

While monetary donations are extremely important, tangible items such as shelving, storage containers and tools are currently needed. Donations of diapers are always welcome.

If you are able to help, please contact Alexa Armstrong at **(503) 856-7062** or support the program by mailing a donation to: **PO Box 20400 Keizer, Oregon 97307-0400.**

Your generosity will help the young families at Father Taaffe Homes to flourish for years to come.



*Share your values with future generations*

Remember **Catholic Community Services** in your will or trust; or designate CCS as a beneficiary in your life insurance plan or retirement plan.

By giving through your estate plan you help assure that CCS will continue to serve those in need for years to come. You may specify that your bequest be used where the need is greatest, or you may choose to contribute to one of our endowment funds. For example, your legacy can be helping young moms say **Yes** to life through **Father Taaffe Homes Endowment Fund**.

When you include CCS in your estate plan, please let us know. We would like to honor you with a membership to the Bishop Kenneth Steiner Legacy Society. All requests for anonymity will be honored.

For more information, please contact Alexa Armstrong at **(503) 856-7062** or **communications@ccswv.org**.



## From the Archives

Pictured on the left with the late, beloved Father Taaffe are Richard and Joanna Kreitzberg. The support of an annual Kreitzberg Fund matching grant ensures that all donations to Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services are matched dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000 annually. Our deepest appreciation to Richard and Joanna Kreitzberg and all who keep Father Taaffe's legacy alive through their generosity to Father Taaffe Homes.

## Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services

*Nurturing homes and community-based support for pregnant and parenting young moms who say **Yes** to life*

- My check is enclosed.
- I would like to give using my credit card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express (\*Please fill out card information on reverse side.)
- I would like my payment deducted automatically from my \_\_\_ checking \_\_\_ savings (\*Please fill out auto debit portion on reverse side.)
- Please contact me about volunteering.

**Giving options:**

- One-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Annual gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years

*(Please fill out the information on the reverse) →*

You can also make a secure donation online at **ccswv.org** or contact **communications@ccswv.org** for more information.

## Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please charge my card Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**\*For auto debit:** Bank: \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Routing # \_\_\_\_\_



# Oregon Knights Help Young Moms Say Yes to Life

Thanks to the loyal support from the Knights of Columbus, Father Taaffe moms are able to have a safe, stable, nurturing home to plan for their future and the future of their babies. At the Annual Oregon Knights of Columbus Convention in April, Catholic Community Services presented medallions of appreciation to the following Knights councils from all over the state for their support of Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services:



- Oregon State KofC Charities
- Council #13851 - Tualatin
- Council #10594 - Keizer
- Council #10838 - Eugene
- Council #1767 - Mount Angel
- Council #1785 - Corvallis
- Council #3302 - Scappoose
- Council #3818 - Lake Oswego
- Council #5842 - Gervais
- Council #6602 - Newberg
- Council #7246 - Newport
- Council #7292 - Hood River
- Council #8129 - Dallas
- Council #8270 - Shaw
- Council #9257 - Christ the King
- 4th Degree #0900 - Salem
- Council #5416 - Silverton
- Council #14802 - Beaverton
- 4th Degree #906 - Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon
- Council #2439 - Sublimity
- Most Rev. William H. Gross Assembly
- Council #15773 - Florence

## Thank You, Knights!

### Gervais Knights Host Annual Dinner

The Sacred Heart-St. Louis Parish Knights of Columbus hosted the 42nd Annual Father Taaffe Homes Dinner in Gervais on Sunday, October 28. Guests enjoyed a barbecued salmon and steak main course with cake from the Gervais Catholic Daughters.

Grand Knight Frank Belleque (photo 1, pictured right) introduced himself to attendees and was the Master of Ceremony for the night. CCS Deputy Director Josh Graves expressed appreciation for the ongoing support of the dinner guests for the Father Taaffe Homes program and the young families served through it. Josh presented a Legacy of Life Award to Pat Harris (photo 2), cousin of Father Taaffe and longtime supporter of the program. Pat has knitted many blankets for the young mothers and their babies, and has generously donated her time and gifts for many years. During the dinner, young mother Emily (photo 3) shared her story of how Father Taaffe Homes helped her during and after her pregnancy, and how appreciative she was of her experience living with the other mothers at St. Brigid Home.

Thank you to the Sacred Heart-St. Louis Parish Knights of Columbus for organizing this event, and all who served and volunteered their time and efforts toward the success of the dinner.



# Annual Father Taaffe Homes Car Show

The Knights of Columbus Keizer Council hosted the 14th Annual Father Taaffe Homes Car Show Saturday, July 20 at St. Edward Catholic Church in Keizer. This year's car show brought in 74 cars and \$2,325 in support of Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services.



Pictured left: Car show award recipients Jennifer and Bill Blyeth take time for a photo with their plaque for "Best of 2000s or Newer" for their 2009 Dodge Challenger SRT8

### Catholic Daughters Tea Fundraiser

The Catholic Daughters of Albany hosted their Annual Tea Fundraiser benefitting Father Taaffe Homes on Sunday, October 20 at St. Mary Catholic Church. Nearly 100 community members gathered in support of FTH. The event featured a traditional afternoon English tea service complete with finger sandwiches, scones and other delicious desserts. All proceeds from the tickets and gift raffles went to benefit the homes. Tess Cersouski, Catholic Daughter State Regent, presented FTH Program Coordinator Tonya Sorensen with a check donation at the event.

## Mount Angel Oktoberfest 2019

This year, volunteers, partners and staff helped raise \$4,000 for Father Taaffe Homes and Pregnancy Support Services at the annual Oktoberfest in Mount Angel. "We had an amazing O-fest this year," FTH Program Coordinator Tonya Sorensen said. "We sold out of the brats! We also sold German potato salad, sauerkraut, pretzel bites with cheddar cheese sauce and lemonade."



CCS's Independent Living Program volunteers Lori Simpson, Stephanie Benefiel and Shandi Hill at the FTH Oktoberfest booth

Nearly 80 volunteers helped run the Father Taaffe booth, working a total of 568 hours. "The number of volunteers we had this year was amazing! They were all terrific!" said Heidi Frederick, CCS Volunteer Coordinator.

The Mount Angel Oktoberfest is an event that Tonya looks forward to every year. "It gives me a chance to reconnect with others who knew and loved Father Taaffe," she said. "I love when people come by the booth and tell us stories of how Father Taaffe touched their lives. It is also a reminder of Father's mission of helping young mothers in crisis. He's not here to remind people that the need is still there, so having the booth gives us the opportunity to do just that."



Catholic Daughter State Regent Tess Cersouski (left) with FTH Program Coordinator Tonya Sorensen (right)