



**Sisters of
St. Francis
of Assisi**

November 2007

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www.lakeosfs.org/giving/giving.asp



Since 1849

Dear Friend,

Danielle will be home this Christmas.

Last Christmas, 12-year-old Danielle was living in a shelter with her grandmother. This Christmas she will be living in a lovely, spacious apartment at Clare Court located on 12 acres of land in Baltimore City. We all know how important a healthy safe environment is for the development of a child. This need is even greater for Danielle who lives with the challenge of a mental illness, and who has known rejection and homelessness. Danielle and her grandmother look forward to celebrating this Christmas with the other residents of Clare Court.



Clare Court was the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore who merged with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4, 2001. At the time of the merger, a plan was already underway to renovate the entire motherhouse building into a multi-generational, low-income community that would be home to adoptive families, grandparents fostering their grandchildren, persons with disabilities, and our retired and frail/elderly sisters. Clare Court is now home to 20 of our Franciscan sisters and 21 households which include a total of 37 children.

The facade of Clare Court Convent has retained the look of the motherhouse, while the interior has become an intergenerational community of families and sisters.

Our partner in this endeavor, a low-income housing developer, secured the funds needed to renovate a significant part of the building into 30 apartments. We successfully met the challenge of raising the funds to renovate that portion of the building, known as Clare Court Convent, for our frail/elderly sisters.



(Above) Sisters and residents share more than a common address. They share nutritious snacks, their experiences, fun and games, and much more.

(Below) Sr. Ellen Carr (left), OSF Administrative Director of Clare Court, introduces Sr. Rosa Guarino, 85, to a 4-year-old girl from the apartments.



(Above) Sr. Margaret Mary Sullivan tests the grasp of a toddler while "big brother" watches.

(Below) During the renovation, Sr. Ellen worked closely with the contractor on the project.



A Jewish Foundation, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, has offered us a very exciting and difficult additional CHALLENGE.

If we raise \$250,000, the Foundation will give the congregation a half million dollars to establish a fund to help maintain the quality of care for our sisters. In other words, for every dollar that you contribute to our retired sisters, this Foundation will give us two dollars!!

We need YOUR ASSISTANCE to meet this CHALLENGE!!!!

We have a limited time within which to raise the matching funds. By making a contribution, you become a partner in this creative approach to addressing the needs of our elderly sisters while meeting the housing needs of underserved families and persons with disabilities.

Our sisters hope to celebrate in this lovely renovated home for many holidays to come. (See the back page for more pictures of the inside of Clare Court Convent.) You can help make their dream a reality.

May our God who is never outdone in generosity bless you and your family abundantly during this special time of the year and throughout the New Year!

In St. Francis,

Marita Maschmann OSF

Marita Maschmann, OSF

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support and please, if you are able, help us to meet this generous challenge so we can multiply your gift.



(Above) Sr. Angela Perrizo “looks up to” one of her friends as they share the day.



(Above) Sr. Catherine Morrissey “dances” with one of the youngsters who resides in one of the Clare Court apartments.

(Left) Sr. Jerome Lacy shares a snack and conversation with a young friend.

(Right) A typical room for frail/elderly sisters in the renovated Clare Court Convent.

(Below) This sitting area provides the sisters with a bright and cheery area to relax, or to visit with family and friends.

(Below-right) The convent dining area, where many special events are also held.



(Above) Sr. Agnes Branigan (deceased) is pictured here in 2005 at 100 years of age, sporting a hard hat at the completion of the renovation of the convent.

(Right) Once the sisters were settled into the new space, Sr. Agnes would visit Sr. Rosa, and pass the time reading to her.

