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Homeless Pregnant Women Rise Out of Poverty The Mabee Foundation Awards Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri Challenge Grant for a LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

(Springfield, Mo.) – Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) was recently awarded a \$675,000 Challenge Grant from the J.E. and L.E. [Mabee Foundation](#) (Midland, TX) in support of its ongoing capital campaign to build a LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Founded in 1948 by John and Lottie Mabee, the Mabee Foundation has helped nonprofit organizations achieve their visions by funding construction, renovations, and the purchase of major medical equipment in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas. The Mabee Foundation requires that 40% of the total project be raised by other public donors before it will consider a grant request and provides funding awards in the form of challenge grants to ensure local community support and involvement.

Among Catholic Charities' many impactful ministries and programs, LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield has, since its founding in 2013, proven transformational for the pregnant women in its care who courageously rise out of homelessness and traumatic histories into healthy self-sufficient families. Building another LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau will bring critical services and resources to homeless pregnant women aged 18 and older, their infants, and young children in southeast Missouri. LifeHouse is a 24/7 transitional residential housing program that provides residents with safe shelter, food, and clothing; access to prenatal and post-delivery health care; long-term comprehensive case management and counseling; access to social services; transportation; increased educational opportunities; budgeting, life, parenting, and relationship skills; and assistance with employment and obtaining permanent housing. Women come at different times during their pregnancy and may stay up to a year after delivery. After program completion and transitioning into their own housing, women are eligible to enter the 2-year AfterCare Program where case management and resource connection continues while they work toward maintaining stability.

CCSOMO is extremely grateful for the Mabee Foundation's support for this impactful project. "This challenge grant is a strong sign of the foundation's belief in the mission of LifeHouse and confidence in CCSOMO to expand these services to southeast Missouri" said CCSOMO Executive Director Maura Taylor. We are confident that the generosity of the Mabee Foundation will motivate current and new donors to commit their available resources to this life-changing program. The Mabee Foundation's challenge grant will provide the campaign \$675,000 if CCSOMO receives donations of \$536,000 (\$1.25 for each \$1 raised) by **July 13, 2022**. For campaign co-chairs Tedd and Laura Powers, meeting this goal would prove a meaningful community achievement. "For us, LifeHouse is a great example of a community coming together to change lives and help those trying to make a better life for themselves and their children. What more noble cause could there be?"

One-time gifts and multi-year pledges (up to 3 years) for the construction of LifeHouse Cape Girardeau from individuals, foundations, and businesses (including in-kind gifts) are eligible toward meeting this challenge. As a result of this challenge grant, donors' gifts/pledges to this capital campaign will be more than doubled!

This impact could be further magnified if the donation comes from a business or an individual with business income who [may be eligible](#) to receive a 55% tax credit on their donation. Please contact CCSOMO's Development Office at 417.720.4213 or visit our [campaign webpage](#) to learn more about how you can help empower vulnerable mothers!