



Supporting the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

IHMS • HOLY FAMILY HOME • HOME OF HOPE • SSMI

To Serve is to **Love**.

In 2012, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI) established the Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc. to invite and partner with those who believe that *To Serve is to Love*, in order to provide financial support for the needs of the Sisters' ministries.

About the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Founded over 125 years ago in Western Ukraine, the Sisters strive to follow the example of their patroness Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God, and are committed to a communal life of prayer and service to God's people, primarily but not exclusively, those of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are women who have responded to Christ's call to dedicate their entire beings and lives to God. Through a life of prayer and active service, they are dedicated to share their experience of God's compassion, forgiveness and unconditional love. They live in community, encouraging and supporting one another in their apostolic life journey. Daily they unite in prayer in response to the requests of many, trusting in the Lord's words: "Ask, and it shall be given to you."

Your gifts to Lubov help

- Educate the young
- Provide spiritual comfort to those in need
- Nurture the lonely
- Care for the sick
- Provide comfort to the elderly
- Bring hope, compassion and education to vulnerable girls and orphans in Ukraine



Report from the Board Chair

As another year comes to a close, I want to say thank you. Firstly, thank you to all donors, supporters, and volunteers who continue to believe in the mission of the SSMI and who willingly support the fundraising efforts of the Lubov SSMI Foundation. We extend heartfelt thanks for your personal, financial, and material contributions. Even the smallest gift leads to extraordinary outcomes when placed in God's hands.

Secondly, thanks to the Board of Directors for your commitment, enthusiasm, generosity, and willingness to serve. I hope you find joy and inspiration in what has been accomplished—and in what is yet to come.

Thanks to Jean Piché, who joined the Board in September, but left a few months ago to move further West. In his short time he contributed much wisdom and insight.

Thirdly, thanks to the Lubov staff. To Katherine, who has constantly readjusted the compass, and moved forward with hope and perseverance. To Nadiia, who has faithfully kept the finances in good order, and to Mia, who joined the team last summer to support Lubov and the SSMI Seniors Tower. The Foundation couldn't function without you.



Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Manitoba presented the "Our Community-Our Legacy" Awards to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Province of Manitoba and the 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in the province (delayed by COVID). Joanne Lewandosky (Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy '64) presented the award to Sister Patricia Lacey, in recognition of the Sisters' invaluable dedication to the Ukrainian community of Manitoba, particularly through their ministry in parishes; St. Nicholas School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy and Immaculate Heart of Mary School; St. Paul's Home in Dauphin; and Holy Family Home. Mnohaya lita!

Vichnaya pam'iat

Sister Jacinta Katherine Shymkiw, SSMI

Report from the Board Chair

This year's focus was to develop a new strategic plan that clarified Lubov's purpose and priorities. Under the capable leadership of Mike Mager, we achieved consensus on the following mission and vision statements:

Mission: To enhance SSMI ministries through fundraising and stewardship of investments from those who believe To Serve is to Love.

Vision: To strengthen awareness of the SSMI in the Ukrainian Catholic community and beyond, and for future generations, by promoting, supporting and celebrating spiritually and philanthropically their ministries.

With these as guiding principles, I am confident that our Foundation will continue to grow its service to SSMI ministries and the people served by them.

As we move forward, we'll continue to adapt and innovate. To that end, I will be resigning as Chair. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with you. Mike Mager, the first lay Chair, has been appointed for a two-year term by our Provincial Superior and Council. Congratulations, Mike, and thank you for your willingness to lead this organization. I look forward to serving with you as Vice-Chair.

Former UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld penned the following: "For all that has been—thanks! For all that shall be—yes!"

We give thanks for the blessings of the past year, and look forward with hope to the year ahead, knowing that you can be the great yes for the many who depend on your generosity. We pray all this through the intercession of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia, our co-foundress, who modeled for us "To Serve is to Love."

Sister Patricia Lacey, SSMI

Sister Patricia Lacey, SSMI
Chair, Board of Directors

Your love helps Sister Marijka and Sister Bonnie minister to and coordinate faith formation for adults in Saskatchewan who want to deepen their faith and their leadership in the Church. Thank you!



Lubov means **love**.

We are grateful for yours.

The last few years have been consistently unpredictable. Despite the postal strike(s), tariffs, economic and political uncertainty, illness and war, you continue to share your love.

In the fall, we asked you what was important to you, and how you came to support the Sisters' work. Overwhelmingly, you expressed a deep and personal connection to Holy Family Home, IHMS, and the Sisters themselves, and are grateful for:

- Compassionate care for the elderly and vulnerable
- Faith and values-based education
- Support for the Ukrainian community, in Canada and Ukraine
- Service to the marginalized and those in need.

Throughout this report, you'll read what people like you had to say about your experiences. Where there is need, you respond. Love really is the answer.

You also told us you'd like to better understand how your gifts make a difference for the hundreds of children, girls, families, seniors, staff and volunteers served by the Sisters and their ministries. We invite you to keep reading and to connect:

Online: www.lubovfoundation.ca

On social at:

@lubovfoundation

@immaculateheartofmary

@holyfamilyhomewinnipeg

email: kfox@lubovfoundation.ca

(please share your contact information if you haven't already!)

Via Z Lubov'yu, the Lubov newsletter

Phone: 204-942-0443

In real life! Let's have a cuppa – at our place or yours.
Do you have a story to share? Let's get together!

FEBRUARY IS *Lubov* MONTH!

Valentine's Day cookies were a hit, as was the Let Love Grow 50/50 raffle.



Your love creates a **hopeful** future.

In 2013, the Sisters in Lviv created the Home of Hope for vulnerable girls, providing a safe and loving environment that promotes self-worth and dignity. Living in community, the girls learn life skills, further their education, and build confidence. Currently 23 girls, aged 15 to 23 live at the Home of Hope in Lviv. Thanks to your love, nearly 100 girls have lived in the Home and have moved on to happy, stable lives.

And your love literally keeps the lights and heat on, no small feat during this terrible time of war. Your generosity through the year and the annual campaign with the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League means the girls also get the emotional and psychological care they need.

Here's just one example:

"I came to the Home of Hope in 2022 when I was 15. Inside, I carried a lot of pain, fear, and uncertainty. But everything started to change here. The Sisters became a true support for me. Their support, sincerity, and love restored my self-belief. Thanks to them, I got to know God better — I felt God's presence here for the first time. You didn't just help — you changed lives. Thank you for your kindness, sincerity, and for becoming a source of hope for us."

—Anastasiia

In 2024, the Sisters invited brothers and sisters in Christ around the world to help open a second Home of Hope in Chernivtsi. Your love is making this dream come true!

Your words

"The Past: as a former student of IHMS. The present: support the needs of the students of IHMS, the residents of HFH and the girls in Lviv. The future: someday when the opportunity arrives, I hope to be a resident of HFH."



Your love lifts **spirits.**

You give loved ones who live at Holy Family Home social, spiritual and recreational opportunities to connect with each other and their families throughout the year. Whether it's bingo, or children singing in the Atrium, going for an ice cream field trip, or enjoying an afternoon in the park, you make Holy Family more of a home. Because Holy Family IS Home.

Thanks to your love, Holy Family Home is bringing choice to the table. Your gifts to the annual Festival of Lights campaign – more than \$83,000 – are being used to buy special meal carts so that residents can choose from the day's options, and have it served to them right at their table.

Thank you to the extended Huzel family for sharing their story and lighting the ceremonial tree.



"Life can change in an instant. Together we can make sure that when they need it, people like our parents – like yours, like maybe you someday – can live in a special place like Holy Family Home."
-Leanne, grateful daughter

You can give the gift of choice.

Your gifts to Festival of Lights 2024 will be used to purchase meal carts with steam trays for every unit so loved ones who live at Holy Family Home can choose what they'd like to eat, just like at home.



Because Holy Family is Home.

Your Festival of Lights gifts added the wheelchair-accessible swing to the grounds, so loved ones can rock and relax alongside the river as their visit with friends and family.

And cozy, oversized towels are being introduced on every unit, literally wrapping loved ones with comfort and warmth.



Scan the QR code, visit lubovfoundation.ca/festivaloflights, call 204-942-0443, drop off a cheque at Holy Family Home Reception, or stop by Lubov SSMI Foundation (1085 Main Street) to make your gift in person. Thank you!



Your love is a legacy.

Thanks to your generosity to the \$10 million Life Love Legacy campaign, residents and families have enjoyed the new facilities since late 2019. The bright and vibrant atrium has become the hub for concerts, activities and celebrations. To recognize the Sisters' leadership, the Atrium was officially dedicated to Blessed Josaphata Hordashevksa, on her feast day, November 20.



About a dozen residents participated in the first Paint Night in spring 2023. A few more came a month later. Then more! The wildly popular Paint Night is a resident favourite. More than 40 loved ones unleash their creativity every two weeks. Thank you to Mary Lou Ozohan for directing gifts in honour of her 80th birthday to Paint Night, which her late sister, Joanne, loved.

Lubov SSMI Foundation
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We invite you to read more about what Holy Family Home has meant for the Huzel family:
holysmifoundation.ca/festivaloflights
Great news! There is still time to make your Festival of Lights gift and receive a tax receipt for 2024. The Government of Canada extended the deadline to make charitable gifts for the 2024 tax year to 28 February 2025.
Thank you!
#festivaloflights #holysmifoundation #lubovmeanslove



Your words

"On my wife's last day a doctor attended my wife and took out her rosary and gave her last rights and benediction even though we are not Catholic. Believe me, it has meant a lot and we were truly thankful. The care she received was unbelievable. Even prepared a bed for my son who had spent a lot of time with her continually til the end."

Your love is a beacon.

For nearly 120 years, Immaculate Heart of Mary School (IHMS) – and St. Nicholas School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy before it – has stood as a beacon of hope on Flora Avenue, welcoming children escaping war, poverty, and hardship into a nurturing community rooted in faith, culture, and compassion.

Your love ensures this light never dims.

Your gifts of more than \$23,000 to Back to School 2024 gives families like Andrii and Nataliia – and 100+ more newcomers from Ukraine – peace of mind. Tuition, after-school programming, uniforms and school supplies are one less thing to worry about.



FIRST DAY AT IHMS, 2022



**HOME IN WINNIPEG,
AUGUST 2024**



**"THE GROOM", UKRAINIAN
WEEK, MARCH 2023**

Thanks to your generosity in 2023, students in grades 4 to 6 came Back to School, and new classroom furniture. The students say they enjoy having more desk space and more comfortable chairs.



Your love is a **legendary**.

Thank you to Access Credit Union for making Ukrainian Week a legendary celebration. Students explored legends from the Carpathian Mountains, culminating in a Ukrainian-language performance of music, song and story-telling. Students also made beautiful traditional crafts, including wood-burning and foil art.



Your love is a gift. Thank you!

In 2024-2025, individuals, organizations, parishes and groups gave 1,161 gifts through the Lubov SSMI Foundation in support of the Sisters' ministries*, here in Canada and abroad.

Endowment Funds

Angels Among Us
Monsignor Michael Buyachok
Archbishop Michael Bzdel
William and Dorothy Lacey
Lubov SSMI Foundation
Operations
Lubov SSMI Ministries
Stefania Karpa & Family
Leonard Mariash
Myron and Irene Musick
William & Nellie Poluha
Terry John Prychitko, FCPA
FCA Family Fund
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Luke & Lydia Kandia
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Catholic Women's League
Randal & Julie Skromeda
Kay Slobodzian
Murray Slota
Elsie Stasiuk
Ukrainian Credit Union Limited
Cynthia Zimrose
Walter & Beatrice Zulak

Christine Anderson
Hon. Donald & Mrs.
Doreen Bryk
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Blair & Katherine Fox
Dr. Frank J. Hechter
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Lonnie & Jody Chupa
Donald Dudar
Doug Fosty & Violet
Newediuk-Fosty
Blair & Katherine Fox
Carla Giasson
Carl Jablonowski
Robert & Christine Jaska

Tribute Gifts

***This year, 372 gifts in honour
or memory of a loved one were
made to the Sisters' ministries,
including these for Lubov:***

Marian Garrity
Irene Romaniw

**Gifts made to IHMS and Holy Family Home
are recognized directly by those ministries.*

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

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