

Restoring Hope: Supporting Women and Children in Crisis Through a CPFI Hands & Feet Grant Project

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Background

- Lydia’s House is a Catholic Worker house of hospitality in Cincinnati that provides safe, stable, and supportive housing for women and children in crisis and transition.
- The organization primarily serves pregnant women and mothers with young children, offering an average stay of 90–120 days to help families heal and move toward stability.
- As a nonprofit ministry, Lydia’s House relies heavily on donations to meet the daily needs of its residents. Essential items such as hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and household goods are critical to maintaining a safe and supportive environment.
- Student pharmacists at the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy CPFI aim to serve vulnerable populations through faith-driven outreach initiatives that reflect Christ-centered compassion.

Objective & Purpose

- The purpose of the “Restoring Hope” project was to support women and children at Lydia’s House by addressing their immediate need for essential supplies.
- This initiative aimed to provide necessary household and hygiene items, raise awareness of housing insecurity within the College of Pharmacy, engage student pharmacists in meaningful service and demonstrate Christ-centered compassion through tangible acts of service.



Methods

- Student pharmacists collaborated with Lydia’s House to identify their most urgent needs.
- A structured spending plan was created to allocate the \$750 Hands & Feet Grant toward essential supplies.
- A chapter-wide meeting was held where a representative from Lydia’s House presented on the organization’s mission, services, and current needs.
 - During this meeting, students contributed additional donations.
- Grant funds were then used to purchase remaining supplies to ensure all essential needs were met.
 - Finally, supplies were directly delivered to Lydia’s House.

Results

- More than 20 student pharmacists participated in this initiative.
 - \$750 was fully utilized.
 - A wide range of essential items were provided.
 - Items donated by students included:
 - Household & cleaning supplies
 - Garbage bags, disinfecting wipes, all-purpose cleaners
 - Laundry detergent, dish soap, bathroom cleaner
 - Personal hygiene & baby supplies
 - Diapers, wipes, baby soap
 - Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant
 - Shampoo, body wash, hand soap
 - Household goods
 - Paper towels, toilet paper, plates, and cups
 - All items were delivered directly to Lydia’s House.



| Item category | Example | Estimated cost |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Cleaning supplies | Fabuloso, wipes, detergent, bags | \$200 |
| Hygiene products | Soap, deodorant, toothbrushes | \$250 |
| Baby supplies | Diapers, wipes, baby soap | \$280 |
| Household goods | Towels, toilet paper, plates | \$120 |
| Total | | \$750 |

Conclusions

- The “Restoring Hope” project demonstrated the meaningful impact student pharmacists can have through community service initiatives.
- By combining education, fundraising, and direct outreach, this initiative provided both practical support and a tangible expression of Christ’s love.
- This experience reinforced the importance of compassion, leadership, and service in pharmacy practice, particularly in addressing social determinants of health.

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