

# Enchanted Life Foundation - ELF

12520 Canyon de Oro, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88011

September 18, 2007

To whom it may concern:

Enchanted Life Foundation is a private family foundation formed for the express purpose of providing higher education, adult Roman Catholic religious formation and charitable opportunities that might not otherwise be available to the people, communities and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces of the ten southern counties of New Mexico. This geographic description should only be interpreted as indicating a preference to assist these individuals and communities first. It does not in any way limit the ability or desire of the foundation to assist other people, communities or Roman Catholic dioceses in the United States.

The formation of this foundation is rooted in my response to the baptismal call as a Roman Catholic. I do not simply propose to assist people and communities, secular or religious, because it is a "nice thing to do". This is a response of faith and our relationship with God. We are called to help others participate more fully in our society and faith. Fundamental to this participation is education, adult faith formation and charitable works that build secular or religious community responses to social needs. Our faith further calls us to support the efforts of all people regardless of faith as they work to address educational and social needs.

We have identified six major areas of concern that the foundation will address. It is anticipated that over the years the emphasis and even the areas themselves may change. However, the central emphasis should always remain providing opportunities for higher education, adult Roman Catholic religious formation and working with individuals and communities to address social needs.

In relation to activities that involve the Roman Catholic church it is my expressed desire to further the reforms identified during the Second Vatican Council also known as Vatican II. I do not desire to support a return to "pre-Vatican II" positions that limit the involvement of the laity, the growth of our clerics or the commitments of people of faith to transform the worlds.

The six areas identified in the articles of incorporated dated September 6, 2007 are:



1. To promote the adult education formation of laity, religious, or clerics serving the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico.
2. To consider the infrastructure and material needs of parishes within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces and communities in the ten southern counties of New Mexico, attempting to meet education or social needs of the local community.
3. To promote proficiency in English, both written and spoken, as a matter of social justice and economic advancement.
4. To promote institutions of higher learning, to include colleges, universities, and vocational and technical schools.
5. To promote the education of future generations by awarding scholarships to students.
6. To consider assisting religious retirement situations and religious communities, such as, by way of example and by way of exclusion, Seton Hill University and the Sisters of Charity.

It is anticipated that each of these will involve the investigation, research, consideration and decisions of where to donate funds by the board of directors. I counsel the board to always consider the commitment of the individual and community as expressed in the Roman Catholic teaching of stewardship. Individual and community contributions of time, talent and treasure are often critical to the success of any initiative. The board should also explore and participate in opportunities to maximize economic impact through the use of matching funds.

I would offer the following comments concerning each area:

1. When considering opportunities for adult education formation in the Roman Catholic faith it is anticipated that the foundation will provide financial support for these opportunities through universities, colleges, seminars and conferences. Research into specific formation opportunities should be conducted with consideration for the post Vatican II concepts expressed earlier in this document.



2. When considering opportunities to support the infrastructure and materials needs of the parishes within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces and communities in the ten southern counties of New Mexico it is anticipated that the foundation will normally provide the financial resources for existing agencies to increase or expand their ability to meet the social needs. It is believed that parishes and communities are best qualified to identify their needs, appropriate solutions and implementation schedules. Therefore Enchanted Life Foundation shall work in collaboration with parishes and communities to identify the most appropriate timing for any activity. It is not the intent of the foundation to provide direct services.
  
3. Proficiency in the English language is central to an individual's ability to participate in the social, economic and educational components of the United States of America. Failure to master the language limits the opportunity of the individual to participate and to contribute to society. Therefore, the foundation wishes to provide financial support to agencies helping individual to meet this responsibility to participate fully in our society.
  
4. Higher education provides an avenue for individual and community economic and social advancement. It is not the primary intent of the foundation to provide "brick and mortar" funds. However, there may be situations where providing charitable assistance in building funds would be considered central to institutional needs. Opportunities to provide financial support to higher educational programs and initiatives that coincide with the general intent of the foundation would be considered.
  
5. It is anticipated that the award of scholarships from the foundation will be accomplished through collaboration with universities, colleges, and vocational and technical schools. It is not presently anticipated that the foundation will develop its own scholarship program. However, this may be considered in the future. The awarding of scholarships should be based upon economic need and academic performance. Special consideration should be given to those individuals who are part of the first generation in a family to enter higher education. Continuation of scholarship funding beyond the first year should usually be contingent upon the student's academic performance. Additionally academic areas that are not traditionally funded by scholarships should be considered. It is anticipated that most scholarships will be partial scholarships so a greater number of individuals can be assisted.



6. The charitable assistance of religious retirement communities and religious communities will normally be conducted through collaboration with the e religious communities themselves. Many of these com munities currently experience serious financial difficulties caused by a variety of factors of which they had little or no control. In the midst of these challenges they continue to reach out to the poor, provide education for the next generation and challenge us as people of God to fulfill our baptismal call. Providing financial assistance is not just an expression of gratitude or charity; it is the fulfillment of a responsibility.

It is anticipated that all of these endeavors will, as previously stated, require the board to spend much of its time in the investigation, research, consideration and decision of where to donate funds. These processes may require review of the documentation, on-site visits and attendance at board meetings for deliberative and decision making purposes by the board members. It is also anticipated that board members may act individually or collectively in the investigating g opportunities which may lead to the fulfillment of the Enchanted Life Foundation goals. I believe that the time of the board shall be equally distributed between research and board meetings and the associated processes.

It is anticipated that the board will continue to utilize the professional expertise of consultants and advisors to ensure that not only legal requirements are met but that the foundation benefit from the experience of others. Therefore, the financial support of board members or the foundation to participate in professional organizations and or conferences that support private foundations and grant makers should be considered. This gift of time from board members is simply a function of their duties as board members.

The formation of this foundation as a response to the baptismal call of the founder does not in any way limit the participation of board members based upon their religious affiliation. Rather in keeping with the teachings of Vatican II, the faith journey of each individual is respected. However, participation is predicated upon the individual's recognition that there is a fundamental responsibility to create opportunities for individuals and communities to address their social, economic, and educational needs and to transform the world in keeping with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

Norma J. Spina, September 18, 2007

