

**Join In Supporting  
Poor Mothers, Babies and Families  
Served by  
Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem  
A Work of the Order of Malta**

As we approach Advent and begin to reflect on the Holy Family and their journey to Bethlehem, we hope you will join in sharing the message of hope that the birth of our Lord has given to humanity by supporting the mothers, babies and families served by Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem.

A mere 500 yards from Jesus Christ's birthplace, Holy Family Hospital stands as a beacon of hope and a haven for the defenseless throughout the Holy Land. Holy Family Hospital provides state-of-the-art maternity and neo-natal care to women of the region, without regard to religion, nationality, or ability to pay. Over 3,200 babies are delivered annually, many prematurely, at this Catholic teaching Hospital, serving women, children and families throughout the Bethlehem region, and at nearby UN refugee camps and Bedouin encampments in the desert.

### **Student and Parish-wide Engagement with Holy Family Hospital**

We invite your school and/or parish to join in a community-wide support for Holy Family Hospital through an Advent Project – **Please note that while this information is targeted to Advent these activities can be replicated at any point in the Liturgical calendar. HFH will customize this information to fit your specific activity.** The project is turn-key and offers engagement of students and adults across generations:

- Young students through high school aged kids: participate in a baby bottle drive to raise funds for the Hospital
- Older students can promote the project in schools, at Masses, and through Faith Formation Programs
- Adults and families can participate through a Parish-designated Second Collection or Poor Box Collection
- Educators can enhance curriculum studies in religion, history, current events, geography, ethics and leadership development. (An overview of benefits for students is included on the reverse side of this document.)



### **Project Support**

Attached are materials to guide your Advent Project. These materials also will be accessible online at [www.birthplaceofhope.org](http://www.birthplaceofhope.org). Included is:

- A timeline mapping out specific dates to plan and coordinate your Advent Project.
- Brochure geared to students to explain the project's link with Advent and Christmas, and also detailing the process for collection of funds and baby bottle return.
- A script for older students and teen ministry members to use in promoting the Advent Project among school students, Faith Formation students, and at Masses prior to Parish-wide collections.
- A draft insert for the Parish Bulletin, describing the project to adults and families, and providing the opportunity for their full participation as part of a designated Parish collection.

Also, the team at Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation will support your school and parish efforts in any manner possible. For questions, please contact: Molly Huish at 202.785.0801 or [Molly@hfhfoundation.org](mailto:Molly@hfhfoundation.org). Finally, all checks should be made payable to Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation. You can also make online contributions at [www.birthplaceofhope.org](http://www.birthplaceofhope.org). Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

# **Student Benefits For Participation in a School – and - Parish-wide Project To Support Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem**

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to partner with school and parishes in sharing the good works of our hospital. We believe that this partnership will enhance school and religious studies curriculums as a teaching tool on numerous levels, to include:

- 1) Encourage young speakers to promote self-esteem and public speaking skills, and help the speaker to fully understand the message to be presented. Good young speakers are the best ambassadors to attract new families to the schools.
- 2) Topic-Specific Curriculum Enhancement for Schools:
  - Gift of Life/Sanctity of Life
  - The Christmas Story – Gospel of Luke
  - Homelessness
  - Refugees – Flight to Egypt
  - Inter-religious Cooperation
  - Bethlehem – The Birthplace of Peace
  - **Religious Freedom – Holy Family Hospital is Christian and employs and serves people of all religions in response to God’s commandment to “love thy brother as your love yourself.”**
  - Geography – Where is Bethlehem? How far is it from Nazareth? From where did the Three Kings travel? How did the Holy Family travel to Egypt? How long did these journeys take?
- 3) Provide some Good News and hope about the Middle East to your parishioners.
- 4) Foster a greater sense of the universality of our Catholic Church.
- 5) Help **parishioners, students and staff** to recall the real meaning of Christmas by providing a mental image of the actual Christmas story. Yes, people still walk the path from Manger Square/Church of the Nativity to the Holy Family Hospital. The star still shines bright over Bethlehem at Christmas.
- 6) Encourage solidarity with the Christians in Bethlehem and the Holy Land. The Hospital provides medical care and much-needed high-skilled jobs which help to maintain a Christian presence. Teach young children about our Catholic tradition of sharing with those in need in an age appropriate manner.
- 7) Share the Hospital’s concern for the citizens of Bethlehem by promoting dignity through employment.