

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL OF BETHLEHEM FOUNDATION

In the spirit of Advent as we prepare for Christ's birth as a parish community, [name of parish] is providing support to the poor and at-risk, mothers, babies and families served by Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem – just steps from the place where Mary gave birth to the Christ Child. Funds from parish-wide [poor box/second collection] on [date] will be sent to Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, located in Washington, DC.

The Hospital, which opened its doors in 1895, was founded and continues to be served by the Daughters of Charity. In 1985, the Hospital was entrusted to the Order of Malta, the world's oldest Christian charity which has successfully operated hospitals serving the sick and poor for over 900 years. The Order is under the direct protection of the Pope. The Hospital is an extra-territorial property that enjoys diplomatic immunity as a part of the Sovereign Order of Malta, and, thus, offers a safe haven in the midst of a land of conflict.



WHY DO WOMEN MAKE THE DIFFICULT JOURNEY TO COME TO HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL?

QUALITY OF CARE: The Hospital is the pre-eminent provider of medical services to women and infants in the Holy Land. Its neo-natal intensive care unit is the only one in the region. It devotes every resource possible to save the lives of babies as small as 700 grams (less than 1.5 lbs.). This sends a powerful message about the value of life in a region that is no stranger to conflict. The obstetrics department provides the only long-term hospitalization for mothers with high risk pregnancies. The Hospital serves as a referral hospital to four UN refugee camps, with 25% of babies born at Holy Family Hospital from these camps. Last year 3,184 infants were born at the Hospital and 22,000 women and children received care.

QUALITY OF LOVE: The Hospital is a bridge of peace and understanding in the midst of a troubled land. No one is ever turned away. Indeed, the Hospital has the reputation of caring for women even when the government hospitals have turned them away as beyond the ability to be treated.

Holy Family Hospital, a known and respected work of the Catholic Church, is graced by a radiant statue of Mary. As evening falls, the floodlit statue lights the Bethlehem skyline, reminding all of the Catholic presence throughout the Holy Land.



Support Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation

Like the Innkeeper's wife in Scripture who showed Mary to the stable, you can be a modern-day innkeeper for families in need today. Now more than ever, your generous support will ensure critical care and life-affirming treatments for the poorest of the poor mothers, babies and families throughout the Bethlehem region of the Holy Land.

\$2,500 - Provide medical care to the poorest in refugee camps and the desert

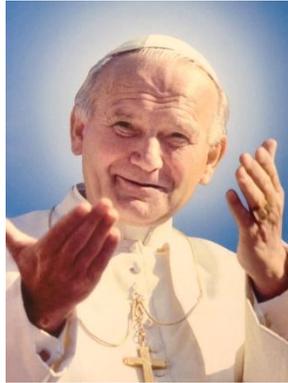
\$1,000 - Sponsor a family from pregnancy to birth

\$500 - Save a life! Support for babies in NICU clinic

\$250 - Sponsor the delivery of a baby in Bethlehem

\$100 - Provide vital supplies for Mobile Clinic

Please make your check payable to *Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation*. Make your donation online at Birthplaceofhope.org. Holy Family Hospital is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.



Pope John Paul II named Holy Family Hospital among his top priorities for the New Millennium.

Over 3,200 babies are delivered annually, many prematurely, at Holy Family Hospital, serving women, children and families throughout the Bethlehem region, and at nearby United Nations refugee camps and Bedouin encampments in the surrounding desert area.

Also important is the Hospital's role of employing and serving Muslims and Christians side-by-side – an instrument of inter-religious peace and understanding in a region of historical conflict. The Hospital's strong employment opportunities enable Christian families to remain in the Holy Land, where jobs, especially for women, are few.

So important is the role of the Hospital in furthering the Catholic mission of preserving life, and offering care and refuge to the most defenseless among us, Pope Saint John Paul II named Holy Family Hospital among his top priorities for the new millennium.

To learn more about how you can become involved in Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, visit us online at:

www.birthplaceofhope.org



***[Name of Parish]
Catholic Church
Advent Project***



***HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
in BETHLEHEM***

A mere 500 yards from the place where Jesus Christ was born and lived, Holy Family Hospital stands as a beacon of hope and a haven for the defenseless throughout the Holy Land. This Catholic teaching Hospital provides state-of-the-art maternity and neo-natal care to women and children of the region regardless of religion, nationality or ability to pay. The Hospital's work – serving the poorest of the poor in the shadow of Christ's birthplace – is a testimony of Christian charity.