

# *Annual Report*

2021 - 2022



**WE PRAY FOR UKRAINE**

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**Supporting the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate**  
IHMS ~ HOLY FAMILY HOME ~ HOME OF HOPE ~ SSMI

## **WELCOME TO THE LUBOV SSMI FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT**

We continue to live through challenging times. For the first quarter of our fiscal year, most of the Foundation Staff worked remotely because of pandemic restrictions. However, the Lubov SSMI Foundation was still able to come through another year of successfully working with donors to ensure that support for the Sisters' ministries continues to be in place.

Living in a pandemic situation continues to impact how we interact with one another. The world of technology and virtual meetings has become the normal way of business. As the year progressed, social interaction became a bit more acceptable. Our office was able to begin to welcome donors and volunteers in person cautiously.

The year was full of planning, promoting, sharing stories and experiences, and engaging donors who believe and respond to helping the Sisters in the ways that are making a difference here in Canada and Ukraine.

As our fiscal year was nearing to an end, our lives were shaken in yet a different way. The tragic announcement on February 24th that war had broken out in Ukraine sent shock waves throughout our community and beyond. After the initial disbelief that our beloved Ukraine was in turmoil, there was an urgency to help.

Through prayer and reaching out to our Sisters in Ukraine, we mobilized financial resources to help them with their war relief efforts. The Foundation was also able to develop a stream of support to help



Immaculate Heart of Mary School with their plans to welcome and assist children and their families fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking refuge in Winnipeg.

Once again, we see the unconditional support of donors doing whatever is needed to help where the need is the greatest. Thank you to all those who understand the importance of helping others and have endorsed their support by donating to the Lubov SSMI Foundation, knowing that it will help support Sisters' ministries.

Thank you to our team of volunteer leaders that serve on the Foundation's Board of Directors. We especially want to acknowledge two Directors who were a part of the Foundation's first Board of Directors and have now completed their terms of office. Thank you to Karen Leggat and Stephen Sumka for their nine years of commitment in helping to establish and grow the Foundation.

Thank you to our ministries' leaders for their continuing collaboration. Thank you to the Sisters for their prayers. Thank you to the staff for their commitment and dedication.

Through the intercession of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska (the Co-foundress of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate), we pray that the hearts of all that are associated with Lubov be filled with joy and many blessings.

***Sister Jean Zemliak,***

*Chair of the Board of Directors  
Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc.*

CARING FOR THE SICK – PROVIDING COMFORT

Lubov SSMI Foundation works in partnership with the Holy Family Home team to identify extraordinary needs that will enhance the care of our residents. The annual Festival of Lights Campaign is an initiative that focuses on raising dollars to support necessary needs. This past year’s Campaign focused on providing upgraded internet services for all residents. Having good internet access has become an essential and critical tool. It is used to broadcast Liturgical services, share videos that spark conversation amongst residents, and is integrated into recreation activities.



*“To be able to talk, see and even sing with my mom has become a weekly highlight for me. Living out of province, I miss being able to spend time with her. Having the ability to FaceTime continues to nurture our mother and daughter bond. It is life-giving to share those moments with her and those around her. Moments with mom, even though virtual, keeps me connected until the next I can be with her in person.”*

- Ann

Thank you to all those that took a moment to support the Festival of Lights; together, over **\$108,000** was raised. In addition, the Holy Family Home campus shone brightly with holiday lights for residents and their families to enjoy. The Foundation also processed **\$7,545** in support of Holy Family Home’s General



## ***THE LEGACY OF SUPPORT KEEPS GROWING***

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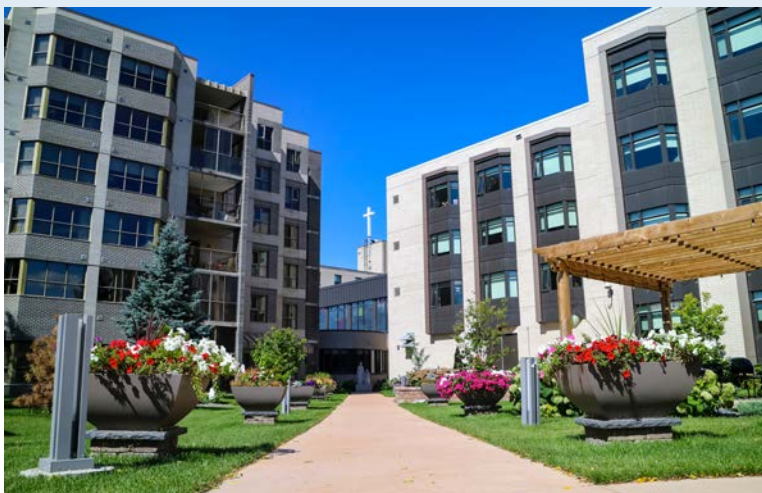
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Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Foundation is grateful to have been able to help build and revitalize Holy Family Home through the achievements of the Life Love Legacy Campaign. The Campaign has secured **over \$9.1 million**. During the fiscal year of 2021-2022, the Foundation processed Capital Campaign gifts totaling **\$283,306**. However, the most important achievement is that our elderly who require long-term care have a beautiful, comfortable space to live their final chapter of life.

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## EDUCATING THE YOUNG

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For decades Immaculate Heart of Mary School has been the choice for educating children because of its deep instilled values and nurturing environment that offers the opportunity for each child to grow. Lubov SSMI Foundation works collaboratively with the School's leadership to secure additional dollars for operations, capital needs, and special projects.

One of the many joyful moments of school life is gathering as a community. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and siblings have fond memories of seeing their children on stage, sharing their performing arts skills confidently. Hopefully, there will be new memories and opportunities to gather together and have audiences enjoy student performances, sporting competitions, debate tournaments, and community events soon. The culmination of these experiences has created decades of future leaders.



A seat is  
saved for  
*you.*

This past year, the annual Back to School Campaign focused on providing comfort for the many guests that gather at the School. Thank you to all those donors that supported the "Save a Seat" program enabling the School to purchase 300 new chairs. Donors who made gifts of \$100 or more are recognized on a permanent donor recognition decal on a chair. The Foundation processed **\$51,940** in support of the School this past year. This amount includes the Annual Campaign, Sponsorships, and contributions to the Bursary/Scholarship and Capital Funds. In addition, IHMS received a disbursement from the Lubov SSMI Foundation - Archbishop Michael Bzdel Endowment Fund.

## HELPING THOSE SEEKING REFUGE

*“The early years of the School, were heady times: exciting, alive; new immigrants were pouring into Canada, looking for a better life; bringing with them, in many instances, nothing but the clothes they wore and the Spirit in their heart”.*



*(excerpt taken from “The Spirit is Strong”  
– St. Nicholas, Immaculate Heart of Mary School 100th Anniversary  
Book 1905-2005).*

Here we are, 117 years later, welcoming students and their families seeking refuge from the unrest in Ukraine. When the war broke out February 24th, after the initial shock, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the School’s Board of Trustees and School leadership immediately began to develop a plan to accept students from Sadochok to Grade 8 to be a part of our Ukrainian Catholic School community. This decision of responding to the critical need at hand, continues in the tradition of “the Spirit is Strong” which began 117 years ago.

The Foundation has created a special IHMS - Ukraine Student Relief Fund and began receiving donations by the end of March. The Fund is intended to be used to offset tuition costs, supplies, uniforms, extra-educational supports or any other needs that are identified that will aid in the education and stability of the students joining IHMS.

## STAYING CONNECTED

*“We think these school relationships (St. Nicholas & IHMS) contributed greatly to our wellbeing, as we stayed connected in times of family crises and the current pandemic. When we read the Alumni Newsletter, daughter Stephanie reminds me that we are part of a wonderful tapestry of IHMS friendships that support us, in times of joy and tribulation. We think that these school-based friendships may have also contributed to the strong community spirit and resilience of people educated in the North End.”*

*- Carol Hryniuk-Adamov (‘68) taken from her article  
“Friendships for Life Forged on Flora Avenue”  
in the “From the Heart” Alumni Newsletter – Winter Issue 2021*



Connecting the School’s Alumni continues to be led by the Foundation. Two issues of the **“From the Heart”** Newsletter are produced with the focus to share memories of the past and help invest in the future of the School. The editions are printed and distributed as well as emailed and posted on the website [www.ihms.mb.ca](http://www.ihms.mb.ca)

## ***BRINGING HOPE IN SUPPORT OF WAR RELIEF***

The Foundation continues to receive support from donors wanting to help the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Ukraine. Until February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Home of Hope was a safe place for young women to learn life skills and receive an education that provides options of hope. As the people of Ukraine fled to safety, the Home of Hope has become a refuge for families. Some are just passing through needing a place to rest, have a meal and then continue their journey, while others have had to stay longer.



The hope in all of this is that some of the girls that currently live at the home and those that have now moved on with established lives are tending to the needs of the refugees. They have gone out to places in Lviv to help with

serving others. The gift of hospitality that the Sisters instilled in the Home of Hope community of girls is now being shared with others.

Since, February 24<sup>th</sup> and for now, donations received by the Foundation designated to the Home of Hope is being used by the community to help with the refugees and war relief. In addition, donations are also being received and directed to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Provincial House in Lviv to support their orphans and now those fleeing the war that Sisters are helping directly.

Over the past year the Foundation has processed donations totaling **\$88,735** in support of the Sisters in Ukraine.



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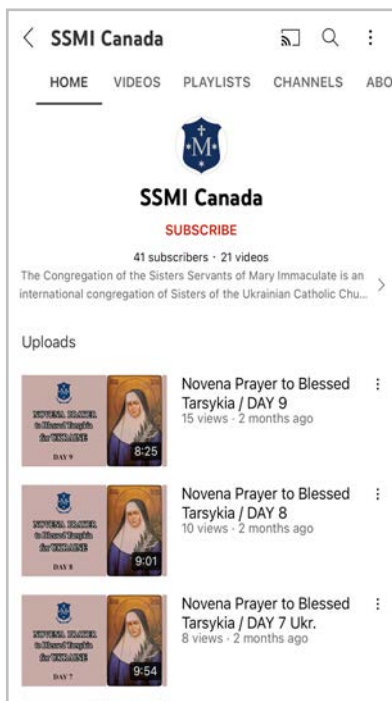
# THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

A priority of the Foundation in addition to raising funds is to share information and stories about the Sisters and their ministries. Social media has evolved as one of the main tools to share information especially during the Pandemic. The Foundation staff continues to maintain and grow using social media through:

**Websites:** [ssmi.org](http://ssmi.org)  
[holyfamilyhome.mb.ca](http://holyfamilyhome.mb.ca)  
[lifelovelegacy.ca](http://lifelovelegacy.ca)  
[ihms.mb.ca](http://ihms.mb.ca)  
[lubovfoundation.ca](http://lubovfoundation.ca)

**Facebook:** IHMS  
SSMI  
Lubov

**YouTube Channels:** SSMI Canada  
Lubov Foundation



*Sister Georgia created a SSMI Prayer Novena (Event) that was posted on the SSMI website and was featured live on Facebook. It was a Novena Prayer presented daily from March 23 to 31 to Blessed Sister Tarsyia, who in 1944 was martyred in Ukraine. She was a young 25-year-old woman when she sacrificed her life in Chervonohrad for the conversion of Russia and for the Catholic faith.*

*The Foundation received an online donation from California, as a result of the donor seeking information online about Sister Tarsyia and the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. She was lead to the website and in turn made an online donation to support Sisters' efforts in Ukraine.*



## ***THE LEGACY OF SUPPORT KEEPS GROWING***

Each day I am so grateful for the many blessings that is bestowed upon my life. For the past two years I have ministered to our residents at Holy Family Home as an LPN nurse. My only regret is that I wish I would have made the decision to enter nursing earlier in my life.

I am grateful to my community of Sisters who have enabled me to grow my gifts of service to others by giving me the opportunity to be educated and gain skills necessary to be nursing.

As we are aware, the past few years have been challenging as we tried to manage the impact of the Pandemic both in our workplace and community. For me the Pandemic presented areas of care that might have not been so obvious. During times when Holy Family Home was not able to welcome outside visitors, I was drawn to take time to be more present to each resident in my care. I would take time out of my day to sit and just be present with a resident, experiencing the moment which at times was filled with laughter and crying. It was a time that brought staff and resident together in a deep way, enabling us to grow as a community during some difficult times. I would describe the time as being together alone.



Being a Sister, nurse and part of a community especially over the past few years has stretched me to grow, becoming more aware of situations around me and seeing things differently. Each day I believe I am a better person for these experiences. However, it is my faith and trust in God's plan, knowing that my saying yes to be a Sister in ministry, caring for others, is one of the greatest gift that I can share.

***Sr. Charlene Belay, SSMI – LPN***

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## ***DONORS***

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Thank you to all those have supported the work of the Sisters through the Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc. for the fiscal year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The listed donors are those that contributed directly to the Foundation. We are fortunate to have a lengthy list of donors who designated their contributions to Holy Family Home, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Home of Hope (Lviv, Ukraine), the Orphanages in Ukraine and the Sisters. These donors are being recognized through the ministries.

***Thank you!***

### **ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

Archbishop Michael Bzdel  
William and Dorothy Lacey  
Lubov SSMI Foundation Operations  
Lubov SSMI Ministries  
Stefania Karpa and Family  
Myron and Irene Musick  
Terry John Prychitko FCPA FCA Family Fund  
Mary A. Wladyka

### **FOUNDATION DONORS**

Most Reverend Bishop Bryan Bayda  
Hanna and Olesia Bendera  
Hanko Cholod  
Helen Feniuk  
Doug Fosty and Violet Newediuk-Fosty  
Marian Moshansky  
Phyllis Sianchuk  
Randal and Julie Skromeda  
Mary and George Stefaniuk  
Peter and Joan Washchyshyn  
Dennis and Steffie Wawrykow

### ***TRIBUTE GIFTS***

The following loved ones were remembered by friends and family through donations made in their memory

***In memory of Michael Kowpak***  
*Dennis and Pat Steer*

***In memory of Stan Sirdar***  
*Duane Dahl*  
*Peter and Valerie Kohut*  
*Henry Kuzia and Joanne Lewandosky*  
*Marian Moshansky*

We apologize for any errors or omissions.  
If you have any questions, please contact the Foundation office at 204-942-0443

## Lubov SSMI Foundation – Leadership

### Board of Directors

Sr. Jean Zemliak, SSMI (Chair)

Sr. Ruth Aney, SSMI

Sr. Darleane Pelechaty, SSMI

Karen Leggat

Maryann Lee

Myron Pawlowsky

Terry Prychitko, FCPA FCA

Randal Skromeda

Stephen Sumka

Jason Brennan - (Chair, Immaculate Heart of Mary School Board)

Peter Washchysyn - (Chair, Holy Family Home Board)

Sr. Christina Syrotynsky, SSMI - Provincial Superior

### Ex-Officio Members

Lesia Sianchuk - Chief Executive Officer

Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc.

Tara-Lee Procter (Maciuszonek) - Chief Executive Officer Holy Family Home Inc.

Rod Picklyk - Principal Immaculate Heart of Mary School

### Staff

Tanya Pokeza - Donor Relations/Office Assistant

Lesia Sianchuk - Chief Executive Officer

\*Sr. Georgia Shchavii, SSMI - Web/Social Media Assistant

Nadiia Yarosh - Finance/Administrative Clerk

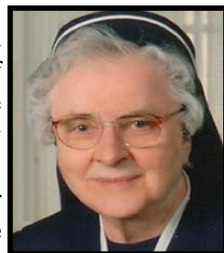
\*Matt Lozynyc - Marketing & Communications Assistant

*\*Joined February 2022*

*\*Resigned November 2021*

### ***Sister Frances Byblow - Life Long Fundraiser***

On Friday, January 7, 2022, Sister Frances Byblow passed away at Bethany Home in Winnipeg, Manitoba at 97 years of life and 79 years in religious life. Sister Frances will be fondly remembered as a leader whose life was a daily example of commitment to her vocation as a Sister, advisor, supporter and great promoter of Blessed Josaphata. Sister Frances was always willing to help **especially when it came to helping raise funds for the various Sisters' ministries.**



Over the past few years she still did what she could to help raise funds for Immaculate Heart of Mary School through Lubov SSMI Foundation. We are very grateful for the gift of Sister Frances. May her soul be welcomed into the place where there is no more suffering but life everlasting.



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