

Colorado State Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood

In 1930 a Christmas Shower was started and generous donations provided additional gifts to all recipients. In 1942 a rotation plan was developed for chapter contributions to this additional gift during winter.



Today, a rotation schedule includes all active Colorado chapters. Those chapters involved in the rotation are given a special Christmas Shower invitation in their convention packets with a request to contribute. Many chapters remember the Marguerite Fund when they are sharing their fundraising dollars. This generosity is welcomed and adheres to the Pyramid of Giving recommended by International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Due to the generosity of chapters and individuals a Christmas Shower that matches the monthly gift has been possible for all recipients today.

Christmas Shower



The Marguerite Fund History

Colorado State Chapter is proud to be the first state chapter to establish a fund to aid women in need of financial assistance. This was a result of a Manitou Springs chapter appealing to the State Board for help in caring for two of their sisters who had been injured in an automobile accident. The State president at that time assigned a committee to address the need and report at the upcoming convention. The committee met many times and the original plan was to develop a fund and a national home in Denver which was to be called the Marguerite Inn. At the June 1923 Convention of Colorado State Chapter, The Welfare Fund was born to assist women in need. The State Board donated \$200.00 to launch the fund and local chapters donated a total of \$1000.00. Each active P.E.O. was asked to donate 50 cents. Early recipients of the Welfare Fund received \$5.00-\$30.00 in assistance.

Those first committee members chose The Welfare Fund as their name because they didn't want it to sound like a charity. At that time, welfare meant the health and happiness of their recipients. The Marguerite Inn dream faded in the 1930s. At the 1972 Convention of Colorado State Chapter, The Welfare Fund name was changed to the Colorado Marguerite Fund.

Eligibility criteria remains the same to this day. The fund was developed to help a P.E.O. member or non-member, the elderly, or ill. Sponsors must be an active P.E.O. in good standing. Recipients must be a Colorado resident, and names of recipients are never disclosed.

Needs of the Marguerite Fund fluctuate from year to year, with the economy impacting our demands for assistance. The fund was established for use, not for saving, but there is a need to maintain a sufficient reserve to meet emergencies as they arise.

We remain supported only through the generous donations from local chapters and individuals. Individual donations are tax deductible.



Who are the Trustees?

The Marguerite Fund Trustees are three active P.E.O. sisters appointed by the President of Colorado State Chapter at convention. We serve a three-year rotating term. We meet twice a year to review all applications but we accept applications at any time during the year. We maintain and adhere to the written policies for our committee.

We are governed by the Colorado State Chapter, and are operated and maintained under the authority of the CPCC (Colorado P.E.O. Charitable Corporation).

As state and federal regulations become more restrictive and complicated, we must be careful in evaluating the status of each applicant.

It's an honor to serve for Colorado and your current Marguerite Fund Trustees for the **2020-2021** year are:

Barb Hunter, ID

Barbara Pingrey, EY

Jan Kulhanek, HX, PSPCSC

How To Sponsor

A request for assistance is made through a Colorado P.E.O. Sister (sponsor) to the chairman of the Marguerite Fund Trustees. Applications are available on the Colorado P.E.O. website, www.coloradopeo.org. Applications are to be submitted in their entirety to the chairman of the Marguerite Fund.

The intent of the Marguerite Fund is to provide temporary aid. All applications are strictly confidential. Chapter permission is NOT necessary. Currently, gifts up to \$500.00/month for six months or a \$750.00 one-time gift are available.

This pamphlet was developed for you to share with your chapter. If you have any questions, please contact one of your trustees.

Barb Hunter 303-884-2735

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