

## MISSION STATEMENT:

**To aid the elderly in our community through both direct volunteering efforts and financial support (grants and donations).**

### The Endowment

The KDO Fund established at the Sangamon County Community Foundation in 2007 became the first and only donor advised fund focusing on serving the senior population in Springfield and its surrounding communities.

The Circle members continue their commitment to growing the endowment and increasing the impact of the organization to serve the elderly.

Today, as in the past, donations made to the King's Daughters Organization are welcome from the community at large and are tax-deductible. Memorials, honorariums, and other donations are always gratefully acknowledged.

*Residents at Fairhills Residence participate in a monthly Bingo game sponsored by Margaret Garfield Circle of KDO.*



*(L to R) Jeanette Hassebrock, Joan Casper, Janice Butler, and Bitsy Reisch deliver Meals on Wheels.*

### Membership in KDO

Each circle offers its members unique opportunities to establish lifelong friendships in addition to fulfilling the organization's mission of serving the elderly. Individual Circles usually meet socially once a month from September through May, with charitable activities year round. You are welcome to explore membership in an existing Circle or find out about starting a new Circle of Friendship.

For more information contact:



**King's Daughters Organization**

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*Cover: Top Row - (L to R) Diana Dedrick and Maryann Walker  
Bottom Row - (L to R) Polly Roesch and Sharon Zook*



**KING'S DAUGHTERS  
ORGANIZATION**



## Full Circle

Inspired by Dr. Edward Everett Hale, an American author and Unitarian minister who called for the formation of a “sisterhood of service,” the International Order of the

King’s Daughters was established in New York City in 1886.

The Springfield branch was established two years later by F.W. Clampett, Rector of Christ Church. By 1891, there were twenty-six “Circles of Friendship”, each responsible for carrying out its own mission. In 1893, the Circles united to provide a much needed home for women.

After incorporating, they purchased and renovated the Italianate mansion at 541 Black Avenue which had been the home of Post Cereal giant, Charles W. Post and named it the King’s Daughters Home for Women. In 1953, in recognition of the Post family’s contributions to the home, the name was changed to the Carrie Post King’s Daughters Home for Women.

*Nancy McDonald, former resident of King’s Daughters Home.*



*Circle members: Barbara Archer, Mary Larson, and Sue Shevlin attended a KDO sponsored monthly senior luncheon presentation with members of Greater All Nations Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.*

The Circles supported the home for over 100 years by providing quality, affordable accommodations for elderly women in a caring and nurturing environment.

In September of 2005, with more housing options available for the elderly, the Circle membership made the difficult decision to close the home. Our “Ladies” living in the home were given housing options and relocation was assisted by Circle members. The Home was sold to Springfield College in Illinois and proceeds were used to increase the endowment.

The endowment was placed at the Sangamon County Community Foundation to better facilitate providing annual grants to aid other non-profits in serving the elderly of the community.

Returning to our beginnings, our Circles perform volunteer efforts throughout the community at large. We also maintain our relationships with our “Ladies”. The Organization has truly come “full circle”.

## King’s Daughters Today

Circles of Friendship continue to carry out the mission through direct volunteerism including visiting the elderly, delivering meals, and providing entertainment to local homes for seniors.

In 2007, the KDO presented its first community donation to Senior Services of Central Illinois in the amount of \$30,000 for the purchase of a van to meet the transportation needs of the elderly in Sangamon County.

In 2008, a total of \$60,000 in grants was awarded to local charitable organizations committed to improving the lives of the elderly.

After functioning as a charitable organization for 115 years and successfully operating a home for women for 111 of those years, the King’s Daughters Organization has a place in Springfield’s past and future.



*A representative from Senior Services and Captain Bill Capella of the SFD visit a senior’s home as part of a KDO grant for the “Remembering When” program.*