

## Katie's Fund is going places by Emma Crossen

**K**atie Luther never strolled through New Orleans or convened in New York City. Yet, through Katie's Fund, her legacy is changing lives in both places. In 2012, dollars from Katie's Fund are supporting the Young Women's Leadership Experience at the United Nations and the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Additionally, Women of the ELCA will use Katie's Fund to strengthen our resources for years to come.

May is the month when Women of the ELCA gives special attention to Katie's Fund during our annual, month-long Katie's Fund Appeal. We would love to hear about how you will promote Katie's Fund in your congregation and community.

Dollars from Katie's Fund support ministry in three key areas: leadership development, global sharing, and living theology. Donors can direct their donations to the Katie's Fund endowment or to the annual portion of the fund, which goes to immediate needs. Here are a few stories about how we are continuing Katie's legacy in 2012 using these donations and interest from the endowment.

### Young Women's Leadership Experience

At the Young Women's Leadership Experience (YWLE) in late February, 10 women traveled to New York for six days of advocacy training, leadership development and ecumenical connection. They joined delegations

of women from around the world to attend the 56th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. This year, the Commission's theme focused on empowering rural women. The YWLE brought together young women, ages 18–30, with mentors from rural areas. One of the participating mentors was Leah Johnson, a Women of the ELCA leader from Rugby, North Dakota. Dollars from Katie's Fund sponsored this important gathering.

### May is for Katie's Fund!

How will you promote Katie's Fund next month? We'd love to hear about your creative fundraisers, special offerings, and other events. Look out for an article about Katie's Fund in the May issue of *Gather*. To order donation envelopes (not required), go to the ELCA Resource Catalog link at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) or call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2580.

### ELCA Youth Gathering

In New Orleans, Katie's Fund will support Women of the ELCA's outreach to the 40,000 youth and adults at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, from July 18–22. In past years, Women of the ELCA participated in the youth gathering by showcasing *Café* and other resources.

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# Experience the history and culture of the Chippewa Cree

by Inez Torres Davis

The churchwide organization offers multi-day cross-cultural immersion experiences that support women as they develop and maintain positive and nurturing cross-cultural encounters with women of diverse cultural and racial backgrounds. This September the fifth cross-cultural immersion experience on the Rocky Boy's Chippewa Cree Reservation in Box Elder, Mont. will take place.

Imagine learning and experiencing

- the history and culture of the Chippewa Cree and several other tribes in the area,
- the local bead work,
- a demonstration of dancing and drumming, and
- visits to an archeological dig and buffalo jump, an historical battlefield, and Lewis and Clark interpretative centers.

The host congregation, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, has been working among the people of the Chippewa Cree tribe since the early 1920s.

The immersion begins with dinner on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by community building discussion and activities for creating a more just world.

On Sunday morning participants will worship with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, our host congregation who has been working among the people of the Chippewa Cree tribe since the 1920s. A shared gardening project will be the immersion gift to Our Saviour's.

Registration is limited to 12 women, and the registration deadline is August 31st. Registration material is available at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) or by contacting Inez Torres Davis (800-638-3522, ext. 2428 or [ineztorres.davis@elca.org](mailto:ineztorres.davis@elca.org)).

Participant accommodations will be in communal cabins located at Our Saviour's. Registration includes all planned activities, accommodations (pillows, linens and towels are provided) and most meals.

Shuttle service will be available to and from Our Saviour's from the Amtrak station in Havre, Mont., and also to and from the airport in Great Falls, Mont.



*Inez Torres Davis is Women of the ELCA director for justice.*

This year, we will expand our impact with workshops and interactive exhibits to address topics such as bullying, peer pressure, the objectification of girls and the power of words. We will also promote our resources, grants, scholarships and opportunities to connect with Women of the ELCA in local congregations.

The ELCA Youth Gathering presents an unprecedented opportunity to reach women and girls from throughout the church. To read more about these plans and how you can participate, see pages six and seven.

## Shaping Program Resources

In June, Women of the ELCA will use Katie's Fund dollars to strengthen our program resources for the next triennium. Writers, ministers, readers, small group leaders and others will come together in Chicago to evaluate our existing resources and determine where to go

from here. By dedicating these days to careful reflection, discussion and planning, we will give renewed energy and direction to resources that can serve Women of the ELCA—and the entire church—for years to come.

We hope you will share these stories about how Katie's Fund is supporting leadership development, global sharing, and living theology in 2012. With May almost here, it is time to renew our commitment to Katie's legacy by promoting the 2012 Katie's Fund appeal.



*Emma Crossen is Women of the ELCA director for stewardship and development.*

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