

# The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund: Continuing Support for Holy Family Day Home



After attending Easter Services at Mission Dolores in April of 1910, Virginia "Birdie" Fair (1878-1935), called on the Sisters of the Holy Family and inquired about whether they had been able to rebuild all of their facilities for children after the disaster of 1906. She learned that the Sisters had lost most of their properties, but had continued serving children in a series of tent homes in various San Francisco parks for more than four years.

Virginia Fair (later Vanderbilt) was the daughter of James Graham Fair, an immigrant from County Tyrone, Ireland. Mr. Fair had acquired a remarkable fortune in gold and silver mining in Virginia City, Nevada and had significant real estate holdings in San Francisco. His daughter remembered visiting the earlier Day Homes as a school girl and now she offered to build a new facility for the Sisters.

In late April, Birdie visited with the architect selected by the Sisters, but was not "favorably impressed" with his design. Before leaving for her summer residence in New York, she commissioned Willis Polk to design a building in the Classical Revival style. A local newspaper reported she "entered into a contract for construction of a handsome brick building of two stories to be erected at once upon the corner of Dolores and Sixteenth Streets." At her request, the article noted, "special attention will be given to the needs of the children," including half steps to accommodate little legs and "nearly all of the rooms will be very large and flooded with sunshine, so that the tots may have ideal places to spend their young days."

Ground was broken on July 17, 1911 and the beautiful new building was dedicated on February 2, 1912; children sang, little Virginia McMullen recited a beautiful Address of Welcome to the guests and everyone joined in singing *California*. In a hand-written note sent to Archbishop Riordan for the Dedication from her mansion in New York, Mrs. Vanderbilt said, "If the home makes a few children happier and the influence of the Sisters moulds the lives of some into men and women of gentleness of heart, I shall feel content."

For nearly one hundred years, Virginia "Birdie" Fair's munificent gesture has provided a "home away from home" for more than 14,000 young children and comprehensive support for their families. Now, as we near the completion of a new school building on the exact site of the original, **The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund** invites you to become a benefactor for the thousands of children to be served by the Day Home in the next century.



The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund recognizes individuals, couples and families who have named Holy Family Day Home as the beneficiary of any type of planned or deferred gift. The Legacy Fund will regularly and publicly acknowledge those who have made such gifts. It will also encourage and inspire others to support Holy Family Day Home in this unique fashion. Regular communication and special recognition activities are planned for members of The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund.

Bequests made in a will are the most common way to join The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund. However, donors may also choose to make Holy Family Day Home the beneficiary of an IRA or 401K Retirement Plan, a Life Insurance Policy, or other planned gifts such as a Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder or other forms of Trusts.

Joining The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund is very simple. Consult with your family and your attorney or other advisor to determine and arrange the type of gift that best suits your estate needs. Notify Holy Family Day Home that you have made a provision in your estate plans and wish to be included in the roster of donors who belong to The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund. That's it.

When we hear from you, we will provide a short form on which to record your arrangements. We do not need to know the amount or exact nature of your gift, though we would be glad to discuss your intent for how your gift is to be used. All of your wishes will be kept in the strictest confidence and your participation will only be publicized with your written approval.

Your thoughtful generosity, like that of Virginia Fair, will assure that some of our region's most vulnerable children will have an opportunity to succeed and to become "men and women of gentleness of heart." That, truly, is a legacy.

You or your attorney/advisor may obtain more information about The Virginia Fair Legacy Fund at any time by contacting Ronald E. Limoges, Ph.D, Director of Development at 415.565.0504, x206 or [rlimoges@holyfamilydayhome.org](mailto:rlimoges@holyfamilydayhome.org).