The St. Philip Neri Newman Center on the University of Tulsa campus.

Father Kerry Wakulich

The St. Philip Neri Catholic Newman Center at the University of Tulsa bustles with activity nearly every day of the week. The stated mission of the Newman Center is to prepare university students for a life of faith and leadership in the Catholic Church and service to the world. In order to fulfill its mission, the Newman Center provides weekly liturgies, as well as educational, social and service opportunities for students of all faiths. The ministry is a true outreach that includes all students in the area, not just at the University of Tulsa. And this ministry would not be possible without the financial support of the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Oklahoma (CFEO).

Over the years, CFEO has provided extensive financial resources for building projects and improvements, as well as staffing for the ministry. Students entering the Newman Center find an excellent, modern facility and are greeted by a dedicated staff.

The students are most likely unaware of one benefactor that helps keep the Newman Center in operation. And Rosalind E. Hughes, a long-time parishioner of Christ the King Parish in Tulsa and a charter member of the Catholic Daughters of America, could not have envisioned how her gift would affect future generations for the Church.

In her estate planning, in addition to recognizing her parish, she graciously selected CFEO to receive the remainder interest of her estate, which resulted in a bequest of approximately $1 million.

During the latter years of her life, as it became time for her and her sister, Genevieve, to make the transition from living in their home to moving into the Franciscan Villa, Rosalind and CFEO jointly executed a gift annuity contract funded by the net proceeds from the sale of the Hughes home. This gift annuity provided Rosalind and, upon her death in 1992, her sister with an annual payment stream during their lifetimes.

More than 20 years later, the generosity of Rosalind Hughes influences the lives of young students at the Newman Center and the University of Tulsa.

Father Kerry Wakulich, chaplain at the Newman Center, said, “The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Oklahoma has supported the Newman Center in a variety of ways for the past dozen or more years. Funds have been provided for student retreats and missionaries. They have helped subsidize costs for employees. The foundation has helped with the upkeep of the building, our dining and recreation areas, as well as the church here. They underwrite projects to help us achieve our mission with financial assistance.”

Established in 1946, the St. Philip Neri Catholic Newman Center moved to its current location at 440 S. Florence Ave. on the University of Tulsa campus in 1991. Today, with financial assistance from the CFEO, the Newman Center serves dozens of students daily and offers a variety of services, including social activities, intramural sports teams, daily Mass and prayer, adoration, a student choir, confession, faith building pilgrimages and all the sacramental services of a diocesan parish. For more information about the Newman Center, visit their website, www.tu-newman.org.

If you would like to more information on how to include the CFEO in your estate planning, contact Tom Affeldt, the current vice president, at tma@savagelaw.cc.