



Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

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A national organization has its roots with a member of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Share (Source of Help for Airing and Resolving Experiences) Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support, Inc., was founded in 1977 by Sister Jane Marie Lamb, OSF, a maternity nurse at St. John's Hospital (Springfield), at the request of a grieving family. Since that time it has since grown to more than 90 chapters across the continent, serving nearly 20,000 people per year.



Through working with AMEND (Aiding Mothers and Fathers Experiencing Neonatal Death), Sister Jane Marie founded Share while serving as a chaplain and because of her personal understanding of grief. At age 9, she experienced the drowning death of her 18-year-old sister and then 21 years later, her 34-year-old brother was killed in an explosion. "I knew that when I vowed my life to God, I would need to be attentive to God's call in bringing the Good News to the sick, but had not considered comforting mourners," Sister Jane Marie wrote years ago. In explaining the origin for Share, she explained that "the word "share" seemed to be symbolic of what we did and we liked the concept of sharing in a family's grief since so many people are isolated in their grief."

Sister Jane Marie (the former Hada Faye Lamb) was born on August 24, 1936 to J. Earl and Hada (Mantle) Lamb in Chamois, Missouri. She professed First Vows with the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis on June 13, 1957. She was a graduate of St. John's Hospital School of Nursing and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from St. Louis University and a master's degree in health ministry from Sangamon State University. She died on March 8, 2005.

True to its origins, the mission of Share is to serve those whose lives are touched by the tragic death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth or in the first few months of life. The primary purpose is to provide support toward positive resolution of grief experienced at the time of, or following the death of a baby.

The American Province of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is a member of an international congregation of Franciscan Sisters that was founded in Germany in 1844 with Provinces in Germany, Poland, USA, Japan, and India. The American Province, based in Springfield, IL, was founded in 1875 when Sisters from Germany arrived in Illinois and began a health care ministry. The Province serves those in need as a significant provider of Catholic health care services with sponsorship of 13 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin through Hospital Sisters Health System (Springfield), sponsorship of a mission in Tanzania, sponsorship of Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach (Springfield) – a medical equipment and supply recovery and redistribution program, and sponsorship of Chiara Center (Springfield) – an ecumenical retreat and conference center.