
Bishop Spencer Place, Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Establish Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment Fund

The Episcopal community is well-known for its community leaders and supporters, warm generosity and encouraging spirit. Many graciously give of themselves by helping to feed the hungry, educate the poor, and offer financial assistance to those in need. In recognition of one man's heartfelt contributions to his community, two area Episcopal organizations have partnered to raise funds and further his mission of providing for those less fortunate.

Bishop Spencer Place, a faith-based continuing care retirement community in the heart of Kansas City, and Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, together have established a new endowment fund named in honor of James Earl Cavanaugh — a longtime priest, leader and visionary in Kansas City.

Established in spring 2008, the Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment Fund's joint committee is composed of 17 community leaders who are working together to raise funds. The endowment fund will provide benevolent care to residents of Bishop Spencer Place who are in need of financial assistance, and support the Kansas City Community Kitchen and its Culinary Cornerstones career training program, which is housed at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

“The Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment is a great tribute to Earl's many contributions to the Episcopal community and throughout Greater Kansas City,” said Lynn Badura, director of development for Bishop Spencer Place. “It is important to us to create this endowment fund in memory of Earl. He will live on in our hearts and minds as someone who believed in collaboration for the common good. As we remember Earl, it is only fitting that we at Bishop Spencer Place and Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral join together to honor his commitment to those most in need.”

Earl passed away on August 9, 2007, leaving a legacy of advocating tirelessly on behalf of those less fortunate throughout the metro area and the Episcopal Church. As dean emeritus of Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and former chaplain and resident of Bishop Spencer Place, Earl was dedicated to the belief that life was ministry in action.

“Serving his community by caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, nursing the sick and providing access to education were not just priorities for Earl, they were sacraments,” said Albert Mauro, Sr., co-chair for the Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment.

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Earl offered support to those suffering from AIDS in our community, and he was a leader in fighting discrimination on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation. He was an ecumenist and a community leader active in Kansas City's Downtown Council. Earl believed that religious leadership, joined with community and business leadership, could shape a common vision to foster growth and improve the quality of life in the city.

"It was Earl's dream to establish an endowment at Bishop Spencer Place for benevolent care," said Bob Steinbach, co-chair for the Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment. "The new endowment will lay the groundwork for continued financial stability, and allow Bishop Spencer Place to continue providing quality care for residents who need it most."

In addition to its long tradition of providing quality independent living to residents, Bishop Spencer Place has provided nearly \$10 million toward care for residents in need since 1995. The creation of the Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment allows Bishop Spencer Place to establish a sustaining vehicle for providing compassionate care.

Earl was also instrumental in fighting hunger in his community by starting a hunger ministry at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral that grew into the Kansas City Community Kitchen, now operating under Episcopal Community Services.

Each weekday, hundreds of people impacted by poverty or disability line up and wait for the chimes at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral to strike at noon. For two hours daily, the Kansas City Community Kitchen serves 400 to 600 hot meals, a tradition that began 23 years ago. Most of these hungry people are homeless, although some have jobs that provide minimal wages. The latter are the "working" poor, and their numbers are growing.

The friends of Earl Cavanaugh invite you to participate in the continuation of his noble work. With your help, we can ensure permanent vehicles for sustaining support of benevolent care at Bishop Spencer Place and raising money for the Kansas City Community Kitchen.

Contributors who donate during 2008 will be recognized as *Founding Members of the Cavanaugh Memorial Endowment*. To learn more about the endowment, or to find out how you may contribute, contact Lynn Badura at (816) 931-5277, ext. 5111, or via email at lbadura@bishospencerplace.org.

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