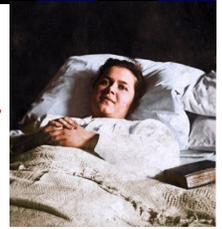




The Little Rose Newsletter

The Voice of the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island



Volume 3 Issue 4

September 2019

Many have asked us: "Just what is this Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island all about?" The thoughtful answer to this question is twofold. On the one hand there is the history and on the other there is the faith.

There are so very many people, even right here in the city of Woonsocket, who know nothing about who Marie Rose Ferron was. It is the Foundation's mission to inform future devotees not only who she was, but the history behind her arrival in Rhode Island. We want to teach about her Christian virtues as she practiced them and her love of Jesus.

Little Rose's story has been around for close to one hundred years now. At the beginning, when she was alive, news spread by word of mouth and then, after her death, by her biography: [She Wears a Crown of Thorns](#), written by Father Boyer. Many people were, and are still, moved by her story and many, also, were and are witnesses to miracles surrounding her intercession. Since that time, many stories and books about her have been written.

Who We Are



Pictured left to right: Jennifer Bingham, Secretary; Cathy Boisvert, Treasurer; Sharon Lamar, Devotée; Denise Ethier, Director; Paulette Nickel, Member; David Ethier, President; Front: Therese Noury, Denise's Mom. Not present: Carl LeClair, Vice President; Lise Ann Paille and Sonny Goryl, Directors.

We, at the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island, have a mission to keep this memory of her alive. Our Board of Directors consists of a group of devout Catholics with a deep reverence and respect for our Catholic Church and its teachings. We feel that knowledge of her life can only deepen

love of God and bring much joy and peace to people. At the same time, the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island submits itself, without reserve, to the infallible judgment of the Apostolic See which alone has power and authority to pronounce who rightly belong the character and title of Saint or Blessed.

To this end, we would like to extend an invitation to all other groups that exist with devotion to Little Rose. The invitation is to join us in our common goals of bringing Marie "Little Rose" Ferron to the next generation. Together, we can do so much more by unity than by individuality.

Rose wished to bring souls to Jesus. She knew there was nothing greater than that which one could accomplish in this life. She would do this by prayer and self-sacrifice. Part of the Foundation's mission is to allow others to learn of the greater purpose to our sufferings when offered to God on behalf of lost souls. Little Rose took on the sufferings of others and made reparation that she may accomplish God's Will in her. Truly this is her lasting legacy.

Words From the Foundation President



This past quarter has brought us a visit from the Mayor of Woonsocket, Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, who was very supportive of our efforts. We also hosted two large groups that came by appointment, one from New Hampshire and one from Connecticut. Members of the Foundation also traveled to Cape Cod to visit long-time devotees and received 'mementos' to become part of Little Rose's physical presence here in Woonsocket. We want to mention that we are in the process of

contacting relatives of the Ferron Family and some of them are also contacting us.

At our headquarters, we were able to begin some landscaping, which included a donation of rocks to edge flower beds. Trees had to be removed and new outside plumbing is a big help to keep the flowers happy. We are planning the Foundation's first yard sale on September 21st, 9am-2pm on Arnold Street, rain or shine. Also, in the works: new membership options for our drive, slated for September, now \$25 for one year or \$333 for lifetime to help out with expenses.

We acquired an "Open" flag as a donation and with a snap of our fingers, we are now happy to announce that we decided to

open every Saturday from 12Noon until 4pm. Also, First Sundays from 12Noon to 4pm with a prayer service at 2:30pm. Why not plan to stop by!

Yours with "Little Rose,"

David P. Ethier



Rose Delima Ferron

Rose Delima Syclimone Mathieu was born on May 3, 1868, in Saint-Aimé, Pierre-De Saurel, Québec, Canada to Gilbert and Lucie Baudreau-Graveline Mathieu, who would eventually have 11 children born to them. Rose Delima was either the seventh or eighth child as she was the twin to George Mathieu who died later at five and a half months old. Her mother Lucie Baudreau-Graveline Mathieu gave birth to her last son, Georges-Michel Mathieu and died less than 2 years after giving birth to him. With the death of her mother, it fell upon Rose Delima, along with her two older sisters to raise Georges. She was just 14 years old at the time.

On July 17, 1888, at the age of 20, she married Jean-Baptiste Ferron in Saint Aimé, Québec, Canada, a blacksmith and farmer by trade. By this time, her two sisters had already married and so she continued taking care of her younger brother Georges who was almost eight years old. Georges is the person Little Rose calls "Uncle" in correspondence and when speaking to people.

After the birth of her first child, Anatole in Saint Aimé on May 15, 1889, the family moved to St. Germain-de-Grantham, P.Q., Canada. In 1890, St. Germain-de-Grantham was on the South Eastern Railway, five miles from Drummondville, Canada. It contained a Roman Catholic



church, two furniture factories, a foundry, two saw mills, a shingle mill and a grist mill and had a population of 2,700.

The majority of her 15 children would be born here; only two would be born in Fall River, MA, after the move to the United States. At the time of Anatole's birth, Rose De Lima dedicated him to the First Mystery of the Rosary. In time, she had additional children and was able to dedicate each to complete the fifteen mysteries. Marie Rose Ferron was her tenth child, born in a stable, as Our Lord. She was dedicated to the Crucifixion which played a large part in her life.

In 1908, during the great migration to New England to look for jobs and a better life, the family moved to Fall River, MA. In Fall River, she stayed home and took care of the family as any wife would do in those days. Her task became harder as Little Rose's health became worse and eventually bedbound. Mrs. Ferron is said to be a loving, sweet, meek, humble and caring woman who lived by all God's teachings. This is stated in many testimonies that Rev. Jean-Baptiste Palm, S.J. gathered when he collected his tape recorded testimonies about Little Rose.

There are those who believed that Rose Delima was a saint, but in truth, no more a saint than any mother with a handicapped daughter who she had to care for and love. Within the testimonies that Father Palm recorded, there is one by Tina Dembeck of Maryland in which she states that for years she had problems walking due to arthritis in her feet. She was visited through bi-location and told to come to Woonsocket and wear Mrs. Ferron's slippers. When she put them on she was instantly cured of pain.

On November 10, 1956, she passed on to be with her daughter; Marie Rose Ferron and her husband Jean-Baptiste Ferron and lies in Precious Blood Cemetery in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

On one occasion, while in ecstasy Rose sang: "O Mary, my good Mother, protect my little mother; it is from her that I learned to love you so much."

The First Beatified Seminarian; a Martyr for the Faith

Rolando Rivi was born to Roberto and Albertina Canovi Riva, the second of three sons, on January 7, 1931, in San Valentino di Castellarano, Italy. Deeply religious at an early age, before going to work in the fields each morning, he attended the celebration of the Mass and received the Eucharist after he made his First Communion.

From an early age he discovered a vocation and entered a seminary on October 1, 1942, when he was only 11 years old. As custom, he wore the cassock from the moment he entered as a seminarian and was proud of the garment, viewing it as a sign of his belonging to Christ and to the Church. Rivi wore his cassock during vacation periods and even during the hot summer months. He was noted as both an excellent singer and musician, and participated enthusiastically in the seminary choir.

He read many accounts of missionaries, and was particularly fascinated by the example, very recent at that time, of Blessed Miguel Pro, a Mexican Jesuit shot in 1928 by order of an anti-Christian government. The young man hoped to leave for distant missions to evangelize those who had not yet heard of the Lord Jesus. He would confide this hope of becoming a missionary to the vicar of San Valentino, Don Camellini, in 1944. For the time being, Rolando, along with the other seminarians, joined with all his heart in Pope Pius XII's Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on December 8, 1942, in response to Our Lady of Fatima's request.

In Modena, partisan formations were mostly composed by communists, socialists and members of Partito d'Azione (a republican liberal-socialist party), and they were united by animosity toward fascists and an anti-Catholic spirit. Communist partisans, in particular, thought that clergy could be an obstacle for their revolutionary project, and this fed their anticlericalism.

In June 1944, Nazis troops occupied the seminary, and so all the seminarians were sent home. Rivi returned to his hometown of San Valentino, carrying his books with him to continue his studies.



In San Valentino, the young seminarian never stopped wearing his cassock, despite the rising climate of violence. When his parents suggested he refrain from wearing it for his own safety, Rivi reportedly replied: "I study to be a priest, and these vestments are the sign that I belong to Jesus." The situation grew more difficult: Four priests were killed by the communist partisan brigades, and Father Olinto Marzocchini, San Valentino's parish priest and Rivi's spiritual father, was attacked and subsequently transferred to a more secure place.

Nevertheless, Rivi's days were spent between service in his parish and his studies. On the morning of April 10, 1945, after serving Mass, the 14-year-old took his books and went to the nearby woods, where he was accustomed to studying.

He never returned.

At noon, his parents, worried because Rivi had not come back for lunch; they went to the woods and found his books on the ground and a sheet of paper, where the following words were written: "Do not search for him. He just came with us partisans for a while." Kidnapped and stripped of his cassock, Rivi was imprisoned and tortured by partisans for three days. Some of the partisans proposed to let him go, since he was only a young boy. But the majority sentenced him to death, in order to have "one less future priest."

On April 13, 1945, Rivi was taken to a forest in the surroundings of Modena. The partisans dug a grave and had Rivi kneel

on its edge. While he was praying, the young seminarian was killed by gunshots to the heart and head. His cassock was rolled into a ball, kicked around and then hung as a war trophy on the front door of a house. The Communist partisans murdered him "in odium fidei" (in hatred of the faith) because he was learning to become a priest added to their extreme hatred of the faith. As a martyr of the faith, a miracle was not needed to proclaim Rivi "blessed."

That Rivi's execution was inspired by hate of his faith is also clear in the verdict of the court that sentenced his killers, Giuseppe Corghi and Delciso Rioli, to 16 years and 26 years of imprisonment, respectively. (They were freed after six years in prison. Italy's then-Minister of Justice Palmiro Togliatti, a fellow communist, granted them amnesty.) In the judge's verdict, it is written that Rivi was killed because he was "very young and of a pious and irreprehensible conduct," and "he sympathized with Catholic partisans and opposed the spread of communism."

During the homily of the beatification Mass, Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, proclaimed that "human ideologies fall down, but the Gospel of love never goes down because it is the Good News." Cardinal Amato also spoke of the "hyenas, fed with hate, looking for prey to bite and devour, who stripped Rivi of his vestments as Jesus' executioner did."

The cause of his sainthood opened on 30 September 2005, under Pope Benedict XVI when he was titled a "Servant of God," and Pope Francis confirmed on March 27, 2013 that Rivi was killed "in odium fidei" and thus approved for the beatification to take place. Rivi was beatified in Modena on October 5, 2013, with Cardinal Angelo Amato presiding over the celebration on the Pope's behalf. Almost 20,000 people attended the beatification.

His remains are located in Chiesa di San Valentino, Provincia di Reggio Emilia, Emilia-Romagna, Italy.

His Feast Day is the 29th of May.

Homes of Little Rose

Little Rose lived in Woonsocket for 11 of her 33 years before her death and it was during her time in this city that she suffered the most.

157 West Street



The Ferron Family moved to Woonsocket from Fall River in May 1925 and occupied an apartment at 157 West Street for a year. She was already bed-ridden and experienced many health problems.



In 1926, they moved to 86 Asylum Street, second floor, and resided there until 1933. It was here during this 7-year period in which the beginning of her stigmata appeared with wounds on her arms, chest and legs imitating the scourging of Jesus. In time, wounds appeared on her hands, feet, head and her side, the same wounds Christ suffered as he was crucified. These visible signs attracted many souls to her but in time she asked her Jesus to remove these visible signs as they drew attention to her. She was a private person and did not want to be spotlighted. In 1930, the signs disappeared and appeared only on certain days and bled. On these days, those who were witnesses were reminded of what Jesus

suffered on the Cross as it was reflected in Rose. The thorns wound on her forehead was still apparent as marks under her skin at the time of her death. Her head was bound in cloth so people would not see it.

It was in this house on December 8, 1928 she took her religious vows and established her order which had been approved by Bishop Hickey. Her order, "Sisters of Reparation of the Sacred Wounds of Jesus," had been created and from that day forward Rose wore the elements of a religious order. It was not until the 1950's before it actually attracted members.

In 1933, the family moved to 243 Ballou Street where they remained until December 1935. She continued her suffering here and continued to receive visitors.



December 1935, saw the family moving once again, this time around the corner to nearby 271 Providence Street. Little Rose continued receiving visitors almost daily. After her death on May 11, 1936, Little Rose passed on to be with her Jesus. This house continued to



be a pilgrimage site for her many followers. Her parents and sister Flora continued to live there. Little Rose's private chapel remained and received visitors.

Some 15,000 people lined up from the house on Providence Street to South Main Street (several blocks) to pass by her remains and view her in her white habit, veil and to pay their respects to a special person. The city had to deploy traffic control due to the crowds. Many came from Detroit, New York, Canada and other areas who knew of her and had previously visited her over the years or for the first time to see this special person. Her Funeral Mass drew 2,000 at Holy Family Church. Many had to remain outside as the church was packed to capacity.



In time, her sister Flora moved the chapel from Little Rose's house to her house across the street at 302 Providence Street and continued to receive visitors on Sundays until it was closed in the late 1990s - early 2000s, when Flora could no longer maintain it.



Little Rose in her private chapel with her parents on 86 Asylum Street, the day she took her vows.

Keep On Praying!!

From time to time, we receive new prayers that have been written, invoking Little Rose privately according to people's special needs. These prayers show how Little Rose has continued to inspire people in the needs they have in today's world. They do not have the authorization or recognition of the Church, but they may help you formulate your own private prayers with confidence in God's love and Little Rose's intercession. Here is an example of one we received:

Prayer for the Family

Dear Lord, we pray for blessings upon our family.

We pray for our children your greatest gift to us.

Help us to raise a family devoted to each other and which will serve as a model of Christ's love for his Church.

In an age of great loneliness, grant us the healing and hope that we find in family and in the Church. Through the intercession of Little Rose Ferron, may we face life's sufferings and disappointments knowing that you sustain us always through our very own share in your passion. Defend us, Holy Spirit, against the evils which threaten the Sacrament of Marriage and the sanctity of the family.

(If it be your will, Lord, bless us with a child that we may love and cherish as your wonderful gift to us)

Grant us the faithfulness and courage that Little Rose showed through her acceptance of the wounds that our Lord Jesus endured in His Passion and Death for the salvation of the world.

May we be granted healing and grace in all the crosses of life and know always that You are our Way, our Truth, and our Life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

God be praised always. AMEN

The Foundation would like all to understand that we only reprint prayers that did receive Imprimaturs in the past, as a sign of our obedience to the Catholic Church's authority.

A Poem for Little Rose

The scent of roses
If one dares to touch the thorns
Gives tranquility

~Nicholas Boisvert



Translation from French :
"Jesus meek and humble of heart
make my heart like unto thine."

If you judge people, you have no time to **love** them.

—Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

Questions & Answers

Large Family and Friends from New Hampshire Visit 'Castle'

July 29, 2019

"Thank you so much for hosting us....Also, when you have a moment, would you please share with me why there was a statue of St. Joan of Arc in the museum? I didn't remember reading that Little Rose had a devotion to her." — F. F.

August 08, 2019

This is a detail portion of a photo that was taken of Little Rose in ecstasy at her first Christmas, 157 West St., Woonsocket. It also depicts Little Rose's first Nativity (Manger or Crèche). She was 23 and is wearing a bandeau over her forehead while holding her Cross. On the top of the bureau you can see a statue of St. Joan of Arc with her banner. The full photo of Little Rose was donated to the Foundation by a relative of the Mathieu Family, on Mrs. Ferron's side.



The Foundation has the statue of St. Joan of Arc, too, because we are inclined to do 'rescues' or we receive donations of precious Catholic statuary that happens to come our way! I hope this answers your question! . . .

In Little Rose, Foundation Secretary

In Memory of Rev. Matthew J. Strumski

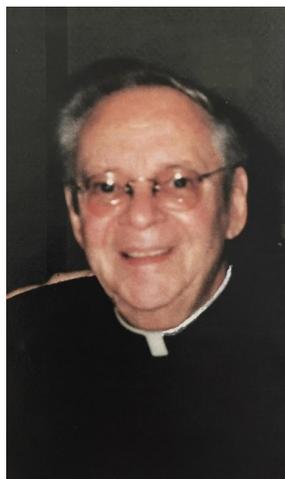
August 22, 1922–August 3, 2019

When he was 13 years old, after Little Rose made a remark that he would become a priest, he replied in earnest, "No, I won't, I like girls too much!!" In time, he attended Our Lady of Providence Seminary and was ordained a priest on May 22, 1948; her prophecy was fulfilled.

He served both God and his country as a Navy Pacific and Marine Corps Chaplain during the Korean War. Returning from the conflict, he was stationed at several Rhode Island churches and ended his career at St. Casimir's Church in Warren, RI assigned in 1972 and retired as its Pastor Emeritus in 2004.

While residing at St. Antoine Residence in RI, Father continued his work in bringing the story of Little Rose to the public by participating in tours of important sites to Little Rose that were given by her sister Flora Lemire.

On August 8th 2019, our good friend entered into eternal rest.



Our Foundation Supporters

- John Manuel Aguiar
- Joseph Arsenault
- Constance Audette
- Marc & Patricia Auger
- Sandrina Baldelli
- Germain Bianchi
- Ester Bigham
- Jacqueline Blanchette
- Cathy Boisvert
- Nicholas Boisvert
- Judith A. Chace
- Leo R. Collard
- Anthony Corticelli
- Stephen Cuomo
- Anna Maria Dias
- Nancy Edembo
- David & Denise Ethier
- Jane Gauvin
- Ted & Lorraine Gregoire
- Reba Holtzman
- Dr. Darline Kulhan
- Fred Fraser & Family
- Marcel Laliberte
- Sharon Lamar
- Carl LeClair
- Frank M. Lewis III
- Renée Lisa
- Marie L. Magill
- Patricia & Agnes McHugh

- Behiye Merolla
- Paulette C. Nickel
- John O'Donnell
- Lise Ann Paille
- Kathy Pellegrino & Dr. Admiral MacCaulay
- Helen Peltier
- Ray Piccirilli
- Janet Plonka
- Gladys & Michel Sarji
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Seyster
- Janet L. Shinney
- Beverly Strodel
- Barbara Tessier
- Catherine Willis
- Material Sand & Stone Corp.
- Timeless Antiques & Collectibles

Donations made ~In Memory Of~

- The O'Coin Family
- Paul Pepler
- Rev. Matthew J. Strumski
- Rosanna Whitesell

~~~~~  
Many wished to remain Anonymous

## Our Angel of God

The Bible contains many references to angels. Both the Old and New Testaments tell of the Archangel Michael, including the great battle of the angels in the Book of Revelation where he stands up for God when the Devil's pride appears and he casts down all the evil angels. The Old Testament in a Catholic Bible also includes the Book of Tobit, which tells us in much detail the healing power of the Archangel Raphael. In the New Testament, the Archangel Gabriel appears to announce the arrival of Jesus to Mary as she conceives Jesus by the Holy Spirit in her womb. According to Church tradition and teaching St. Gabriel was Jesus's 'Angel of God,' and protected the Holy Family.

Jesus Himself mentions them in the New Testament. In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18, He tells us "Unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven. See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven." How very precious indeed are the littlest among us, to include the smallest of all: the unborn. From Jesus, we come to understand that those "little ones," through their sinlessness do not place any obstacle in the way of their angel's view of God. In their innocence the child is, so to speak, transparent for the angel, who can hold the child in front of himself towards the FATHER in heaven and can see the FATHER through the child and in this way man becomes closest to God through the grace of their Guardian Angel. Cannot God, also, shine back through them in the same fashion?

Little Rose was "little" and completely childlike in her trust in Jesus. She never doubted that the offering of her suffering would win her reward because she trusted like a child in Jesus' great mercy and love always. Indeed, God did appear to shine back through her as Father Boyer recounts,



One of the many angels painted by Rose Myette on the Altar cloth in the "Chapel of Thorns."

"There was something noble in Rose that expressed the beauty of her soul. Nature had provided her with a beautiful face, full of grace and purity. At times, these seemed to radiate. I cannot conceive of anything more attractive, more soothing. It affected me as if something Divine was escaping from her. Rose was always beautiful; but on some occasions, beauty seemed to radiate from her, it was no longer human. The word transfiguration could be used without exaggeration."

Angels and men are quite different. The angel is ordered more towards God the SPIRIT while man is ordered more towards God the SON. Through God's mercy, the Guardian Angels are sent to man's aid, and in this way, the angel cooperates in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. The veneration of the angels may

Oh, Angel of God,  
My guardian dear,  
To whom His love  
commits me here.  
Ever this day be at my side,  
To light and guard,  
to rule and guide.  
Amen.

never substitute for, or diminish the devotion to God, but is a means to a more profound knowledge and love of God which man can attain through the help of their Angel of God. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, let us remember and celebrate the Feast Day of the Archangels and then on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast Day of our own Guardian Angel.

St. Padre Pio built a strong friendship with his own Guardian Angel and often spoke about the angels. He said, "Do not forget this invisible companion, always present to listen to you; always ready to console you. Oh, if all men could understand this great gift that God, in His excess of love for man, assigned to us."

\* This article gives references taken from St. John Paul II's talks on Angels given at General Audiences at St. Peter's Rome, from July 9 to August 20, 1986.

## Available in our 'Little Rose Book Nook'

**She Wears a Crown of Thorns** by Rev. O. A. Boyer, S.T.L.  
This is a definitive work by her biographer in **hard cover** \$25 plus \$5 P&H.

**She Wears a Crown of Thorns** by Rev. O. A. Boyer, S.T.L.  
Published by Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island, **soft cover**, \$15 plus \$4 P&H.

**My Heart Speaks to Thee** The Life of Marie Rose Ferron—Little Rose  
Written by Wanda Sadowski, \$4 plus \$2.50 P&H.

**Virtues and Glories of Marie Rose Ferron**  
A reprint of the 1984 book originally printed by the "Friends of Little Rose,"  
\$15 plus \$4 P&H.

### *Laughter is better medicine...*

"Is this a healthy place?" asked a stranger of a native of a certain region in the West.

"It sure is," replied the native. "When I came here I couldn't utter a word. I had scarcely a hair on my head. I hadn't the strength to walk across the room, and I had to be lifted from my bed."

"That's wonderful," exclaimed the stranger. "How long have you been here?"



"I was born here." Previously printed in the Little Rose Magazine

If you have ideas to bring her name and life forward, please feel free to contact the Foundation President, David P. Ethier by:  
EMAIL : [roseferronfri@gmail.com](mailto:roseferronfri@gmail.com) or WEB: [roseferronfri.org](http://roseferronfri.org)  
Calling David at 401-489-5332  
or on FACEBOOK: Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island

## Little Rose



Marie Rose Ferron was born on May 24, 1902 in Canada. Her parents came to Fall River, MA, in 1905. Rose became ecstatic about that time and remained so until her death.

In 1925, Rose arrived in Woonsocket, RI. In 1926, the stigmata of the flagellation appeared; in 1927, those of the hands and feet; in 1928, the stigmata of the crown of thorns and then in 1929, that of the heart. In 1930, the stigmata disappeared, but pains were felt more intensely.

Ecstasy and stigmata are nothing but charisms and in themselves do not sanctify. What sanctified Little Rose was her virtuous life; she loved God so intensely that she communicated her Charity when she spoke. Her soul was adorned with Christian virtues and she practiced them with the heroism of a true Victim.

To learn more, read [She Wears a Crown of Thorns](#), available at our Foundation 'Book Nook.'

Think about leaving something in your will to help us continue to establish Little Rose's legacy for the future.

**"Remember, when you leave this earth,  
you can take with you  
nothing that you have received ~  
only what you have given."**

St. Francis of Assisi



Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island, Inc.  
339 Arnold St.  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Email: [roseferronfri@gmail.com](mailto:roseferronfri@gmail.com)  
Web: [roseferronfri.org](http://roseferronfri.org)  
Egiving: [roseferronfri.org/online-giving](http://roseferronfri.org/online-giving)



Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island

Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all volunteer organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our Newsletter is found on our website listed above. For an annual \$5 donation, we can mail out a hard copy to the address you provide.