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# Charities of our masonic family

from our Grand Secretary's Office

The definition of masonic charity is not intended to be measured with numbers. How do you measure the value of a visit to a shut-in, a kind word or other assistance to someone who is experiencing difficulties? Many of our members also donate to other charities outside of the masonic order and follow the teaching of practicing out of the lodge what they have been taught in it. But that is not a reason to be un-informed of the measurable contributions we do make to many charities.

## Grand Lodge charities

There are currently seventy-four Grand Lodges in North America; each "sovereign and independent" with no governing body to which they must report. They are guided only by their ongoing commitment to assisting their

members, and cooperating with each other to meet needs in their community. The unique charities of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon and her concordant bodies are many.

### Masonic Foundation

Established in 1958, the *Masonic Foundation* is a registered charity operated by a board of Grand Lodge officers. The object of this foundation is to receive "bequests, devises, gifts and voluntary donations of every kind and description" and thereby establish a trust fund, to provide care for the needy, in particular the sick, aged, destitute and helpless.

Some \$80,000 are made in annual disbursements.

### The Masonic Community Charities Fund

A registered charity established in July of 1988, the *Charities Fund* is overseen by a nine-member board of trustees



The third of the three theological virtues, Charity, is here depicted in a detail from an engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi and James Fittler, published as the frontispiece to Rev. Dr. James Anderson's *Constitutions*, edited by John Noorthouk in 1784.

designated by our *Constitutions* (R36), They are responsible for recommending community charitable projects, subject to Finance Committee consideration. This *Fund* consists of a capital fund augmented by donations and by such portion of the annual general revenue of Grand Lodge as the Finance Committee shall recommend and Grand Lodge shall determine.

### Current charitable projects

The *We Can Help Project* is a St. John Ambulance first-aid programme for grade four

students. The total dollar value allocated is \$35,000 per year.

Statistics show that in 1995 70% of teenage fatalities, were the result of preventable injuries. More Canadians between the ages of one and twenty-one die as a result of injuries than of all other causes combined. We fund a ten-lesson first-aid course for all grade four students in the province.

### Cancer Car Project

Operated in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society, this project, begun in

*continued on page 2*



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## Charities

from page one

1989 with three vehicles, has expanded to include fifteen vehicles and over five hundred volunteer drivers. This volunteer programme provides free transportation for cancer patients from airports, ferry terminals, hotels and private homes, to cancer clinics in Vancouver, Vancouver's Island, and the Interior, as well as destinations such as the Canadian Cancer Society, the Easter Seal House and Ronald McDonald House.

There are seven cars covering Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam and Port Moody.

Vancouver's Island has five vehicles operating between Campbell River and Victoria.

Three vehicles also operate in the Interior between Kamloops and the USA border. 700,000 kilometres were travelled in the last year, providing at least two rides to almost seventy patients a day.

In addition, the Cancer Society pays 47¢ a kilometre to private volunteers who drive their own cars in areas of the Lower Mainland not covered by our efforts.

The yearly operating cost of this programme is \$310,000, paid for by donations, legacies and our \$7 per capita.

## Bursary Fund

A registered charity established in 1961, the *Bursary Fund* is operated by a

committee appointed by Grand Lodge to provide bursaries to students. Funds totalling \$73,000 are received annually from individual donations and revenue generated by a separate capital fund.

## Benevolent Fund

The *Benevolent Fund* was established in 1923 from the existing *Grand Lodge Charity Fund*. It is operated by a Grand Lodge appointed committee

\$60,000, received annually from individual donations and a separate capital fund, are allocated to members and their widows who require short term assistance.

## The lodges

Complete information is not available on all of our lodges' many contributions to charity and to their communities, but several examples stand out.

One lodge purchased two cars for the Cancer Car Project. One special van equipped to handle the handicapped was provided by several lodges to the Royal Arch Masonic Home. Lodges in the Trail area donated some \$400,000 to an upgrade of the Trail Hospital.

Another Lower Mainland lodge donated \$100,000 to the Burnaby General Palliative Care facility, while the Revelstoke Hospital recently received funding for a Palliative Care unit from local freemasons.

Senior citizens homes, one in Victoria and one in Kamloops are operated by local freemasons, making a significant contribution to our charity programme.

## York Rite Masonry

There are four bodies which make up York Rite Masonry in British Columbia: Lodge, Royal Arch, Preceptory and Cryptic Rite, with additional invitational bodies called the Order of the High Priesthood, York Rite Cross of Honour, York Rite College, Red Cross of Constantine, Holy Order Knight

Templar Priests, Order of the Secret Monitor and the Allied Masonic Degrees.

## Royal Arch Masonry

The Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon was established in 1884 with four charities operating under this jurisdiction.

## Royal Arch Home Society

A registered charity established 1978, the Royal Arch Home in Vancouver is operated as a non-profit long term health care facility available to eligible low income seniors. The annual operating budget of eight million dollars is provincially funded, while donations and fund raising produce an additional \$50,000 annually. One lodge recently donated \$50,000 towards the purchase of a vehicle equipped for the physically challenged.

Practicum students from the second-year Therapeutic Recreation Diploma programme at Douglas College are given valuable experience in care facilities and volunteers contributed some 4,000 hours assisting with the many programmes at the *Home*.

## Keystone of Life Foundation

A registered charity and society established in 1975, the *Keystone of Life Foundation* provides funds to hospitals in this jurisdiction to purchase needed smaller equipment for patient treatment.

Annual funds of some \$60,000 are received from various fund raising efforts and donations,

## Royal Arch Bursary Fund

Established in 1954, the *Royal Arch Bursary Fund* is charged with providing financial assistance to children or grandchildren of members of Royal Arch Masonry.

They award twelve \$600 bursaries each year from funds received from donations and interest on an investment fund.

## Society of Royal Arch Masons

Formed in 1970, the society has applied for registered charity status. It is operated by an elected board of trustees to provide assistance to seniors who need assistance in remaining in their own homes. Funds are received from donations only.

## Cryptic Rite Masons

The next step in the York Rite is the Cryptic Rite. Their registered charity for the four western provinces is medical research in arterial sclerosis.

## Preceptory

There are thirteen separate preceptorics in BC under the Toronto-based Sovereign Great Priory of Canada. The *Knights Templar Charitable Foundation of Canada* and the *Charles Wells Fund* promote aid to widows, orphans and destitute persons by sponsoring preceptorics, while grants are also made to divinity students and for diabetes and cancer research.

## Scottish Rite

In British Columbia there are ten valleys operated by a membership that is open to any Master Mason who is in good standing in his lodge

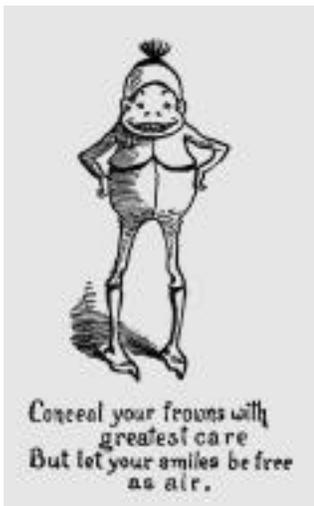
There are three bodies attached to this rite: Lodge of Perfection, Rose Croix and Consistory.

The *Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada*, operating from a capital account of over six million dollars, is dedicated to research, education and information on intellectual disabilities. These efforts benefit all ages in the study and treatment of Down's Syndrome and other genetic defects such as schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease.

The Scottish Rite USA Southern Jurisdiction runs 112 Childhood Language Disorder Centers and two of the finest children's hospitals in the world.

## Dallas, Texas

This hospital specializes in orthopaedic and neurological



W Bro. Palmer Cox

challenges, as well as assessment and training of children with learning disabilities. Last reported, it had a 1995 operating budget of forty-five million dollars.

### Atlanta, Georgia

This hospital provides general medical services as well as advanced subspecialty care, and also offers a 24 hour children's emergency/trauma centre. Twenty-two million dollars was spent on uncompensated care for children in 1994. ■

## Vancouver Masonic Service Bureau

While the Service Bureau's main rôle is to ease the necessities of sojourning brethren, the volunteers who coördinate the loans of health-related articles such as wheelchairs, canes and walkers also provide a range of assistance to widows, orphans and out-of-town brethren. Funding for these services comes from tax-deductible donations.

### Vancouver Funeral Lodge

Not a charity, the Funeral Lodge is part of the Vancouver Masonic Service Bureau and provides, if requested, funeral services for sojourning brethren. The Funeral Lodge also operates the *Evergreen Haven*, a masonic cemetery in Burnaby. ■

## Grotto

The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm was founded in 1889 at Hamilton, New York. Although membership is restricted to Master Masons, there is no other masonic connection.

Their principle charity is the aiding of the cerebral palsy child and dentistry for the handicapped. This is done under their *Humanitarian Foundation*.

This foundation, established in 1949, has two projects. First

they expend thousands of dollars annually through the *United Cerebral Palsy Research* foundation. In excess of one million dollars have been contributed. Funds are used exclusively for research.

In 1970 dentistry for the physically and mentally challenged suffering from cerebral palsy, myasthenia gravis and muscular dystrophy was included in this programme. ■

## Shriners

Approximately 500,000 shrine members in North America are dedicated to fun, fellowship, pageantry, and "the World's Greatest Philanthropy": the *Shriners Hospitals for Crippled and Burned Children*

Gizeh Temple was established in 1902, with forty-eight Shrine clubs operating in the province, each contributing to Gizeh Temple and also donating funds to local efforts. In 2003 these funds totaled \$1,000,000.

More than 650 children were transported to medical services in the past year.

There are six fully equipped buses in service, transporting these children and their families—free of charge—to the special hospitals.

The *Shriners Hospitals* is a twenty-two hospital paediatric healthcare system—nineteen orthopaedic hospitals and three burns hospitals—providing free medical care to children suffering from orthopaedic problems, including spinal cord injuries, and burn injuries.

The goals of the Shriners Hospitals are threefold:

1. Treatment: to save children's lives and restore their bodies to the highest possible level;
  2. Research: to conduct research into orthopaedic and burn care;
  3. Education: to train physicians and other medical professionals in the treatment of orthopaedic disabilities and burn injuries.
- To achieve these goals, the

*Shriners Hospitals* have a total budget of 600 million dollars with 96% of that budget used directly for patient care and research. Transportation of a sick child to a Shriners Hospital—or any local medical facility where a child requires treatment—is often paid for by local Shrine temples. For example, the Gizeh Temple, Vancouver, *Transportation Fund* spent over \$407,000 in 1995 and now spends \$800,000 providing needed transport for ailing children. Of the 2.3 million dollars in the *Gizeh Shrine Temple Burn Unit Fund*, one million dollars have been allocated for a gait laboratory to diagnose and treat difficulties in walking, and \$600,000 to create an outpatient orthopaedic clinic. ■

## Order of the Amaranth

Established in 1873 in New York, there are four courts operated with 122 members in the province.

They make an annual contribution of \$8,600 towards diabetes and neuropathy charities made up of funds raised from individual donations. ■

## Daughters of the Nile

Membership in the Daughters of the Nile is restricted to relations of freemasons and Daughters of the Nile. They support the various Shriners projects with volunteers and donations. ■

## Order of Eastern Star

Started in the mid 1800s, today there are one million Eastern Star members worldwide, with approximately 6,576 members in BC and Yukon. In the last three years they have contributed \$149,000 to cancer research.

### Cancer dressing

Some 2,378 members spent

<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca>

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more than fifty-five thousand hours in the last two years making over a half million dressings at fifty-five locations at a cost of \$88,000.

Funds are received from donations from their members and generated by work bees.

### ESTARL

The Eastern Star Award for Religious Leadership has contributed seventeen awards over the last three years for a total of \$28,300.

### Elizabeth Bentley Bursaries

Over the last three years, ninety-four awards have been given, totaling \$30,530.

A special fund has a three year total of \$78,647 with funds going to purchase cancer-treatment related equipment and other patient comforts.

### OES Auxiliary

The Order of Eastern Star has depôts in Vancouver, Victoria and Duncan to supply hospital equipment for the use of Eastern Star members and their families.

### Cancelled Stamps

Since 1954 the collection of cancelled stamps has raised almost \$310,000 for cancer research projects.

## Jobs Daughters

Ten girls and thirty-two adults from British Columbia traveled to Casper, Wyoming, for the Job's Daughters Supreme Session. This is an annual event that brings together Jobies from all over the United States, Canada, Australia, Philippines and Brazil.

Louise Windbiel from Surrey was installed as the Vice Supreme Guardian. This is the second highest position in the order. She will be installed as the Supreme Guardian next August in Fresno, California and we will host the Session at UBC in 2006. Miss BC Job's Daughter, Sarah McMurchie of Bethel 22, New Westminster,

competed in the Miss. International Pageant along with thirty-four other girls and was named second runner-up after a full day of written tests, interviews, ritual work and being judged on stage presence. This was the first time that anyone from BC has broken into the top five. British Columbia entered a Messenger ritual team and placed third.

There were many girls from all the jurisdictions represented in these competitions. The ritual coaches, Suzanne Stark of Surrey and Bev Sewell of Port Coquitlam along with the Grand Guardian, Peggy Dowling of Surrey and Associate Grand Guardian, Bill Allen of Port Alberni said that all the girls did BC proud.

## DeMolay

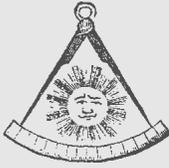
by RW Bro. Ernie MacDonald

While DeMolay is not a junior masonic organization and in no way guarantees entry into the Craft, it does teach principles and lessons which will prepare a young man to delve further into his course or path in life. Indeed many Senior DeMolay—those over twenty-one—do join Freemasonry and may even continue to assist their chapters as advisors or "Dads".

Although membership is down, we are rebuilding, and we have recently witnessed a first within Canada for DeMolay International.

The International DeMolay Congress is a senate-style body of youth leaders representing all DeMolay members and giving active DeMolay a chance to meet on an international level and to exchange ideas with the International Supreme Council. The Congress is composed of two delegates from eight jurisdiction, or regions, who are selected by the Executive Officer.

Each Region annually elects a Cöordinator at the Congress. A Regional Cöordinator is responsible for: facilitating



### GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

### NOVEMBER, 2004

4	Thu	International Night	LaFayette No. 241	Seattle
5	Fri	Consolidation Meeting	Sidney No. 143	Sidney
9	Tue	Grand Guardian Meeting	Job's Daughters No. 37	Surrey
19	Fri	Installation	Ymir No. 31	Salmo
19-20	Fri	Fall Ceremonial	Gizeh Shrine	Burnaby
27	Sat	Scottish Rite		Vancouver
27	Sat	Installation	Garfield No. 41	La Conner

communication among the jurisdictions of the Region and with the Congress Officers, attending and assisting in the presentation of the Regional Conference, working with the Congress officers in implementing International programs, promoting DeMolay within the Region, assisting the Congress Officers in implementing the Congress program, and serving as a Delegate to the DeMolay Congress.

At the recent 38th International Congress held on 16-19 June 2004 at Denver, Colorado, our own Bro. Matthew Douglas Ross PMC PPMC (British Columbia) was elected and installed as Region VIII Cöordinator. representing Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

This is the first time that we know of that a cöordinator has been elected who is from a jurisdiction outside the USA.

If you get a chance to visit a Chapter or know of a young man who would enjoy DeMolay or perhaps can even give a bit of time to assist as an advisor, you would find it personally rewarding and you would be contributing towards our future. Our Chapters are always in need of more people. There would also be a group of young men who would

appreciate your contribution.

For information concerning DeMolay please call the Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction, Dad Douglas Hargrove PGM (604-435-5757) or visit [www.demolay.org](http://www.demolay.org).

## Lodge notes

The Second Annual **Harmony Lodge No. 37** Picnic for Family and Friends took place at Christina Lake on 8 August, this past summer. All who attended enjoyed games, great food and superb company amid the beautiful setting at W Bro. Wes and Sister Lois Docksteader's retreat.

On 6 May **Perfection Lodge No. 75**, New Westminster celebrated their 38th Annual Canada Night with brethren, friends, and families. The guest of honour, Junior Grand Warden RW Bro. Isaac Brower Berkhoven, accompanied by his wife Dierdre, gave an inspiring talk. The Shrine Pipe and Drum Band played a number of Scottish pieces enjoyed by all.

Of particular note was the wonderful participation by the youth of our masonic family who performed the Job's Daughters' Robe lecture and DeMolay Flower Talk.