

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

SCOTTISH RITE™



AN ENDURING LEGACY

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"This is a place where history comes alive, where we learn from the past, and where the values of Masonry resonate."

WALTER F. WHEELER, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

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Scottish Rite Charities
2025 Impact Report

OUR VISION

We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.

LEADERSHIP

Walter F. Wheeler, 33°, SGC
Supreme Council, AASR, NMJ, USA

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Scottish Rite Charities Team



WALTER F. WHEELER, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander



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GARY LUKOVICH, 32°
Development Officer



MACLEAN RANKIN 32°
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SPENCER NORTH
Development Associate



The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library on April 13, 2025, before hundreds of attendees arrived to celebrate the Museum's 50th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony.



BRIDGET STEELE
SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF CHARITIES

This year marks a milestone for one of our Scottish Rite Charities: the 50th anniversary of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library.

Since its founding in 1975 as a Bicentennial gift, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library has grown into one of the foremost institutions preserving the story of Freemasonry and fraternalism in the fabric of American history. Its golden anniversary is a celebration of legacy, vision, and the enduring values of the Scottish Rite fraternity.

This anniversary is a single chapter in a much larger story of the legacy of our Scottish Rite Charities, where generations of supporters have built a tradition of service, generosity and transformation. From offering hope and healing through the Grand Almoner's Fund, to changing young lives at the Children's Dyslexia Centers, to opening doors of opportunity with the Abbott Scholarship Fund, to equipping Masons for lifelong growth through

the Membership Education Fund, each charity reflects the incredible impact of your giving.

Within these pages you will discover both statistics that measure reach and stories that capture hope. They reveal the legacy you are helping to write and the difference you make – children gaining confidence, families finding relief, students stepping into their future, Masons deepening their knowledge, and a proud heritage preserved for generations.

As we celebrate the Museum & Library's 50th year, we also celebrate you. Because of you, Scottish Rite Charities brings light where it is needed most. Your generosity changes lives. This report is your story as much as ours, and we hope you read it with pride.

On behalf of Scottish Rite Charities, and all those touched by your generosity, Thank You.

Bridget Steele

Our Impact in 2025

281 Educators
trained through
our accredited
instruction courses

1,221 Children
served through
our Children's
Dyslexia Centers

8,261 Season 6
Thursday
Night at the
Rite views

361 Abbott Scholarships
awarded to students
furthering their
education

106 Physical groups of
Items added to the
Van Gorden-Williams
Library & Archives

221 Objects added to the
Scottish Rite Masonic
Museum & Library
Collection

59 Brothers and their
families assisted
through the Grand
Almoner's Fund

4,434 Digital Items
added to the
Van Gorden-
Williams Library
& Archives

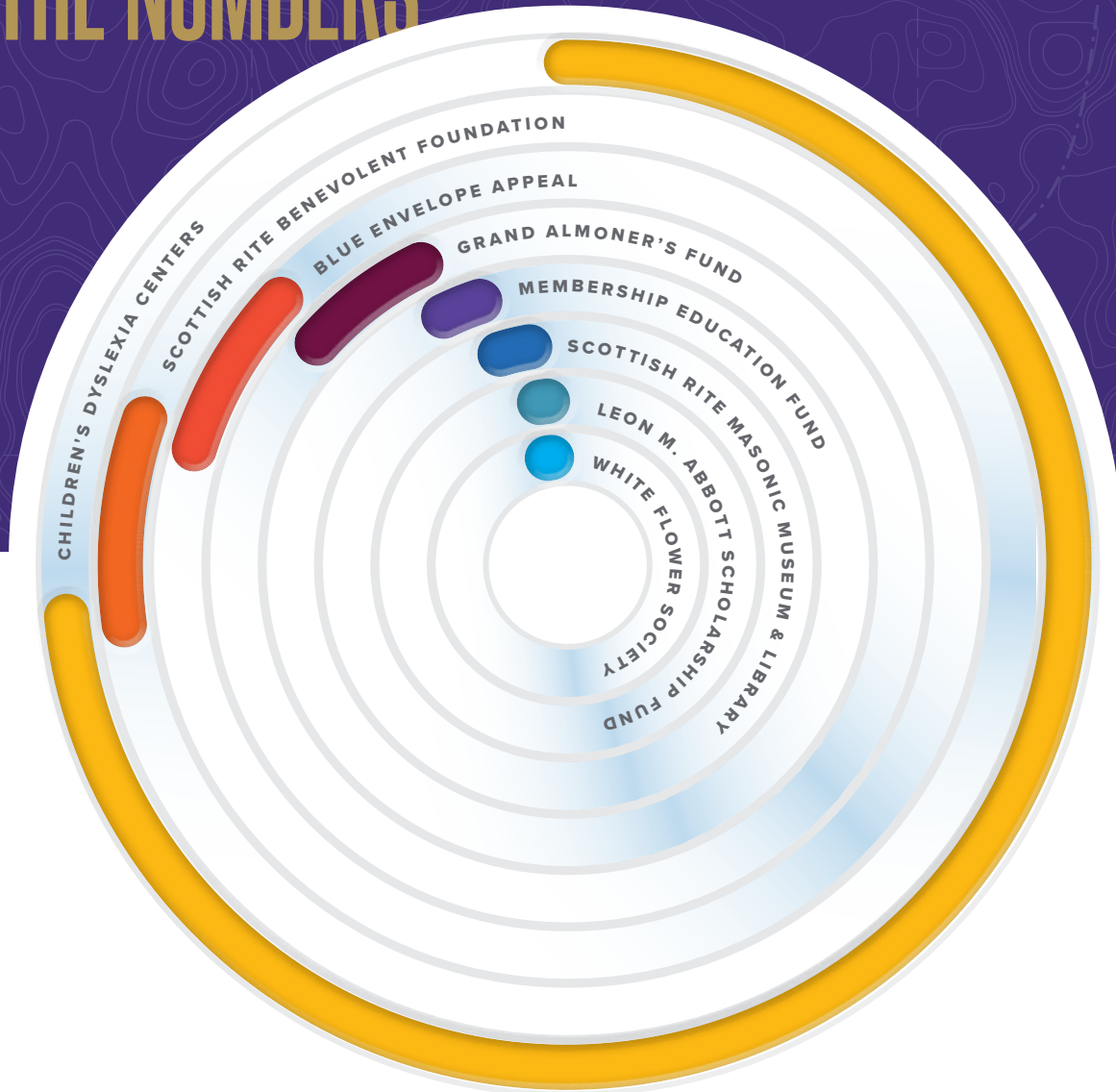
43 Hauts Grades
Academy graduates

97 Pathfinder program
completions

17,484 Individual
donors

SCOTTISH RITE CHARITIES

BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL RAISED IN 2025
\$7,587,031⁷⁸**\$5,565,275²⁸**CHILDREN'S DYSLEXIA
CENTERS**\$564,961¹¹**SCOTTISH RITE
BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION**\$538,987⁷⁷**

BLUE ENVELOPE APPEAL

\$473,884⁹¹

GRAND ALMONER'S FUND

\$167,282⁵⁸

MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION FUND

\$170,306⁵⁸SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC
MUSEUM & LIBRARY**\$58,688⁸⁰**LEON M. ABBOTT
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**\$46,644⁷⁵**

WHITE FLOWER SOCIETY

SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY

NEWBURY'S VISION

Responding to the divisive politics and social turmoil of the 1960s, Sovereign Grand Commander George A. Newbury dreamed of a new institution that would bring people together to help “build a better and more noble United States of America.” Motivated by his belief that Americans should celebrate the country’s traditions, ideals, and great leaders, Newbury suggested that the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction build an American history museum and library in Lexington, Massachusetts. The enthusiastic support of Scottish Rite Masons brought Newbury’s vision to life.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

The Museum of Our National Heritage opened on April 20, 1975, welcoming the public with exhibitions of Civil War drawings, American portraits, and decorative arts. Starting in April 2025, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library embarked on a year-long celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, with events, exhibitions, and special programs.

The exhibition “*Looking Back, Moving Forward: Fifty Years of Collecting*” is part of this celebration and explores how the museum and library’s collection has grown, changed, and helped tell the story of American history and of Freemasonry and fraternalism for over half a century.

BEGINNINGS

The brand-new museum, located next to the Scottish Rite’s headquarters in Lexington, had a small collection of only a few hundred items, primarily comprised of souvenirs, historic Masonic objects, and initial purchases when it opened. The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives held **5,000**



volumes as well as archives related to the history of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Soon, the story changed. Visitors and supporters, enthused about the new institution, made gifts of collections or family heirlooms to the museum. Staff also made purchases for the museum and library. By 1985 the museum collection included **5,700 objects**; in 1994 the collection approached **9,500 objects**. The library collection grew to over **40,000 volumes** by the mid-1990s.

A COMPELLING STORY

In the early 2000s, to more accurately document the diversity of fraternal history, curatorial staff began to seek out material related to organizations that were under-represented in the museum’s collection, such as African American fraternal groups, women’s fraternal groups, and youth groups.





In the mid-2000s, as the museum assessed its holdings, staff realized that the museum's collection—which had grown to **13,000 objects** by 2005—put the organization in a unique position. The museum had developed object, library, and archives collections that could convey a compelling story: how Freemasonry and fraternalism had intersected with American history from the nation's beginning to the present day.

THE COLLECTION TODAY

Over the last half century, the museum has collected, preserved, and cared for material related to American history, Freemasonry, and fraternalism. The museum's collection of objects has grown from a few hundred objects to **over 27,000**. Today the library and archives collections include **65,000 volumes and over 2,100 linear feet of archival material**. Together these items can help us better understand the past and the lives of those who have come before us—what they were proud of, what they accomplished, and how they saw themselves in the world.



AN ENDURING GIFT

Newbury brought his vision of an American history museum—what he called a “patriotic endeavor”—into reality with the help of thousands of Scottish Rite Masons throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Ongoing generous support from Scottish Rite Masons, along with that of museum members, special donors, and the public, has sustained the museum and its collection for its first fifty years. **Building on this strong foundation, we look forward to the decades ahead.**

PHOTO DETAILS

- A** A Plan of the Town and Harbour of Boston. . . , July 29, 1775, 1911. Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives
- B** Battle of Bunker's Hill, 1832. Special Acquisitions Fund, 78.74.9.
- C** Lexington 1775-1975. Museum Purchase, 2024.016. Photograph by Michael Cardinali.
- D** The Bloody Massacre, 1770. Museum Purchase in part through the Generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Manney, 96.007.
- E** Lexington Sesquicentennial Stamp, 1925. Museum Purchase, 2024.018.



A



B



C



D



PROTEST & PROMISE

The American Revolution in Lexington

Stacey Fraser, Assistant Curator at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, stands proudly at the entrance of the exhibition she helped bring to life.



On April 13, 2025, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library opened **“Protest & Promise: The American Revolution in Lexington”** to mark the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution.

The exhibition tells the story of events leading up to the battle on April 19, 1775, what happened on the day, and how this watershed moment in American history has been commemorated since then.

On April 19th a skirmish at dawn between colonists and British soldiers on Lexington’s town common was followed by a larger conflict in nearby Concord. Eventually, thousands of people fought a running battle which raged through several towns throughout the day. After years of tension between Great Britain and its North American colonies, the events of April 19th broke long-held bonds and ignited the American Revolutionary War.

In this unprecedented moment in 1775, ordinary people in Lexington made extraordinary choices. An entire community—women, men, Black, white, young, old, enslaved, and free—helped spark a revolution.

Today, 250 years later, Americans continue to remember April 19, 1775, as a moment when everyday people shaped history. “Protest & Promise: The American Revolution in Lexington” reminds visitors of the events of April 19th with images, objects from the museum’s collection, and an in-depth look at this history-making event and how it has been remembered.

- A** Attendees at the April 13th Museum & Library 50th Celebration & Exhibition Opening
- B** George Washington, 1847. Rembrandt Peale (1778-1860), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gift of John Bartholomew Webster, 75.6.
- C** Pitcher, 1832. Benjamin C. Frobisher (1792-1862), Boston, Massachusetts. Museum Purchase with the assistance of the Kane Lodge Foundation, 2007.013.
- D** This Past Master’s apron, given to the museum in 1997, was the first apron associated with a Prince Hall organization to enter the collection.



Commander Walter F. Wheeler, 33° shares his remarks to the attendees of the Museum & Library's 50th Anniversary Celebration

1975 • SRMML • 2025

CELEBRATE 50



The event began with a procession lead by the Middlesex County Volunteer Fifes & Drum and a flag ceremony by Boston Commandery No. 2.

At the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library's rededication and 50th anniversary celebration on April 13, 2025, Sovereign Grand Commander Walter F. Wheeler addressed the assembled friends, supporters, and representatives from the Masonic community. In his remarks, Commander Wheeler spoke about the museum, its history, and its hopes for the future, noting:

"This is more than just a building. It's a symbol of our shared history, our values, our commitment to making the world a better place. This institution was a gift to the nation and has become a treasure trove of American and Fraternal history. It is an enduring legacy of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. This is a place where history comes alive, where we learn from the past and where the values of Masonry resonate."

The museum is a result of the vision of past Sovereign Grand Commander George Newbury. He said, 'We sometimes speak of building for the future all too frequently. It carries a connotation of something that will start tomorrow. What is overlooked is the important fact that we are building the future every minute of every day of our lives in everything that we say and do.' Our work is far from over."

Walter F. Wheeler



Attendees at the April 13th Museum & Library 50th Celebration & Exhibition Opening

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library continues to build on its strong foundation and looks forward to the decades to come.



Join the 1975 Club & help shape the future of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

Your membership supports the Museum & Library's mission to inspire, preserve, and share Masonic history for generations to come. As we celebrate 50 years of impact, members of the 1975 Club play a key role in honoring that legacy and in building what comes next.

By joining the 1975 Club of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, you become an essential part of the enduring legacy celebrated during its 50th Anniversary. Members commit to a monthly donation of \$19.75 (totaling \$237 annually) and receive the exclusive benefits below.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



*A personalized engraved brick
on the Museum walkway*



*Annual Contributor-Level
Membership benefits**



*An exclusive welcome package
to proudly share your support*



*Free admission to 1,400+
museums through NARM***

*Membership benefits are activated upon your initial contribution and remains valid for one year. A continued annual renewal ensures access to these corresponding benefits.

**North American Reciprocal Museum (NARMAssociation.org)

LEARN MORE & BECOME A MEMBER BY VISITING SRMML.ORG/1975



PRESERVING *the* PAST, PAVING *the* FUTURE

MEMBERS OF THE 1975 CLUB

William Akridge	Terry W. Griffith, Jr.	Richard Powell
Jeffery Allen	George F. Hamilton	Jonathan J. Purdy
Hilary Anderson Stelling	John W. Hanson	Bruce A. Robinson
Robert O. Bach	Kevin J. Hecht	A. James Ross
Dallas James Baldwin	David J. Herbert	Paul Roup
Daniel C. Barston	Scott R. Hilsee	Gary Roy
Clifford Beckford	Gregory Jordan	Mason W. Russell
Matthew Blaisdell	Douglas N. Kaylor	Jason H. Sanderson
David Boring	Haralambos Kefalas	Robert H. Shank
G. Edward Brown	Austin Kinder	David Sharkis
Jeff Bryden	Steven R. King	Michael J. Simmons
Jonathan David Buck	Charles Knapp	Jason Singleton
Mark K. Button	Geoffrey Kromer	Matthew Sorrels
William Carter	Raphael LaPorte	Brian G. Spooner
J. Randolph Clark	Lawrence J. Leib	Paul C. St Pierre
Jason Daniel Crook	Brandon Lewis	Bridget Steele
Colin R. Cruttenden	Timothy A. Longfellow	Michael R. Steele
William Currier	Ian C. Mackenzie	Henry Stein
Ambrose S. Dawson, Sr.	Timothey Marshbanks	Edward Sullivan
James F. Easterling	Daniel McArdle	Ricky L. Swalm
Thomas E. Ewald	Mark E. Megee	Robert O. Thomas III
Eureka Foundation	John Mitchell	Walter F. Wheeler
James Fergola	Donald M. Moran	A. Harry Williams IV
Robert S. Frankel	Christopher S. Morgan	David J. Williamson
Corey M. Gee	Dennis Moriarty	Wilem S. Wong
Eduardo Genofre	Jason Oudit	John Zabel
Matthew S. Gerrish	Paul Perkins	Jason L. Zimmer
Nicholas Graff	Dennis W. Pothier	Donald E. Zipp III





For more than three decades, the Children's Dyslexia Centers have been changing the lives of students with dyslexia, one child at a time. Our 45 locations across 13 states have served more than 15,000 students and certified more than 4,500 instructors, expanding the reach of our program beyond the walls of our Centers.

Each of our Centers provides life-changing tutoring to students grades k-12 facing dyslexia at little or no cost to their families.

BY THE NUMBERS

Children Served		Tutors Trained			
1,221	CHILDREN ENROLLED IN FY 2025	219	43	5	14
297	STUDENTS GRADUATED TUTOR CERTIFICATIONS RECEIVED	AT P1 LEVEL	AT P2 LEVEL	AT THERAPIST LEVEL	
		9	1	4	AT MENTOR LEVEL
		INSTRUCTORS OF P1 LEVEL	INSTRUCTOR OF THERAPIST LEVEL	INSTRUCTORS OF P2 LEVEL	

A LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP:*J. Randolph “Randy” Clark, 33rd Named Executive Director of the Children’s Dyslexia Centers*

In an era where thoughtful leadership and compassionate service are more critical than ever, J. Randolph “Randy” Clark stands out as a leader who brings both to the forefront.

Clark steps into this role with more than 30 years of executive-level experience. Most recently, he served as Executive Secretary and COO of The Valley of Dayton. His leadership journey began early in life through the Order of DeMolay in Ohio, where he served as the statewide president. That early experience in mentoring and service shaped his lifelong commitment to creating pathways of opportunity for others.

His professional journey also includes over 20 years as a pastor, leading youth and community development efforts—experience that has shaped his values-driven leadership approach.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary. Faith, family, and service are the core values that define his life—both personally and professionally.

Randy’s arrival comes at a key time in the organization’s evolution. “I am honored to be part of a mission that is changing lives,” Clark said. “The opportunity to serve children, their families, and the professionals who guide them is both humbling and deeply meaningful.”

With Clark’s leadership, the Children’s Dyslexia Centers are poised for a new era of growth and impact. His ability to unite vision with execution, and empathy with structure, offers a powerful foundation for the organization’s continued success.

As he begins this next chapter, one thing is clear: the children, families, and educators served by the CDC are gaining not only an experienced leader—but one driven by purpose, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of learning.



Dana & Randy Clark, 33rd

“The opportunity to serve children, their families, and the professionals who guide them is both humbling and deeply meaningful.”



OPENING DOORS TO LITERACY

Inside Columbus, Ohio, Children's Dyslexia Center's Growing Impact

The story that follows comes from a recent working session with Blythe Wood (Director of the Center's training programs) and Tim Strawn, 33° (Chair of the Board of Governors). It is a story of practical solutions, measurable results, and an open invitation to help more children read with confidence.

TRAINING TEACHERS, MULTIPLYING REACH

Blythe began as an instructional coach who kept meeting bright students stalled by reading. Determined to help, she trained at the CDC and then collaborated with local leaders to remove barriers like transportation and cost for educators. The team built in-district training so schools can grow their own mentors and trainers. The result is a scalable model: one Center training teachers who then lift hundreds of students across multiple districts.

DYSLEXIA AFFECTS FAMILIES, NOT JUST STUDENTS

As Tim shared, **dyslexia often reshapes a whole household's routines and self-confidence.** Families write to tell us what it means when a child can finally sound out a word, finish a page, or volunteer to read aloud. We even send graduates off with gift cards to Half Price Books, a small nudge to make reading a habit, not a hurdle.



WHY A WAITING LIST & WHAT IT WILL TAKE

A waiting list of 60 students means help is not arriving fast enough. One-to-one, free tutoring is resource-intensive—in the best way. It is also exactly what many children need.

That is why we are working on:

More trained educators

inside school districts (the in-district model).

Focused fundraising to

expand tutoring capacity at the Columbus CDC location.

Practical community toolkits—checklists, local contact lists (schools, libraries, civic groups), and how-to guides—to help neighborhoods rally around literacy.

CULTURE IS STRATEGY

What sets the Columbus Center apart is not just method—it's mindset. Blythe leans into team strengths (including event planning and volunteer coordination), and the Center's supportive culture keeps tutors engaged and families hopeful. The Columbus center has become a practical example other centers can look to: do the basics well, build community, and keep refining what works.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate to expand tutoring capacity and reduce the waiting list.

Share the story—tell a parent, teacher, or neighbor who might need us.

Partner as a school, district, or community group to host in-district training.

Support supplies via the Center's wish list.

The bottom line: Train more teachers, reduce the wait, lift more families. If you or your company, foundation, or organization want to be part of that momentum, whether through funding, partnerships, or outreach—we would love to talk. The need is real. So is the difference we can make together.



COLUMBUS CDC AT A GLANCE

**OVER 500 TEACHERS
TRAINED**

**MORE THAN 5,000+
CHILDREN
INFLUENCED VIA
TRAINED EDUCATORS**

**38 CHILDREN
CURRENTLY
ENROLLED**

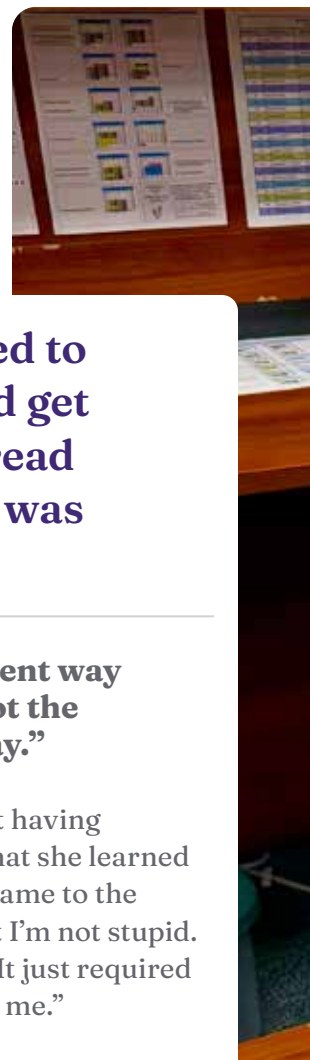
**60 CHILDREN
ON THE
WAITING LIST**

**15 GRADUATES
PER YEAR (AVG)**

**OUR APPROACH
FREE, ONE-TO-ONE
TUTORING PLUS IN-
DISTRICT TEACHER
TRAINING**

CHILDREN'S DYSLEXIA CENTERS

RETURNING TO HELP



Caroline Heitz struggled in middle school. “I’d be called to read aloud, and I’d be nervous to mix up a word and I’d get made fun of.” Her teachers told her that she couldn’t read or write the way other kids were taught, and Caroline was nervous about how her classmates would treat her.

At school, her teachers could not spend enough one-on-one time to give her the unique instruction she needed, so she would have to spend time in special lessons. “I’d get pulled out of class, which was embarrassing for me. Everyone would ask, ‘Why did you get pulled out of class?’ I’d have to say, ‘Well, I’m not good enough, so I have to get extra help on certain things.’” Caroline believed that her struggles with learning to read in a typical classroom meant that her classmates were smarter than her.

The truth is that Caroline just needed to learn in a different way from her peers. Caroline’s parents had her tested for dyslexia, and then they found the Cincinnati Dyslexia Center. There, tutors gave her specialized training with teaching methods proven to help with dyslexia. Caroline learned how to break words down to smaller components, what those stems meant, and how to sound them out. One of the first things her tutor told her was,

“You have a different way of learning. It’s not the wrong or right way.”

Caroline realized that having dyslexia just meant that she learned differently. “When I came to the Center, I realized that I’m not stupid. I can read and write. It just required more background for me.”

With the help from her tutors at the Cincinnati Center, Caroline worked hard to learn how to read and write. This hard work paid off: after she graduated from the Center’s program in eighth grade, she went on to succeed in high school. She loved English and writing classes, and reading came easier to her. More importantly, her confidence improved. “Going into high school, my parents’ concern was, ‘Is she going to be okay?’ I firmly believe that the Dyslexia Center made me okay to go to high school.”

“I firmly believe that the Dyslexia Center made me okay to go to high school.”

**THE
TRUTH
IS THAT
CAROLINE
JUST NEEDED
TO LEARN IN
A DIFFERENT WAY
FROM HER PEERS.**



Caroline graduated high school and started college. Originally, she wanted to be a teacher, but she realized that her skill set lay in a different place. She took a gap semester off from classes and came home, and that's where she found the Cincinnati Center again. Caroline's little brother also has dyslexia. Their father brought him in for his lesson one day, and Cathie Arnold, the Center Director, mentioned that she needed an administrative assistant. Their father came home and told Caroline about the position. Her little brother said, "Do it! It would be so fun. You'll be going back!"

Caroline applied for the job and now works at the Cincinnati Center, and now she can see tutoring from a whole new perspective. Caroline has been able to help

children and their families to see how impactful the Centers are.

At one point, a mom called in to the Center asking about help for her son. Her son had just been diagnosed with dyslexia, and suddenly it made sense why he was struggling in school. The mom was interested in how the Dyslexia Center could help her son, but she was nervous that the tutoring

would not be effective for him. Because Caroline had been in her son's shoes, she was able to talk to the mother. "I told her my parents were in her exact same shoes because I was struggling ten years ago, and when I went through

the program, my confidence and my writing skills and my word comprehension grew." After that, the mom told her to send over the application.

"I told her my parents were in her exact same shoes because I was struggling ten years ago, and when I went through the program, my confidence and my writing skills and my word comprehension grew."

Cathie emphasizes how helpful it's been to have Caroline, as a former student, work at the Center.

"Caroline has been great about educating the children that it has nothing to do with your intelligence. As soon as letters come into the picture, kids think they're not smart, and that's not the case." As children learn to read, their confidence grows. "I can't tell you how many parents have said, 'Thank you for giving me back my child. I haven't seen this side of them since they were 2 or 3 years old.'"

Caroline also gets to see her brother go through the Cincinnati Center. Before he started, she felt for him. "Reading was like pulling teeth. Trying to get him to read or write sentences was a struggle." Since her brother has gone through the Center, his confidence has grown. "He's reading now, he's writing, he's doing things by himself." Her brother even had the confidence to audition for a lead role in his school play, and he got the part! "Seeing him step into that role and keep up with school at the same time, and to be here at the Center, it's just crazy. I would've never expected him in a million years to be up on that stage."

While Caroline is working at the Center, she is also back in college studying to be an echocardiographer. Cathie has the opportunity to see a student she helped a decade ago flourish as a young adult. "She's unlocked her true potential, and shows it every day. It's so much fun having an alumna back. It's such a feel-good story to know that every single child who walks through this door will leave better than when they first walked in. Where else can you say that?"

To every donor who has improved Caroline's life by helping her, she has one thing to say: "A huge 'thank you.' I honestly don't think I would be who I am today if it wasn't for the Center. Where my confidence is, where I'm at academically, even working here now. It's a huge honor to have gone through this program and to come back and see more students succeed and grow, even seeing my own brother go through it. It's amazing."



"Seeing him step into that role and keep up with school at the same time, and to be here at the Center, it's just crazy. I would've never expected him in a million years to be up on that stage."



GRAND ALMONER'S FUND

Our Mission *in Action*

The Grand Almoner's Fund provides critical support to Masons and their families in times of need. This year, the Fund continued its legacy of compassionate aid, ensuring relief reached those who needed it most.

Thanks to your incredible support of the Grand Almoner's Fund, here are a few of the unexpected hardships the Grand Almoner's Fund helped Brothers and their families cope with over the past year:

BURIAL COSTS

HURRICANE RELIEF

AMBULANCE COSTS

ROOF REPLACEMENT

**TEMPORARY
HOUSING**

**RENT FOR A
SINGLE FATHER**

**CANCER
TREATMENT**

**HANDICAP HOME
MODIFICATIONS**

AND MANY MORE

Supporting Our Mission

IN DONATIONS IN 2025

\$520,529⁶⁶

RELIEF EFFORTS IN 2025

\$367,409⁸⁷

- Grand Almoner's Fund: **\$473,884.91**
- White Flower Society: **\$46,644.75**



No Stranger to Charity

Illustrious Brother

David Smeltz is no stranger to charity. Together with Donnis, his wife of 67 years, they have supported different projects at their church. In all of the care packages they put together for people in need, they always added a card with their phone number. David and Donnis never did this for the recognition. Instead, they hoped to stay in contact with the people they helped. “When nobody reached out to us, it made us wonder if people actually benefit from what we’re doing,” David said. “I don’t do things for recognition. I like to help people and then move on to the next problem.”

**“I DON’T DO
THINGS FOR
RECOGNITION.
I LIKE TO HELP
PEOPLE AND THEN
MOVE ON TO THE
NEXT PROBLEM.”**

David is no stranger to Freemasonry either. When he was a young man, he often visited a clothing store and got to know the owner. One day, when they were talking, David mentioned that he was interested in Freemasonry. He didn’t know it, but the owner was a Mason. The owner said, “I’ll take care of that,” and got David his petition. The rest, as David says, is history.

Illustrious Brother Smeltz has also

devoted over 60 years of his life to Freemasonry, from his time as Worshipful Master to his time as High Priest to his days as Grand Commander of Pennsylvania. Masonry has helped him grow tremendously as an individual. “Thanks to my time as Grand Commander, I can travel anywhere in Pennsylvania, and there’s nowhere that I go that I don’t know somebody.” David most appreciates his connections with his fellow Masons.

“
**There's more
 good done quietly
 than this world
 will ever know
 about.**
 ”

A few years ago, David started having some concerning symptoms. After an MRI, then a radiologist visit, then a biopsy, David was diagnosed with cancerous lesions on his liver. His doctor said that the lesions would never go away, but that with treatment David would be able to have more time with his family.

David's treatment plan included radiation therapy and a monthly injection to slow the lesions' growth. The shots David still needed to receive monthly were expensive, and insurance did not cover all of them. The monthly out-of-pocket payment was more than David and Donniss could afford.

This is where the Masons stepped in. David spoke with his Brothers about his issues with insurance. Somewhere along the way, his story was shared with others, and David was paid a visit by Illustrious Brother Tom Labagh to check up on his Brother. Tom, along with his support, brought with him financial assistance from the Grand Almoner's Fund that helped to cover the shots David needed every month. This help gave David and Donniss the security they needed to focus on David's fight against cancer.

“The Grand Almoner's Fund relieves your mental load. You know that someone has your back,” David said.

TODAY

David has undergone four treatments of radiation therapy and over a year's worth of monthly shots. After a year of treatment, David received positive news: the lesions have shrunk, and he no longer needs radiation!

David has nothing but good things to say about the help that fellow Masons can provide. “Masonry is there to help those who need help. If you let people know, there is help with little red tape. It gives you your confidence back. There's added security. Thanks to the Almoner's Fund, I can start to breathe a little easier. It takes the pressure off.”

To those who donate to the Grand Almoner's Fund, David has this to say: “We all donate to Masonry. It's good to see the outcome. So often, we give and don't see results. When you are the beneficiary, when you receive this aid, you know how that attitude changes. That money does some good. Everyone in my community knows that they've helped me, and nobody begrudges anybody of it. With the Grand Almoner's Fund, you see how people are helped.”



MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION FUND

Donor Support Brings New Membership Program to Life



The Membership Education Fund fosters Masonic education among our members and assists them along their path of enlightenment. Experiences like Thursday Night at the Rite, the Hauts Grades Academy, and the Pathfinder Program are made possible because of your support of the Membership Education Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, the Membership Education Fund reached an exciting milestone this year with the launch of a new initiative: The Rite Guide.

During its pilot phase, our Member Services Team refined the training curriculum and partnered with Valleys across the jurisdiction to adapt the program to their unique structures. By customizing the training, we ensured that The Rite

Guide could be implemented in a way that serves brothers most effectively at the local level.

Since its official launch in late spring, the program has gained remarkable momentum. Already,

SCOTTISH RITE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

more than 100 Rite Guides have been trained across five states, with additional sessions—offered both virtually and in-person—planned for the months ahead. This dual format ensures every Valley has access, regardless of location or size.

“THE RITE GUIDE IS NOT A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL PROGRAM—IT’S A STRATEGY,” explains Ill. Ebby Brewer, Active for Ohio and Chairman of the Membership Services Committee. “Our goal is to connect experienced members with new brothers right from the beginning, helping them feel welcomed, engaged, and inspired to get involved in the Scottish Rite.”

At the heart of The Rite Guide is a simple but powerful promise: Every new or returning member will feel Welcomed, Educated, and Encouraged as they begin their Scottish Rite NMJ journey. This promise is only possible because of you—our members and donors—who continue to invest in programs that strengthen the bond of brotherhood and enrich the member experience.

This year, the Scottish Rite Ambassador Program has grown stronger than ever—thanks to your support. More than 200 new Ambassadors were trained, bringing the total to nearly 700 across the jurisdiction. These dedicated Brothers are the face of the Scottish Rite in their local Masonic Lodges, sharing what the Member Experience has to offer and inspiring others to join in the journey.

But Ambassadors do more than spread the word—they bring the heartbeat of the community back to their Valleys. From lodge events to family gatherings, community service projects to personal member updates, Ambassadors ensure that connections remain strong and no Brother is left behind.

None of this would be possible without the Membership Education Fund. Your gifts provide the training and development that empower Ambassadors to be effective leaders, communicators, and bridge-builders in their communities. Because of you, our network of Ambassadors continues to grow—and with it, the strength of our Brotherhood.





Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Program



Abbott Scholarships are awarded to deserving students who meet any of the following criteria:

Since its founding in 1922, the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Fund has delivered millions of dollars in scholarships to Masons and their family members pursuing secondary education.



A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in good standing



A student related by blood or by legal means to a current or deceased Scottish Rite member of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction



A member of a Masonic-sponsored youth group located within the fifteen states of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction



\$425k+
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
DISTRIBUTED IN 2025



361
STUDENTS WHO EARNED
SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2025



220
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
REPRESENTED IN 2025

LEON M. ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIP

Making His Grandfathers Proud

Learn more about the Abbott Scholarships by visiting [SCOTTISHRITENMJJ.ORG/CHARITIES/ABBOTT](https://scottishritenmjj.org/charities/abbott)



When Andrew Plank was young, he spent his days outside with his maternal grandfather. “I vividly remember watching him build with his hands, fix things without needing outside help, and transform raw materials into something extraordinary,” he said. What started as passing the time with his grandfather became a lifelong passion. “By the age of six, I knew I wanted to work in the construction field.”

Andrew is in his sophomore year at SUNY Delhi and is majoring in Construction Management. This area of study fits well with Andrew’s interests: he thrives in hands-on learning environments, loves seeing how a project grows over time, and construction has been an interest of his since his childhood, second only to hockey. Andrew’s father, a union electrician, also influenced this passion of his.



Andrew with his grandfather, Brother William Plank.

Andrew first heard about the Abbott Scholarship through his paternal grandfather, William Plank, 32°, who has been a Freemason for 58 years. “Ultimately,” Andrew wants to eventually own his own business and continue the legacy of his family members.

“I want to make both of my grandfathers proud by contributing to the construction field with dedication and skill.”

Andrew called the Abbott Scholarship “A tremendous blessing” for his college plans, and he wanted to thank supporters of the program for their contributions. “You have a profound impact and make a significant difference on all those who receive your support.”

Along with the scholarship, he has been working as a busboy at a restaurant during the week and as a caddy on the weekends. The scholarship lightened some of the financial pressure from his tuition costs, which has allowed Andrew to prepare better for college with confidence.

The Blue Envelope Appeal



The Blue Envelope Appeal is the oldest Jurisdiction-wide fundraising appeal in the Scottish Rite, NMJ. This year marks 70 years of Brothers upholding the fraternity's charitable efforts. Donations to the Blue Envelope Appeal directly support the Grand Almoner's Fund, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Fund, and the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library.

THE BLUE ENVELOPE BY THE NUMBERS



\$520k+
TOTAL DONATIONS ACROSS
THE NMJ IN 2025



7,353
INDIVIDUAL
DONATIONS IN 2025



9.27%
PERCENT OF TOTAL
MEMBERSHIP DONATED
IN 2025



MOST DOLLARS DONATED BY A VALLEY

1st

**Valley of Harrisburg
Pennsylvania**

2nd

**Valley of Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania**

3rd

**Valley of Boston
Massachusetts**

HIGHEST NUMBER OF MEMBER DONATIONS

1st

**Valley of Harrisburg
Pennsylvania**

2nd

**Valley of Columbus
Ohio**

3rd

**Valley of Indianapolis
Indiana**

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF MEMBER DONATIONS

1st

**Valley of Norwood
New York**

2nd

**Valley of George Rogers Clark
Indiana**

3rd

**Valley of Concord
New Hampshire**



Members also help their local Valleys receive Valley of Excellence credit by supporting the Blue Envelope Appeal. Many thanks to all Valleys who participated in our friendly competition. Congratulations to our winning Valleys!

A NIGHT of CHARITY

Giving Tuesday 2025: A Night of Charity That Made History

On December 2, history was both remembered and made as donors, members, and supporters from across the jurisdiction gathered for the 8th Annual Giving Tuesday Telethon and A Night of Charity.

Framed by the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the 50th Anniversary of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, the evening honored our shared past while advancing our mission for the future.

The program opened with a special presentation by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts featuring the Knox Cannon, a symbol of determination and unity (a replica of which will have a permanent home in Lexington). Guests then gathered in Travis Hall to enjoy fellowship and refreshment before the live broadcast began.

Throughout the evening, the generosity of our members, Valleys, and supporters shone brightly as contributions steadily climbed. Attendees and viewers heard powerful testimonials and learned of new fundraising initiatives.



The Knox Cannon prepared for display at the Museum & Library at A Night of Charity



The team behind A Night of Charity coming together to announce the final amount raised.

This year's Giving Tuesday included exciting match challenges that amplified donor impact. D. Richard Heldman, 33rd, Deputy for Ohio, and his wife Susan offered a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10,000 donated to any charity, with their match supporting Ohio's Children's Dyslexia Centers. Ohio donors exceeded this goal, contributing more than \$16,000. Additionally, the Benevolent Foundation offered a \$5,000 match to the CDC with the highest donor participation. Our Central New York Center earned this distinction.

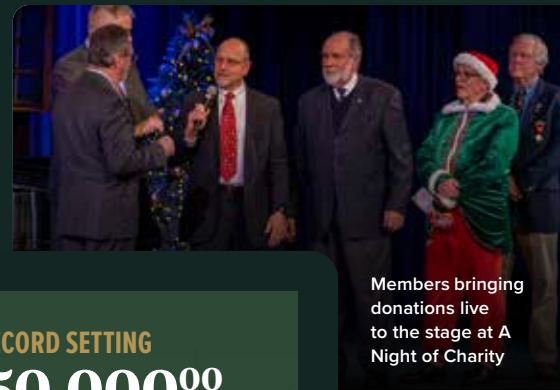
Valleys, individual members, and Masonic organizations made generous in-person check presentations, while phone-in and online gifts continued throughout the evening. By night's end, we proudly announced a record-breaking total: more than \$1,050,000 raised—our highest Giving Tuesday result to date!



The team behind the Museum & Library's Revolutionary Run sharing details.



An Abbott Scholarship Recipient shares her experience.

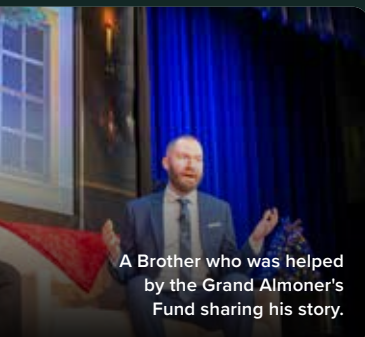


Members bringing donations live to the stage at A Night of Charity

A RECORD SETTING
\$1,050,000⁰⁰
WAS RAISED IN 2025



Live check presentations reflecting collective impact.



A Brother who was helped by the Grand Almoner's Fund sharing his story.



Historic re-enactors honoring the Knox Cannon presentation.



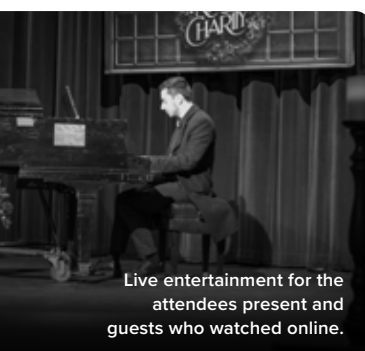
Holiday carolers set the tone for the evening.



Sharing stories of impact of the Museum & Library during the telethon.



Commander Wheeler, 33°, Doug Policastro, 33°, and Larry Leib, 33° share in remarks at the A Night of Charity Reception.



Live entertainment for the attendees present and guests who watched online.



A child and her mom supported by the Children's Dyslexia Centers shares their story.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, participated, donated, or helped make A Night of Charity a tremendous success. This milestone was only possible because of the commitment, compassion, and unity of our Scottish Rite family.

With such an extraordinary year behind us, only one question remains:

"What will we accomplish together next year?"

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Cornerstone Member Spotlight

My wife Tammy and I met when she was in Rainbow, and I was in DeMolay. We've been steadfast companions ever since. I've been a Scottish Rite Mason for 36 years. Throughout this journey, we both have come to learn and appreciate the positive impact that Scottish Rite Charities have on distressed worthy brothers and their families. These tender acts of kindness have touched us deeply.

Tammy and I have been blessed to have enjoyed successful careers, resulting in a modest endowment. We've reached that time in our lives when we must consider the best way to help others even after we've passed on. So, after an evening sitting around the kitchen table, thinking about our legacy, we decided to commit a portion of our endowment

to Scottish Rite Charities. With our vision clearly set, we met with our financial advisor and formalized this commitment.

The moral teachings of Freemasonry and Scottish Rite have stood the test of time. We firmly believe these fraternal organizations will exist until time shall be no more. There will always be personal strife and a need for assistance. Through our financial gift, Tammy and I aim to contribute to the many good works that Scottish Rite charities achieve in making this world a better place, always and forever.

Please consider adding Scottish Rite Charities to your Planned Giving portfolio.

TAMMY & KENNETH CLAY, 33°
DEPUTY FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE





GEORGE A. NEWBURY
CORNERSTONE
Society
 ESTD 2020

Named for one of our Fraternity's greatest builders, the George A. Newbury Cornerstone Society was created to acknowledge Brothers and supporters who have made a lasting investment in our Scottish Rite Charities through planned giving, ensuring the strength and sustainability of our Charities for generations to come.

THERE IS NO DOLLAR OR AGE REQUIREMENT TO JOIN THE CORNERSTONE SOCIETY. MEMBERSHIP IS ACHIEVED BY MAKING A PLANNED GIFT COMMITMENT, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

BEQUEST

A provision in a will or living trust that can designate a specific dollar amount, percentage, residual, or remainder of an estate or IRA distribution.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY:

A contribution funded with cash or securities that provides lifetime income to the donor while supporting the Scottish Rite Charities.

NAMED BENEFICIARY

Designating a Scottish Rite Charity or the Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement account, or IRA distribution.

Many of our Brothers & Community members have generously included Scottish Rite Charities in their estate plans.



LEARN MORE BY VISITING
SCOTTISHRITENMJ.ORG/CHARITIES/CORNERSTONE-SOCIETY

First Time Donors

BY THE NUMBERS

1,425

TOTAL
FIRST-TIME
DONORS

1,265

FIRST-TIME
INDIVIDUAL
DONORS

160

FIRST-TIME
ORGANIZATION
DONORS

Every year, new donors choose to step forward—not out of obligation, but out of conviction. Their first gift is often sparked by a moment of insight, a personal experience, or a simple desire to make someone's world better. Behind every contribution lies a personal narrative — the reason they chose to give.

The phrase “The greatest of these is love” comes from 1 Corinthians, emphasizing that while faith, hope, and love are important, love (or charity) is the most significant.

When we were asked, “What made you donate to the Blue Envelope Appeal?” The first thing that came to mind were the tenets of our Fraternity: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. This is naturally the first thought that comes to mind, as it is a noticeable part of most degrees and lectures within our Fraternity.

Thinking deeper into this question, we realized that both of us get mail regularly asking for donations for various causes. Recognizing that we could only give to a select number of requests, we settled on our church as the predominant choice for giving. When we first saw the Blue Envelope appeal, we did not answer as the church was still our preference for giving. As my participation increased within the

Craft, I was more able to see how the proceeds from the appeal directly helped Masons and others in different ways, from the Grand Almoner's Fund to helping children with dyslexia, providing academic relief through the Abbott Scholarship to supporting the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library. Realizing the importance of what the appeal means is how we came to answering the envelope when it comes. We are all naturally inclined to help one another.

Charity is not a Masonic invention, rather as individuals we are wired to help, aid, and assist that which improves the lives of others. We all try to do our best to embody the values passed down to us by those who came before us and embrace the tenets of our institution which brings us right back to the first answer to the above question.

MARY ANN & JAMES TYACK, 32°,
VALLEY OF OF BOSTON



Builders Council

The ability to read is the foundation of each child's future. It provides the base upon which all learning depends. Builders Council members have made a commitment to ensure that our Children's Dyslexia Centers will be able to help children with dyslexia today and for years to come.

Joining the Builders Council is achieved through a commitment of \$10,000 to any of our Children's Dyslexia Centers.



The last 4 years for me have been an amazing whirlwind. That was the start of my journey in Freemasonry.

Shortly after becoming a Master Mason, I joined the Scottish Rite and found my home. It felt like the Scottish Rite was where dedicated Master Masons go to fully show their appreciation for Masonry and give back to the Craft. It has certainly been one of the best decisions I've made in Masonry. Since then, I have found ways to give back to Masonry, but something was still missing.

I've always felt the need to contribute more to the community but was directionless when finding ways to do so. I wanted to utilize the resources

in Masonry to the best of my ability and began searching for ways to get more involved. I remember seeing different colored ties at Scottish Rite meetings and inquired on their meaning. Finding the Children's Dyslexia Centers and the Builders Council was the next best step for me in my Masonic journey. I've had the pleasure of touring our local Dyslexia Center and was proud of the work being done and the efforts of the people who work there. This donation is a small contribution toward making



a positive impact in a child's life. My hope is to become more involved in the future with the Dyslexia Centers and contribute in other ways.

I was fortunate to receive my green tie the same night as my first installation as a Scottish Rite Mason. Both circumstances were deeply impactful for me, but I know the tie will have a special place in my Masonic journey because of what it means for helping others.

**CHRISTOPHER L. MENCKE, 32°, HGA
VALLEY OF OF CLEVELAND**

White Flower Society

The White Flower Society is dedicated exclusively to providing support to Masonic widows in need. Membership in the White Flower Society reflects a \$5,000 level of giving, either as a one-time gift or a pledge over five years. As a token of our appreciation, members of the White Flower Society receive a special white flower brooch and lapel pin.

WHITE FLOWER SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anonymous	Ginnie & Raymond Foose	Charles R. & Frances H. Lefever	Carol C. Stahl
Mary Ann Atkinson	Mark David Gall	Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey	Bridget & Evan Steele in honor of MaryAnn Bichajian
Evelyn M. Berenbroick	Matt & Kate Gerrish	Judy McNaughton	Karen Stein
Irene Berman	Monica Glattly	Karl J. Mock in memory of Ann Mock	Stephenson Family Foundation
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Elbridge & Mareetta Brewer	Marla M. Graff	Craig & Anne Mollon	Howard & Carol Struble
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Thomas Ewald & Family	Thomas & Ginny Labagh		
Dr. Robert Ewbank & Sue Ewbank	Ladies of the Valley of Philadelphia		

The Commander's Circle

The Commander's Circle is a special group of donors who have chosen to honor their commitment to the principles of our Fraternity through their generous support of the Grand Almoner's Fund. Their passion and their giving are a true and lasting expression of "Masons Caring for Masons."

COMMANDER'S CIRCLE: DIAMOND

\$100,000+


James M. Alter Trust

Edward Parkinson
Clark Trust

Louis S. Ehrich Trust

Fort Wayne Scottish Rite
Benevolent FundHilmar Gulseth
Revocable Living Trust

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New Hampshire Consistory

SEI Investments Company

Illustrious Peter J.
Samiec Sovereign Grand
Commander

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\$50,000+


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COMMANDER'S CIRCLE: SAPPHIRE

\$25,000+
Boston Lafayette
Lodge of Perfection

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Princes of Jerusalem

Nicholas & Marla Graff

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Jeff & Darla Kitsmiller

Charles R. Lefever

J. Brian McNaughton

George Nakonetschny

Howard & Ann Orr

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Scottish Rite Bodies
Valley of Hartford

Jim Sheets

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Richard J. Stewart

Valley of Philadelphia

Walter & Vickie Wheeler

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\$10,000+



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COMMANDER'S CIRCLE: SILVER

\$5,000+



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Steven B. Carr			

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\$5,000+

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Michael P. & Deborah
A. GoyneDonald I. Green in honor
of George & Helen Green &
Joseph & Jean Lenhart

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North Jersey Past
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South Bend Lodge of
Perfection AASR

Edward & Diana Stumm

John K. Takian

The McCormick Family
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The Order of the Thistle

Valley of Allentown

Valley of Moline

Valley of Pittsfield A.A.S.R.

Valley of Portsmouth/Dover

The Western Reserve Chapter
of the Philalethes Society

Deon P. White

Stephen R. & Ann Whittaker

Charles Carter Wicks

Alton Paul Williams

John L. Winkelman

Bertram J. Woodside

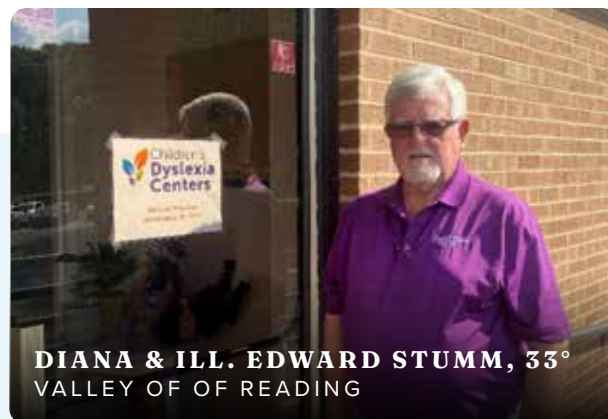
COMMANDER'S CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

Why I Give

The reason I support our Masonic charities, especially those serving children and families, is deeply personal.

My sister, brother, and I spent six years at the Masonic Children's Home in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania after my father passed away. During the time we were there, we experienced firsthand the compassion and care that the Masonic Fraternity provide. I learned at a young age that complete strangers cared enough to give us stability, opportunity, and hope.

Later, in 1993, my mother entered the Masonic Village retirement home in Elizabethtown at the age of 89, where she was lovingly cared for until



her passing at age 90. From childhood through adulthood, my family was profoundly touched by the generosity of the Masonic Fraternity. There is no way I could ever repay what Masons I never met have given to my family. I served 10 years on the Board of Governors for the Children's Dyslexia Center in Reading, PA and chaired it for 5 years. By continuing to support the Children's Dyslexia Centers, the Grand Almoner's Fund and the Masonic Children's Home, I can give back in gratitude. My gifts are a way of saying "thank you" and ensuring that future families in need will know the same kindness that lifted mine.

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Special thanks to our donors and the individuals they honored this year. Honorees being recognized are listed first, followed by the donors.

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