



Information for Freemasons and their families

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	5
Masonic Charitable Foundation	8
Support for Freemasons and their families	12
Advice, counselling and other support	16
Grants to charities	19
Supporting the Masonic Charitable Foundation	22
RMBI Care Company	26
Mark Benevolent Fund	31
Other Masonic charities	32
Contact information	33

INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides a brief summary of the work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the central charity for Craft Freemasonry.

The Foundation builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for Freemasons, their families and the wider community.

The Foundation offers vital assistance to Freemasons, their wives, partners, widows, children, stepchildren and grandchildren.

Every Freemason, regardless of rank or office, is encouraged to read this booklet so that he is aware of the support that is available from the Foundation.


The original version of this booklet was produced following the Board of General Purposes' report, adopted by Grand Lodge on 14 December 1983, which stated:

“The Board feels that every member of the Craft should possess a copy of this booklet. It recommends that each newly made Mason, and every Brother who joins from another Constitution, should be given a copy of the booklet with the Book of Constitutions, and that a copy should be presented to each newly installed Master.”

This version replaces the 2014 edition (“The central Masonic Charities”). A copy is issued with each Book of Constitutions supplied by the United Grand Lodge of England. Further copies can be obtained from:

Letchworth’s Shop


Freemasons’ Hall
60 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5AZ

 **020 7395 9329**

Comments on the booklet and suggestions on how it could be improved are welcome. Please send them to:

Masonic Charitable Foundation

60 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5AZ

 **020 3146 3333**

 **communications@mcf.org.uk**

The Foundation relies upon the continuing support of Freemasons to identify those in need and to provide the generous donations that fund its work. All Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England pay an Annual Contribution to the Foundation through their Lodges. Other funding is raised through Festivals held by Provinces each year and other gifts, donations and legacies.

The booklet does not aim to provide all the answers on what the Masonic Charitable Foundation does. It simply seeks to give information about the wide variety of support that may be available and to offer advice on making an application.

Further details about making an application to the Foundation are available from your Lodge Almoner, Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Almoner.

This booklet also includes information about the Mark Benevolent Fund and other Masonic charities that may be able to assist you.

MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

For Freemasons, for families, for everyone

The Masonic Charitable Foundation builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for Freemasons, their wives, partners, widows, children, stepchildren and grandchildren who have a financial, healthcare or family need.

Governance

The Masonic Charitable Foundation is governed by a board of Trustees led by a President appointed by the Grand Master and an elected Chairman. There are also two members appointed by each Province. The charity is administered by a Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and staff team.

Most of the support provided by the Foundation takes the form of financial grants to assist with daily living costs but grants can also be provided for specific items or services.

A range of health and care needs, including medical and dental treatments, counselling and mobility aids or home adaptations are supported, with funding also available for respite, residential, nursing and dementia care.

Grants can be provided to support the education of children and young people, including scholarships, travel grants and student accommodation fees. The Foundation can also support exceptional talent in sport, music or the performing arts.

The professional Advice & Support Team offers confidential and practical guidance about the support available from the Foundation and many other organisations. The Team works with Freemasons and their families in the local community through home visits.

In addition to the support provided to Freemasons and their families, the Foundation awards millions of pounds each year to local and national charities that help vulnerable adults, advance medical research and provide opportunities for young people.

The Foundation also helps to fund vital services such as hospices and air ambulances and regularly contributes to appeals for disaster relief worldwide.

The Foundation helps to improve the lives of thousands of people every year in England, Wales and overseas. Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families, the Foundation is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country.

Origins

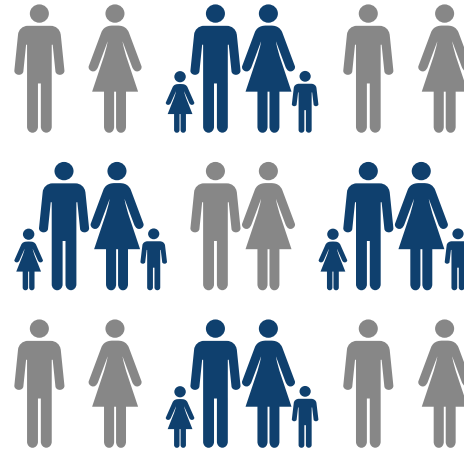
The Masonic Charitable Foundation brings together the work of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Masonic Samaritan Fund. Masonic charity has existed since the 18th century, providing specific types of support to Freemasons and their families.

The predecessor charities continue to exist as funds within the Masonic Charitable Foundation, but their work has now been consolidated under the Foundation. The RMBC Care Company also continues to provide high-quality care services for older people.

For more information, visit:

 mcf.org.uk/history

In 2015 the Foundation's predecessor charities helped almost 5,000 people



At a cost of over



Grants to other charities totalled



SUPPORT FOR FREEMASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

What support is available?

A wide range of help and support is available for financial, health and family related needs, including:

Financial

- Essential daily living costs
- Grants following an accident, redundancy or personal crisis
- Funeral bills
- Minor home repairs

Health

- Medical treatment
- Dental treatment
- Mobility aids and essential home adaptations
- Counselling

Family – Children in full-time education

- Essential costs for education or training
- Scholarships, travel grants and student accommodation
- Supporting exceptional talent in sport, music or the performing arts

Family – Care

- Masonic care homes – including nursing, residential and dementia care (for further information see page 26)
- Respite care
- UK holidays

Who is eligible?

Those seeking support must demonstrate the following:

A Masonic connection

In order to be eligible for support, the applicant must be a Freemason or have a strong family connection to a Freemason under the United Grand Lodge of England. The Freemason does not necessarily need to be a currently subscribing member, but he must have been before the need arose.

A financial, health or family need

Many needs follow a decrease in household income, a life-changing event such as a medical diagnosis, changing care needs, family breakdown or the death of a family member.


How to apply for support

The Masonic Charitable Foundation treats all enquiries and applications sympathetically and in the strictest confidence.

The application process has three steps:

1 Contact

Speak to your Lodge Almoner about applying for a grant or contact the Foundation directly to start your application.

 **0800 035 60 90**

 **help@mcf.org.uk**

Masonic Charitable Foundation

60 Great Queen Street,
London WC2B 5AZ

The enquiries team can offer confidential guidance on the help available and advise you about the process and criteria for making an application.

2 Response

If the Foundation can help and you would like to apply, a representative of the Foundation will visit you and help you to complete the application form.

A named contact from the grants department will let you know when your application has been received and keep you updated on its progress.

3 Outcome

You will be notified about the outcome of your application and, if it is approved, a payment will be made directly to you or to the supplier providing the equipment or service you require.

If your application is not approved, staff will try to direct you to other organisations that may be able to help.

ADVICE, COUNSELLING AND OTHER SUPPORT

Alongside the Masonic Charitable Foundation's financial grants, a wide range of practical support is available for you and your family from the Advice & Support Team and the Counselling Careline.

Advice & Support Team

The Advice & Support Team provides a free, independent and confidential service on behalf of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The Team offers advice, guidance and support on a range of issues that can affect the Masonic community. They can help you through difficult times by listening to you, understanding your needs, discussing potential solutions and directing you to organisations and services that can help.

Examples of the advice and support available from the Team include:

- **Assisting** with applications for charitable support
- **Talking** to you about financial difficulties
- **Recommending** the best approach to meet your care needs

- **Helping** you to plan and access effective medical and dental treatment
- **Supporting** your children with practical advice and guidance on education and wellbeing
- **Directing** you to state benefits and services available from the government and other organisations

Counselling Careline

The Masonic Charitable Foundation offers a Counselling Careline service. The Careline is a confidential, free helpline for Freemasons and their family members.


The Counselling Careline can offer support for:

- Anxiety, depression or stress
- Feelings of uncertainty, growing worry or panic
- Adjusting to retirement or workplace pressures
- Financial worries or debt
- Bereavement, divorce and loneliness
- Illness, addiction or family ill-health


The Careline is operated by trained counsellors who will listen and offer professional guidance. Up to six telephone sessions with a trained counsellor can be arranged. Alternatively, face-to-face sessions can be provided within 15 miles of a person's home or work.

Freemasons, their wives, partners or widows, as well as children between the ages of 17-25 and in full-time education, can access the Counselling Careline.

Further information is available at:

 www.mcf.org.uk/counselling

To access the Counselling Careline, call the freephone enquiry line or contact us via email:

 **0800 035 60 90**

 help@mcf.org.uk

GRANTS TO CHARITIES

The Masonic Charitable Foundation's Community Support and Research programme looks beyond Freemasonry, making significant grants which help people to live happy, fulfilling lives and to participate actively in society.

To achieve this aim, grants are awarded to registered charities that provide support in the following areas:

- **Financial hardship** for those in poverty, debt or unemployment
- **Health and disability** for people experiencing chronic or life-limiting conditions and disabilities
- **Education and employability** for disadvantaged children and young people
- **Social exclusion and disadvantage** for those facing barriers to participating in society

The Foundation also provides funding each year to:

- **Advance medical and social research**
- **Hospices throughout England and Wales**
- **Air ambulance and rescue services**

Funding is provided to support major natural disaster relief appeals at the discretion of the Foundation.

The charities supported by the Foundation make a significant and lasting difference to people in need. Community Support and Research grants seek to benefit as many people as possible and further those causes about which Freemasons and their families are most passionate.

In recent years, the Foundation's predecessor charities have provided support amounting to around £130 million to charities across England and Wales and overseas.

For more information about the Foundation's Community Support and Research grants and to find out how to apply, please visit:

 www.mcf.org.uk/community



Alongside the thousands of people helped by Community Support and Research grants, each year the Masonic Charitable Foundation helps to improve the lives of around 9,000 life-limited, disabled children by supporting Lifelites, a charity which provides educational and fun technology packages for children and young people in every children's hospice in the British Isles.

Started as a Masonic initiative, Lifelites has become a well-established charity in its own right and fundraises from Freemasons and other sources. The Foundation helps by providing office premises and administrative services meaning Lifelites can focus on delivering its life-enhancing technology.

For more information about the work of Lifelites, visit:

 www.lifelites.org

SUPPORTING THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Masonic Charitable Foundation relies upon the generous donations of Freemasons and their families to provide its wide range of charitable support. The Foundation does not fundraise from members of the public or use street collections.

Every year, Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England pay an annual contribution through their Lodges to the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Festival Appeals

Each year, four Masonic Provinces hold a Festival event to celebrate the end of a five to six year fundraising appeal during which a range of activities take place that make a significant contribution to the Foundation's income.

Until 2021, some Provincial Festival Appeals will continue to support the Foundation's predecessor charities. These funds will be ring-fenced for use by the Masonic Charitable Foundation in support of the objects of the predecessor charities.

Fundraising support

There are many ways to fundraise including sponsored challenges and social events, but signing up to regular giving with Gift Aid is one of the easiest.

The Foundation can provide sponsorship forms and other materials for fundraisers such as promotional items and printed materials.

For more information, please email:

 festivals@mcf.org.uk

Legacies

Legacy gifts make an important contribution to the funding of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Every gift, large or small, can help to make a difference to those assisted through the charity's support and services.

For more information on legacy giving, please visit:

 www.mcf.org.uk/legacies


The Relief Chest Scheme

The Relief Chest Scheme is a free service that Lodges, Chapters, Provinces and other recognised Masonic organisations can use to manage their charitable giving efficiently.

Pending allocation to worthy causes, the Relief Chest Scheme holds funds in a dedicated account. Its charitable status provides a range of benefits to the donor, including reclaiming Gift Aid tax relief.

The services provided by the Relief Chest Scheme relieve Chest holders of the burden of administering charitable funds, therefore saving time and resources and allowing them to concentrate on fundraising.

For further information, or to open a Relief Chest for your Lodge, Chapter or Appeal, please visit:

 www.mcf.org.uk/reliefchest

Donate to the Foundations' predecessor charities

You can continue to donate to the Foundation's predecessor charities if you wish. The charities are:

- **The Freemasons' Grand Charity** (No. 281942)
- **Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys** (No. 285836)
- **Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution** (No. 207360)
- **Masonic Samaritan Fund** (No. 1130424)

Please make your cheque payable to the relevant charity and send it to:

Masonic Charitable Foundation

60 Great Queen Street,
London WC2B 5AZ

Promoting the Foundation's work

A range of leaflets, promotional materials, resources and general publications are available for distribution at Masonic centres or events. These materials cover topics such as the support available to Masonic families and the impact of the Foundation's Community Support and Research grants. Banner stands and other promotional items are also available on request.

If you would like to request a speaker to deliver a talk or presentation about the Foundation at a Lodge meeting or event, please email:

 communications@mcf.org.uk

Alternatively, a copy of a standard script and PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from the Foundation's website:

 www.mcf.org.uk/publications

Register for updates

Please visit the Masonic Charitable Foundation website to register for updates and receive an exclusive lapel pin.

 [@masonic_charity](https://twitter.com/masonic_charity)

 www.facebook.com/theMCF

RMBI CARE COMPANY

Company no. 1293566. Charity no. 1163245.

The RMBI Care Company was established following the creation of the Masonic Charitable Foundation to continue to deliver the support and services previously provided by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

The RMBI Care Company, a subsidiary of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, is a major provider of high-quality care services for older Freemasons and their family members, as well as some other people in the community. Many of the RMBI's 17 Homes are registered for both residential and nursing care. All the Homes can accommodate people with dementia following an assessment of their needs, but where more specialist care is needed, a Dementia Support House has been created. Homes with a Dementia Support House are marked in the list on the next few pages of this booklet.


The RMBI offers limited sheltered and independent living accommodation for people who prefer to live more independently, but with the support of staff where required. Sheltered accommodation is available to purchase on a leasehold basis.

Residents who choose an RMBI care home have the security of knowing that they have a home for life regardless of any changes to their financial circumstances, as long as the RMBI can meet their care needs.

RMBI care homes


Albert Edward Prince Of Wales Court*

Mid Glamorgan

 01656 785311


Barford Court*

Hove

 01273 777736

Cadogan Court*

Exeter

 01392 251436

Connaught Court*

York

 01904 626238

Cornwallis Court*


Suffolk

 01284 768028

Devonshire Court*


Also provides sheltered accommodation.

Leicester

 0116 271 4171


Ecclesholme

Manchester

 0161 788 9517


James Terry Court*

Croydon

 020 8688 1745

Lord Harris Court

Berkshire

 0118 978 7496


Prince Edward Duke Of Kent Court*

Essex

 01376 345534


Prince George Duke Of Kent Court

Kent

 020 8467 0081


Prince Michael Of Kent Court*

Watford

 01923 234780

Queen Elizabeth Court*

Llandudno

 01492 877276


Scarborough Court

Northumberland

 01670 712215


Shannon Court*

Surrey

 01428 604833


The Tithebarn*

Liverpool

 0151 924 3683

Zetland Court*

Bournemouth


 01202 769169

*** Includes a Dementia Support House**

Farnfield Court

Self-contained flats with their own kitchen, bathroom and 24-hour emergency assistance.


Croydon

 020 8688 4153

Harry Priestley House

Accommodation and residential care for up to 12 people with learning disabilities.


Doncaster

 01405 814777

Harewood Court

Sheltered accommodation for over-55s.

Hove


 01273 739515


How to apply for a place at an RMBI Care Company Home

Applications for permanent and temporary admission or enquiries for details about a specific Home should be made to the relevant Home Manager using the telephone number shown on the previous pages. General enquiries should be made to:

RMBI Care Company

60 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5AZ

 0207 596 2400

 enquiries@rmbi.org.uk

RMBI Care Company services are available to people with either private or public funding. All applicants to an RMBI Home are assessed on an individual basis and advised of their weekly fee before moving into the Home. The weekly fee covers provision of accommodation, meals and care, and may change as care needs change.

Home Managers are always delighted to welcome visitors from a Lodge. Arrangements should be made direct with the Home concerned. Residents may receive visitors at any time, and some Homes have guest accommodation available.

MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

Registered Charity No 207610

Assisting Mark Master Masons in distress


The Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) came into existence in 1868 on the suggestion of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Reverend George Raymond Portal, whose views on charity were far more progressive and radical than the general thinking of the times.


Today, the MBF provides grants to Mark Master Masons and their dependants in need, subject to the Constitutions and Regulations of Mark Grand Lodge.

How to apply

Petitions for relief are received from Lodge Almoners and Visiting Brethren via their Provincial Grand Almoners or Secretaries. The Mark Benevolent Fund Petitions Committee sits on a near monthly basis to consider cases and relief is almost immediate upon approval.

86 St James's Street
London SW1A 1PL

 020 7839 5274

 020 7930 9750

 www.markbenevolence.org.uk

 mbf@markmasonshall.org.uk

OTHER MASONIC CHARITIES

In addition to support available through the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Mark Benevolent Fund, many Provinces have their own charities or benevolent funds that may be able to assist you.

Please speak to your Lodge Almoner or Provincial Grand Almoner to find out if any help is available from your local Province.

For a list of Provinces and current details, please visit:

 www.ugle.org.uk/about/provinces

CONTACT INFORMATION

Useful telephone numbers

Masonic Charitable Foundation	020 3146 3333
United Grand Lodge of England	020 7831 9811
RMBl Care Company	0207 596 2400
Lifelites	020 7440 4200
Mark Benevolent Fund	020 7839 5274

Useful websites

Masonic Charitable Foundation	www.mcf.org.uk
United Grand Lodge of England	www.ugle.org.uk
RMBl Care Company	www.rmbi.org.uk
Lifelites	www.lifelites.org
Mark Benevolent Fund	www.markbenevolence.org.uk



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

Published by

Masonic Charitable Foundation

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ

Tel: 020 3146 3333 | info@mcf.org.uk

Charity no. 1164703 | Company no. 09751836.

www.mcf.org.uk



YouTube

Printed 2016