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**Chief Operating Officer**Les Hutchinson

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Charity number 1164703. Company number 09751836.

**For Freemasons, for families, for everyone**

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) builds better lives by encouraging opportunity, promoting independence and improving wellbeing for people across society.

Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families, the MCF is one of the largest charities in the country and helps to improve thousands of lives every year in England, Wales and overseas. The MCF provides a range of grants and support services for Freemasons and their families in need, and for charitable projects that help local communities.

**The origins of the MCF**

Masonic charity has existed since the 18th century, providing specific types of support to Freemasons and their families. The MCF 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.

The separate charities continue to exist as funds within the MCF, but their work has now been consolidated under the MCF. The RMBI Care Co. also continues to provide high-quality care services for older people.

**Support for Freemasons and their families**

**What support is available?**

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

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

**Financial**

* Essential daily living costs
* Help through a personal crisis
* Funeral bills
* Emergency home repairs

**Health**

* Medical treatment
* Mobility aids
* Home adaptations
* Counselling for adults and children

**Family – Children in full-time education**

* Educational expenses for children
* University scholarships
* Support for exceptional talent in sport, music or the performing arts

**Care**

* Residential and dementia care at RMBI Care Co. homes
* Respite care
* Guidance and support from professional advisers

**Who is eligible?**

Those seeking support must demonstrate the following:

**A connection to a Freemason**

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

**A financial, health, family or care-related need**

Many needs follow a life-changing event such as a medical diagnosis, changing care needs, family breakdown, loss of employment or the death of a family member.

**Can the MCF help you?**

The MCF treats all enquiries and applications sympathetically and in the strictest confidence.

Speak to your lodge Almoner about applying for a grant or contact the MCF directly to begin your application.

**0800 035 60 90**

Enquiries can also be sent to:

**help@mcf.org.uk**

Write to:

**Masonic Charitable Foundation
 60 Great Queen Street
 London WC2B 5AZ**

If the MCF can help and you would like to apply, a representative of the charity will visit you and help you to complete the application form which will help the grants department understand your circumstances in more detail.

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

If 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 MCF’s financial grants, a wide range of practical support is available for you and your family from the Advice & Support Team and the MCF’s counselling service.

**Advice & Support Team**

The Advice & Support Team provides a free and confidential service on behalf of the MCF.

The team offers advice, guidance and support on a range of issues that can affect Freemasons and their families. 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:

* Talking about financial difficulties
* Assisting with applications for charitable support
* Recommending the best approach to meet your care needs
* Helping you plan and access effective medical treatment
* Supporting your children with practical advice on education and wellbeing
* Signposting you to state benefits and services available from other charitable organisations

### Counselling service

The MCF offers a confidential, free counselling helpline for Freemasons and their family members.

The helpline 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 helpline is independently operated by trained counsellors who will listen and offer professional guidance. Those who are eligible for support can speak to a qualified counsellor over the phone or receive face-to-face counselling sessions.

Freemasons, their married, life, separated and widowed partners, as well as their children who are between the ages of 17-25 and in full-time education can access the counselling helpline.

Other relations may also qualify for support if they can demonstrate that a Freemason has provided them with significant financial or physical support.

Further information is available at:

 mcf.org.uk/counselling

To access the counselling service, call the freephone enquiry line or contact us via email:

 0800 035 60 90

 help@mcf.org.uk

**Grants to charities**

Through the MCF, Freemasons tackle some of society’s most important issues by awarding grants to local and national charities and forming partnerships with leading organisations in the sector.

With grants totalling over £5 million each year, the MCF support charities that help thousands of disadvantaged and vulnerable people to live happy, fulfilling lives and participate actively in society. Funding is targeted where it is most needed, within areas Freemasons care about passionately. The current target areas are: reducing isolation in later life, creating the best start in life for disadvantaged children and young people, medical research into degenerative disease and funding care services in the hospice sector. The target areas are reviewed each year to ensure grants are making the greatest possible impact.

Over the last 40 years, Freemasons have provided over £130 million to local and national charities through their central charities.

For more information about our grants to charities and to find out how to apply, please visit: mcf.org.uk/community



The MCF supports Lifelites, a charity that provides and maintains specialist technology packages for the 10,000 terminally-ill and disabled children using every children’s hospice service across the British Isles.

These packages help children who are often restricted by their conditions to play, be creative, communicate and control something for themselves, for as long as it is possible.

Originally founded as a Freemasons’ charitable project, Lifelites is now a well-established charity in its own right, raising all its own funds. The MCF helps Lifelites by donating office premises and administrative services, meaning Lifelites can use the funds it raises on delivering life-enhancing technology.

For more information about the work of Lifelites, visit:

lifelites.org

Lifelites registered charity in England and Wales No. 1115655

**Support by province**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Province | Last 12 months (£) | Grants awarded to individuals during last 12 months |
| Bedfordshire | £195,842 | 87 |
| Berkshire | £72,912 | 45 |
| Bristol | £90,690 | 38 |
| Buckinghamshire | £147,425 | 64 |
| Cambridgeshire | £59,454 | 21 |
| Cheshire | £480,239 | 201 |
| Cornwall | £365,899 | 141 |
| Cumberland and Westmorland | £141,160 | 75 |
| Derbyshire | £199,350 | 105 |
| Devonshire | £382,092 | 186 |
| Dorset | £149,405 | 75 |
| Durham | £391,196 | 204 |
| East Kent | £456,395 | 226 |
| East Lancashire | £384,478 | 202 |
| Essex | £556,793 | 272 |
| Gloucestershire | £231,510 | 107 |
| Guernsey and Alderney | £29,106 | 14 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | £526,453 | 287 |
| Herefordshire | £67,885 | 43 |
| Hertfordshire | £245,717 | 111 |
| Isle of Man | £5,498 | 2 |
| Jersey | - | - |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | £115,541 | 68 |
| Lincolnshire | £205,887 | 108 |
| London | £1,382,933 | 659 |
| Middlesex | £201,766 | 99 |
| Monmouthshire | £80,514 | 39 |
| Norfolk | £267,959 | 108 |
| North Wales | £182,980 | 90 |
| Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire | £180,415 | 104 |
| Northumberland | £311,291 | 144 |
| Nottinghamshire | £198,341 | 79 |
| Oxfordshire | £47,748 | 27 |
| Shropshire | £58,057 | 30 |
| Somerset | £284,709 | 116 |
| South Wales | £743,744 | 297 |
| Staffordshire | £229,504 | 105 |
| Suffolk | £239,810 | 79 |
| Surrey | £364,629 | 151 |
| Sussex | £594,209 | 311 |
| Warwickshire | £273,465 | 108 |
| West Kent | £209,067 | 115 |
| West Lancashire | £797,329 | 497 |
| West Wales | £66,519 | 44 |
| Wiltshire | £182,913 | 64 |
| Worcestershire | £166,770 | 98 |
| Yorkshire, North and East Ridings | £253,113 | 145 |
| Yorkshire, West Riding | £441,351 | 201 |
| Districts and groups | £217,076 | 64 |
| Total | **£12,419,600** | **6456** |

Figures for 12 months show April 2019 – March 2020.

**Supporting the MCF**

The MCF is your charity.

Your support…

* Helps families make ends meet when times get tough
* Offers greater independence to people with disabilities
* Gives young people the opportunity to succeed in their education
* Provides high-quality care for older, disabled or seriously-ill people
* Funds life-saving and life-changing medical treatment
* Tackles social isolation and loneliness
* Advances ground-breaking medical research

**Festival appeals**

Each year, four masonic provinces hold a festival event to celebrate the end of a fundraising appeal during which a range of activities take place that make a significant contribution to the MCF’s income.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2020 | Somerset (Grand Charity)Herefordshire (MSF)Northumberland (RMBI)Middlesex (RMTGB) |
| 2021 | BuckinghamshireWest LancashireDurham (RMTGB)South Wales (RMBI) |
| 2022 | OxfordshireEssexLeicestershire and RutlandWorcestershire |
| 2023 | WarwickshireDevonshireBerkshireCambridgeshire |
| 2024 | CornwallNorthamptonshire and HuntingdonshireMonmouthshireStaffordshire |
| 2025 | DerbyshireEast KentDorsetLincolnshire |
| 2026 | West KentWest WalesBedfordshire \*East Lancashire \*\* |

\* Launching late 2020/early 2021 \*\* Launching late 2021

**How can I make a difference?**

**1. Donate**

If your province is currently engaged in a festival appeal, your festival organising team will provide you with the best way to support the appeal and the MCF.

Whether or not your province is currently in festival, there are many ways you can donate to support our work:

Online

Make a single donation or set up a regular donation at: mcf.org.uk/donate

Over the phone

Set up a regular Direct Debit: 020 3146 334

Make a single donation by debit or credit card: 020 3146 3346

By text

Donate £5 by texting MCF to 70500

By post

Make cheques payable to ‘Masonic Charitable Foundation’ or to the ‘Relief Chest Scheme’

Leave a gift in your will

Through The Goodwill Partnership, the MCF offers a free will-writing service to Freemasons and non-Freemasons alike. Althought any legacy gift to the MCF would be greatly appreciated, it is not a requirement needed to use the service for free.

For more information or to request a legacy guide:

mcf.org.uk/legacy

legacy@mcf.org.uk

020 3146 3332

**2. Fundraise**

Gift Aid envelope collections at meetings and festive boards are an effective and efficient way to raise funds, but there are many other ways which are not only good fundraisers but also fun to take part in. Popular activities like raffles and prize draws, hosting a social event, like a quiz night, BBQ or themed event, setting up a 100 Club or holding ‘Heads and Tails’ coin toss are all good examples of what you can do.

Another great way to raise funds is to partake in a sponsored event.

Sponsored events are a very popular, fun and effective way of raising money. Most events involve setting a personal challenge and then asking friends and family members to make charitable donations to encourage fundraisers to achieve their goal. Events can take many forms and can include both physical challenges, such as fun runs or endurance bike rides, and daring challenges, such as skydives or abseils.

The Relief Chest Scheme provides printed and digital sponsorship materials to make it easy for fundraisers to hit their targets. They also offer participants an online fundraising page which can be shared using email or social media, making it easier to collect funds and keeping your family and friends up-to-date through regular posts, images or videos.

To set up a fundraising page visit mcf.org.uk/donate

The MCF is registered with the fundraising regulator and is signed up to the fundraising code of practice.

**3. Spread the word!**

Keep up to date with all the latest MCF news by registering for updates and following us on social media. Share the MCF’s updates with your friends and family to help more people find out about the help we provide.

 www.mcf.org.uk/sign-up

 /theMCF

* + @masonic\_charity

@Masonic\_Charity

/MasonicCharitableFoundation

**MCF permanent Honorifics**

MCF Honorifics are intended to acknowledge the generosity of our donors and recognise their importance to the charity. The table below outlines the qualifying levels all of which will be marked by the issue of an appropriate certificate.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **VICE PATRON** | **PATRON** | **GRAND PATRON** |
| **Freemasons (individual giving)** | £2,000 | £4,000 | £6,000 |
| **Lady/Lewis****(individual giving)** | £1,000 | £2,000 | £3,000 |
| **Lodges** | £10,000 | £20,000 | £40,000 |
| **Chapters and Other Organisations** | £5,000 | £10,000 | £20,000 |

These honorifics are permanent and are intended to reflect “lifetime” giving. All honorifics will be awarded on the basis of donations received. Donations made to MCF Festivals will count towards MCF permanent honorifics. Gift Aid will count towards individual giving totals. Individual Giving will not count towards Lodges or Chapters and Other Organisations qualification totals. Chapters and Other Organisations means Chapters, other Orders and all other organisations such as Associations, clubs, Societies and Groups with a Masonic association to include Ladies Associations, Clubs, Societies and Groups. Lewis refers to the uninitiated son of a Freemason.

**The Relief Chest Scheme**

The Relief Chest Scheme helps lodges, chapters, provinces and other recognised Freemason organisations manage their charitable giving efficiently by enabling donors to save time, take control and give more.

Funds placed in Relief Chests are held securely by the MCF until they are given to a charity by the donors. The Relief Chest Scheme and its full range of services are provided completely free, no administration fee is charged and no commission is taken.

For further information, or to open a Relief Chest for your lodge, chapter or appeal, please visit: [mcf.org.uk/reliefchest](http://www.mcf.org.uk/reliefchest)

**Other Freemasons’ charities**

In addition to the MCF, there are numerous other charities organised and run by Freemasons. There are far too many to list, but they include provincial benevolent funds, provincial education and relief funds, trusts set up and administered within individual provinces, funds associated with residential housing or supporting particular RMBI homes and sundry other organisations, big and small, all concerned with caring for others.