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 /theMCF

* @Masonic\_Charity

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/MasonicCharitableFoundation

Charity number 1164703. Company number 09751836.

**Building better lives**

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**

A number of charities have existed within Freemasonry since the 18th century, each providing a specific type 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.

**Support for Freemasons and their families**

**What support is available?**

Most of the support provided by the MCF takes the form of 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 daily living costs; health, care and wellbeing; and education-related costs for children and young people. This includes:

**Daily living costs**

* Essential daily living costs
* Funeral bills
* Emergency home repairs
* Arrears

**Health, care, and wellbeing**

* Counselling
* Medical costs
* Mobility equipment
* Home adaptations
* Breaks for carers
* Dental costs

**Children, young people and education**

* Educational costs such as extra-curricular activities and uniform
* Computer equipment
* Support for exceptional talent through the TalentAid scheme
* Childcare costs

**RMBI**

* Residential, nursing, and dementia care at RMBI Care Co. homes

**Advice and support**

* A free and confidential service for Freemasons and their families, offering practical guidance on a range of issues.

**Who is eligible?**

Those seeking support must demonstrate the following:

**A connection to a Freemason**

Help is available to Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England, as well as people with a strong connection to a Freemason. This includes Freemasons’ married, life, widowed, divorced, or separated partners; their children, stepchildren, and grandchildren under the age of 25 and in full-time education; or someone that can demonstrate significant and long-term physical or financial support from a Freemason.

A Freemason does not necessarily have to be currently subscribing, but he must have been a member before the need arose

**A life-changing event or unexpected distress**

Those seeking support must also demonstrate a life-changing or unexpected distress, such as a decrease in household income, medical diagnosis, changing care needs, family breakdown 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 so the MCF can understand your circumstances in more detail.

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 MCF 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
* Discussing the best approach to meet your care needs
* Exploring how home adaptations and mobility aids can help you maintain independence
* Supporting your children or grandchildren with practical advice on education and wellbeing
* Signposting you to state and local authority benefits and services available from other charitable organisations

### Counselling service

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

The service 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 service is independently operated by trained counsellors who will listen and offer professional guidance, over the phone or by arranging face-to-face counselling sessions.

**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 around £5.5 million each year, the MCF supports 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 diseases
* 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 forty years, Freemasons have provided over £135 million to local and national charities through its central charities.

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



Lifelites 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.

Founded by Freemasons, Lifelites is now a well-established charity, 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 | Number of grants | Total amount |
| Bedfordshire | 56 | £127,232 |
| Berkshire | 54 | £119,316 |
| Bristol | 26 | £42,375 |
| Buckinghamshire | 54 | £112,129 |
| Cambridgeshire | 16 | £53,109 |
| Cheshire | 152 | £377,428 |
| Cornwall | 81 | £225,592 |
| Cumberland and Westmorland | 53 | £98,915 |
| Derbyshire | 69 | £154,848 |
| Devonshire | 127 | £274,340 |
| Dorset | 41 | £59,885 |
| Durham | 156 | £344,708 |
| East Kent | 115 | £247,542 |
| East Lancashire | 133 | £292,182 |
| Essex | 202 | £406,583 |
| Gloucestershire | 78 | £142,729 |
| Guernsey and Alderney | 9 | £14,272 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 228 | £495,700 |
| Herefordshire | 36 | £52,178 |
| Hertfordshire | 90 | £196,867 |
| Isle of Man | 1 | £1,904 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 76 | £183,513 |
| Lincolnshire | 93 | £212,669 |
| London | 502 | £1,034,818 |
| Middlesex | 82 | £203,197 |
| Monmouthshire | 30 | £55,198 |
| Norfolk | 57 | £112,183 |
| North Wales | 76 | £172,859 |
| Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire | 118 | £262,243 |
| Northumberland | 102 | £210,553 |
| Nottinghamshire | 65 | £119,875 |
| Oxfordshire | 21 | £49,263 |
| Shropshire | 40 | £91,792 |
| Somerset | 93 | £170,149 |
| South Wales | 132 | £261,322 |
| Staffordshire | 75 | £147,771 |
| Suffolk | 59 | £203,592 |
| Surrey | 103 | £256,588 |
| Sussex | 189 | £400,687 |
| Warwickshire | 84 | £171,071 |
| West Kent | 64 | £123,303 |
| West Lancashire | 294 | £567,393 |
| West Wales | 25 | £85,795 |
| Wiltshire | 42 | £131,673 |
| Worcestershire | 81 | £148,842 |
| Yorkshire, North and East Ridings | 113 | £225,043 |
| Yorkshire, West Riding | 152 | £329,865 |
| Grand Total | **4,600** | **£9,771,091** |

Figures for 12 months show 1 April 2019 – 31 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 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.

Current festival appeals

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2021 | Buckinghamshire |
|   | Durham (RMTGB) |
|   | South Wales (RMBI) |
|   | West Lancashire |
| 2022 | Essex  |
|   | Leics & Rutland |
|   | Oxfordshire |
|   | Worcestershire |
| 2023 | Berkshire |
|   | Cambridgeshire   |
|   | Devonshire |
|   | Warwickshire |
| 2024 | Cornwall  |
|   | Monmouthshire |
|   | Northants & Hunts  |
|   | Staffordshire |
| 2025 | Derbyshire |
|   | Dorset |
|   | East Kent |
|   | Lincolnshire |
| 2026 | Bedfordshire |
|   | East Lancashire |
|   | West Kent |
|   | West Wales |

**How can I make a difference?**

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

**1. Donate**

* 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 3345 or 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

For more information or to request a legacy guide:

mcf.org.uk/legacy

legacy@mcf.org.uk

020 3146 3332

Any donations made to the MCF, whether directly or through festivals count towards permanent MCF honorifics. For more information, visit mcf.org.uk/honorifics

**2. Fundraise**

Sponsorship

Sponsored events are a very popular, fun and effective way of raising money for the MCF. 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.

*Top tip*: take the hassle out of collecting sponsorship by setting up an online fundraising page on the MCF website. Remember to share a link to your fundraising page using email or social media and keep your friends up to date through regular posts, images or videos.

fundraising.mcf.org.uk

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

If a sponsored challenge is not for you, other events can also raise money to support the MCF, including:

* Organise a quiz night or a raffle
* Host a dinner party, BBQ or themed event
* Arrange a social event such as an evening of music or entertainment

**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.

 mcf.org.uk/sign-up

 /theMCF

* + @Masonic\_Charity

@masonic\_charity

/MasonicCharitableFoundation

We also have a wide range of promotional materials and resources including *Better Lives* magazine, leaflets, posters and videos to help you raise awareness of our work.

Access online via the website:

mcf.org.uk/resources/leaflets

Do you enjoy public speaking? You could deliver a talk about our work at a meeting. A ready-made script is available to download from the MCF website.

mcf.org.uk/resources/presentations

**The Relief Chest Scheme**

The Relief Chest Scheme helps lodges, chapters, Provinces and groups from other recognised orders to 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 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.