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For the most up-to-date list of staff and trustees, visit: mcf.org.uk/about-us/the-team

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mcf.org.uk

Charity number 1164703. Company number 09751836.

Building better lives

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

Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons, their families and friends, 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 individuals 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 individuals and households

What support is available?

Most of the support provided by the MCF takes the form of grants to assist with daily living costs during a time of need, 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. The MCF also provides a free and confidential service for individuals and their families, offering practical guidance on a range of issues, including state and local authority benefits and information about further sources of help.

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 they 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; a life event, 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 you would like to apply for support, a representative of the charity will visit you and help you to complete the application. The application process usually involves an assessment of your household finances so the MCF can understand your circumstances in more detail.

If support 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, our team will try to direct you to other organisations that may be able to help.

Grants to charities

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

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:

- Early Years (0-5), with a focus on poverty and neglect
- Children affected by Domestic Abuse
- Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Improving the health and wellbeing of older people with dementia and their carers

The target areas are reviewed each year to ensure grants are making the greatest possible impact.

Since it was established in 2016, the MCF has awarded around £50 million to charities.

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

Our partners



RMBI Care Co. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the MCF which provides residential care, nursing care and residential dementia support to older Freemasons, their families and people in the wider community. RMBI Care Co. have been caring for older people since 1842 and support over 1,000 residents across England and Wales.

They treat each person as an individual, and believe that everyone should be able to enjoy later life and help residents stay as independent as possible but also provide support when it is needed.

They have a passionate and skilled team who deliver the highest quality of care to residents and live by their values which are kind, supportive, and trusted.

For more information, including the location of your nearest Home, visit: www.rmbi.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1163245 | Company No: 1293566



Lifelites is 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 by Freemasons as a charitable project, Lifelites is now a well-established charity in its own right raising all its own funds.

For more information about the work of Lifelites, visit: lifelites.org

Lifelites registered charity in England and Wales No. 1115655



Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) provides comforting teddies to help children cope with difficult situations.

Established by Essex Freemasons in 2001, TLC is now a national programme, locally-led by Freemasons across England and Wales. Support and enthusiasm for the initiative continues to grow, with more than 4 million teddies distributed nationwide to over 350 hospitals.

Most of the money raised to purchase and distribute the teddies comes from Freemasons themselves through lodge donations and fundraising events. The MCF provides central administrative support for local TLC charities.

Support for charities by Province

Province	Number of grants	Total amount
Bedfordshire	6	£168,718
Berkshire	7	£84,664
Bristol	8	£151,000
Buckinghamshire	5	£10,000
Cambridgeshire	11	£81,972
Cheshire	11	£308,082
Cornwall	6	£58,500
Cumberland and Westmorland	11	£132,000
Derbyshire	12	£151,827
Devonshire	5	£91,466
Dorset	10	£45,850
Durham	12	£221,320
East Kent	5	£75,201
East Lancashire	6	£73,246
Essex	10	£55,000
Gloucestershire	6	£85,000
Guernsey and Alderney	4	£10,000
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	12	£228,855
Herefordshire	7	£42,394
Hertfordshire	9	£99,572
Isle of Man	3	£7,590
Jersey	-	-
Leicestershire and Rutland	4	£84,518
Lincolnshire	15	£182,650
London (Metropolitan)	19	£480,767
Middlesex	7	£96,039
Monmouthshire	13	£22,000
Norfolk	7	£38,750
North Wales	2	£10,000
Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire	5	£55,000
Northumberland	7	£30,100
Nottinghamshire	5	£47,608
Oxfordshire	8	£99,950
Shropshire	2	£42,000
Somerset	8	£130,159
Sout Wales	2	£71,044
Staffordshire	7	£233,070
Suffolk	7	£21,496
Surrey	6	£95,491
Sussex	6	£155,974
Warwickshire	6	£164,154

West Kent	5	£91,846
West Lancashire	8	£233,906
West Wales	2	£8,700
Wiltshire	6	£69,200
Worcestershire	8	£25,000
Yorkshire, North and East Ridings	13	£150,823
Yorkshire, West Riding	13	£261,612

Figures for 12 months show 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

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

2025	Derbyshire Dorset East Kent Lincolnshire
2026	Bedfordshire East Lancashire West Kent West Wales
2027	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Cheshire Cumberland & Westmorland Norfolk
2028	North Wales Sussex Wiltshire Yorkshire, West Riding
2029	Gloucestershire Nottinghamshire Suffolk Yorkshire, North & East Ridings

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 post: make cheques payable to the 'Masonic Charitable Foundation' or to the 'Relief Chest Scheme'

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. 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

To make the process of writing a Will as easy as possible, we are collaborating with The Goodwill Partnership to offer a home visit or over the phone Will writing service leading to a free basic Will.

You can be visited by a trained professional in the comfort of your own home on a date and time to suit you. Your instructions will be passed to a panel solicitor (a member of the Law Society) to write up your Will, who can also provide additional legal advice together with storage of your signed Will.

Call 01492 510340 or book an appointment online. Please use the discount code MCF001 to qualify for a basic free Will. This offer only applies to individuals living within England and Wales.

3. 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.

Visit: www.freemasonry.gives

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

4. 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.

Visit: mcf.org.uk/media

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

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 Care Co. homes, and sundry other organisations, big and small, all concerned with caring for others.