

WHAT IS THE

MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO?



FOR THE
CAUSE OF GOOD

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario is a public foundation registered with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. It was founded in 1964 by a special Act of the Ontario Legislature to provide the means for using the Craft's financial resources for the benefit of the community at large.

The objectives of the Masonic Foundation set out its charitable nature:

- To receive, maintain, control and use donations exclusively for charitable purposes within Ontario;
- To use its donations for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and the advancement of other purposes beneficial to the community;
- To fund bursaries, hearing research, drug and substance abuse education in the school systems and other specific community projects that fall within its guidelines.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT THE
MASONIC FOUNDATION**

Funding is provided primarily from three sources:

- Investment income earned on the capital;
- Personal contributions from Masons and friends of the Foundation;
- Bequests from the estates of individuals who made provision in their estate planning.

The Masonic Foundation qualifies as a charitable foundation under the Income Tax Act (Canada) and can issue tax receipts to anyone making a donation.

Directors, Officers and Committee members are members of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, or are Master Masons appointed by the Grand Master, and serve their respective Offices without remuneration.

ITS VISION

*To be the Charity of Choice
for the Cause of Good in our Community*

ITS PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Masonic Foundation has a strong interest in helping the youth of Ontario to become the best that they can be. Several programs are aimed at youth who require assistance to cope with financial stress, an affliction, or combatting peer pressure to experiment with drugs or alcohol. Other support goes to groups of youth who do not face similar trials in life, but who, by their interest in mankind, will be in the forefront in making the world better for future generations.

ITS CHARITABLE PROGRAMS

Bursaries

A non-refundable grant program for students in post secondary institutions, introduced in 1965, was the first initiative of the Foundation. It is designed to assist students who, through no fault of their own, encounter an unexpected financial emergency during the final year of a two- or three-year program, or the third- or fourth-year of a four-year program, and who might otherwise be forced to leave school before graduation. Deserving cases are identified, investigated and recommended to the Foundation by the Financial Awards Officers at universities and community colleges within the province.

Hearing Research

The Foundation initiated a fund-raising campaign to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Grand Lodge in 1980. Project H.E.L.P. (Hearing for Every Living Person), established expressly to support medical research into hearing problems of the inner ear, raised a capital fund of \$600,000. Interest generated by that capital supports the Auditory Science Laboratory at The Hospital for Sick Children in its research into how the auditory system develops. This research has led to successful cochlear implants in children as young as one year, the measurement of "Otoacoustic Emissions" for testing the hearing of infants who might have a hearing problem and the introduction of universal neonatal hearing screening across Ontario.

To celebrate the new Millennium, a major campaign entitled HELP-2-HEAR was launched in 1999 to advance research to help hearing-impaired infants. Over \$2.1 million was raised. Income from the capital is being used to support research in: studying activity patterns in the brain to determine how to more effectively use brain imaging techniques to make objective and accurate hearing assessments in infants; developing state-of-the-art methods for assessing hearing loss and protocols for the fitting and verification of digital hearing aids connected to the tiny ears of infants; and studying the language, literacy, social-emotional and academic development of children with hearing loss to investigate the impact of the age of diagnosis of that hearing loss on child development.

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

VOICE was formed in 1963 to provide much-needed emotional and technical support to families of hearing impaired children, and to let them know that deaf children can communicate and live in a hearing world. The Foundation has provided grants to VOICE since 1981, directed in recent years at assisting its Auditory-Verbal Therapy Outreach Program.

Kerry's Place (Autism)

Autism is a brain dysfunction that causes a developmental disorder; it is a life-long condition. Parents of Autistic children were instrumental in establishing group homes, known as "Kerry's Place", where afflicted children and young adults can live and develop, under the supervision of trained staff. The Masonic Foundation has supported the work of Kerry's Place since 1981. These grants have enabled Kerry's Place to obtain clinical assessment tools, develop special projects to assist families with Autistic members, and introduce an enhanced communications system that assists those in need to access the broad range of support available.

Help Nip Drugs in the Bud

Research literature concludes that the success of drug education is significantly enhanced if trained student peer leaders teach curriculum components. This was the basis for the major fund-raising initiative to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Masonic Foundation in 1989, which raised \$1.1 million.

The Nip Drugs Program utilizes the expertise of the Council on Drug Abuse (CODA) and Parent Action on Drugs (PAD) to conduct Peer Education programs in primary and secondary schools across Ontario, in which teams of senior high school students are trained on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse, then, in turn, present educational programs to younger students. These training programs are sponsored by grants from the Masonic Foundation.

Youth Programs

The Masonic Foundation demonstrates its interest in the welfare of young people by supporting youth groups - young citizens of today actively working for a better tomorrow for everyone, such as Scouts Canada, 4-H, Girl Guides and DeMolay.

District and Lodge Projects

Projects originating in the Districts and lodges and undertaken in partnership with the Masonic Foundation play a major role in bringing Masonic charity to our communities, where funds are raised locally to support a project of great significance to the residents of the community.

Local projects coordinate the efforts of the members to concentrate on a single purpose, have a unifying effect and give a sense of pride of accomplishment. These projects also provide visibility for Masonry in the community.

To encourage such local initiatives, the Masonic Foundation makes a financial contribution to the project in proportion to the funds raised locally.

Results

The results speak for themselves - every year hundreds of Ontario residents benefit directly from the Programs of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, which are made possible through the generosity of Ontario Masons and other supporters.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MASONIC FOUNDATION?

The Masonic Foundation flourishes because of two major ingredients: personal time donated by individuals; and financial contributions from persons who support the initiatives of the Foundation and want to see its work continue and expand to meet the community's ever-increasing need for assistance.

Getting the Foundation's message out to Masons and others who support its work requires volunteers across the province - representatives who have the time and inclination to speak and write on the work of the Foundation. If you are interested, make that interest known to your current lodge or District Representative, or contact the Foundation Office.

There are various ways to financially support the Masonic Foundation:

- Personal donations to the Foundation Office in the form of a cheque, or charged to your Visa or MasterCard - the Yellow Envelope is available to facilitate forwarding the donation;
- Memorial donations to remember the passing of a loved one or colleague - the grey Memorial envelope is available for this purpose;
- Including the Masonic Foundation in the planning of your Estate by: including the Foundation in your Will; naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy; gifting assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds or term deposits; or willing residual funds from a RRIF to the Foundation.

The benefits of supporting the Masonic Foundation are the income tax advantages gained and the personal pride felt in doing the good act, not for oneself, but **FOR THE CAUSE OF GOOD.**

For Additional Information, Contact



**THE
MASONIC
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OF ONTARIO**



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or

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www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

*Ontario Masonry's Charitable Window
On Our Community*