

**To:** Masters, Wardens and Members of Michigan Masonic Lodges

**Subject:** Community Charities Program

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER CAREFULLY AS IT EXPLAINS ALL OF THE RULES AND GUIDELINES THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO RECEIVE CONSIDERATION.**

Community charity has been one of the great Masonic missions since time immemorial. Supporting worthy causes in the local community provides a visible role for the Lodge that our non-Masonic neighbors can understand and respect. It also adds to the cement that binds us together as Brothers. The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation supports Masonic Lodges throughout the state in achieving this mission through the provision of matching community grant monies, effectively doubling the impact of the Masonic gift to the community. For example, if a Lodge donates \$500.00 to a community charity, the Foundation will match that donation with its own contribution of \$500.00.

The Foundation is currently focused on two objectives: one, to make applying for a Community Charity grant easier so that more Lodges will participate in the program, and two to provide the supporting documentation needed to protect the tax-exempt status of the Foundation.

A Lodge may apply for matching funds, not to exceed \$1,500.00, for one or more local programs during a fiscal year. A fiscal year begins on April 1 and ends on March 31 of the following year. If a Lodge wishes to spread its contributions throughout the year and/or between varied charities it may do so if indicated in its application (example: \$500.00 for Christmas Food Baskets and \$1,000.00 for another charity at another time).

***What does the Lodge do?***

Fill out the application thoroughly and provide necessary supporting documents.

Mail the application and documents to the Grand Lodge of Michigan.

***What charities does the Foundation provide funds for?***

The Foundation supports worthy local programs, including but not limited to the following examples:

- Food and clothing for the needy
- Local Salvation Army efforts
- Purchase of equipment for school programs, local parks and facilities, and community fire and police programs
- Programs for disabled and /or disadvantaged children
- Special efforts to aid youth and the aged

***What charities WILL NOT be supported by the Foundation?***

The Foundation **will not** provide support to national charity programs such as the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, or national cancer programs such as the American Cancer Society. The Foundation **will not** provide funds to support Appendant Masonic Bodies as listed in the Blue Book, or specific church or synagogue programs that promote religious objectives contrary to the tradition of Freemasonry favoring any specific religion or creed, or individual causes without an established fund. It will however provide funds to institutions that provide community-wide assistance.

Note that funds **will not** be available for scholarships under the Community Charity Program. This is a separate program and requires separate application forms.

***Special Note***

It is assumed that when a Lodge applies for matching funds, it will already have donated the full contribution to the community charity of choice. The Foundation will then send the requesting Lodge the Foundation's half of the contribution. For example, a Lodge donates \$500.00 to a local soup kitchen, applies for matching funds through the Community Charity Program and receives a check from the Foundation for \$250.00 payable to the Lodge.

Any questions regarding applications or the Community Charity Program may be directed to members of the Community Charity Committee of either the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation or the Grand Lodge of Michigan. The telephone number of the present Chairman may be obtained from the Grand Lodge Office.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert W. Stevens,

Grand Secretary, PGM,

Secretary

**Application for Community Charities Program**

**Please Print**

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Lodge Name and Number

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Lodge Mailing Address

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City and Zip

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Telephone Number

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Contact Person from Lodge (Name and Office Held):

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Telephone, Home (H) or Work (W)

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Title of Community Charity Program(s)

**Briefly** describe the Community Charity Program activity or activities for which your Lodge wishes to receive Foundation matching funds, including the amount for each program, what organization and/or individual will receive the contribution and who will benefit directly from the support. If you wish to provide additional documents or material, please attach.

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What, if any, community recognition or other form of public awareness will the Lodge receive as a result of its contribution? (Upon receipt of this application a Foundation representative will contact you to assist you with media)

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## Lodge Intentions

Intended Lodge Contribution        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Foundation Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution to Charity        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments:

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We, the undersigned, confirm that this application for Community Charity is complete and accurate and reflects the intentions of the Lodge. Our Lodge voted to approve this application at its Regular Communication on the date of \_\_\_\_\_. If this application is approved, we agree to use the funds provided as specified in this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Worshipful Master

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### ***On application remember to:***

- Fill out application completely
- Obtain necessary signatures
- Affix Lodge seal
- Provide supporting documents including:
  - Copy of cleared check
  - Lodge resolution minutes

**Affix Lodge Seal Here**

## Office Use Only

Action by the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation is as follows:

At its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, the Trustees of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation voted to (approve / deny) the above Application.

Breakdown Foundation approved:

Lodge Contribution        \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Foundation Contribution    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Contribution to Charity \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

**Notes/Comments:**

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