



YOUR GIVING YOUR SHARING

An Introduction to the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia

Charity is a Cornerstone of the Freemason's way of Life

The mission of the Masonic Foundation is to encourage the active practice of the Masonic Principles of Benevolence and Charity, and to promote a positive image of Freemasonry in the Community.

This booklet has been prepared by the Foundation to better inform Masons of the Foundation programs available to them. It provides descriptions of all Foundation programs and all of the information necessary for lodges to participate fully in benevolent and charitable activities for the benefit of members, their lodges, their local communities and Freemasonry in general.

Charity is often seen as the public face of Freemasonry. Freemasons' charity in Nova Scotia is best known through benevolence, care for the aged, hospitals, learning centres for dyslexic children, and financial support for students pursuing higher education; but there is much more being done than is generally recognized.

It is a little known fact that Freemasons' work is widely applied to the general public and most often directed at non-Masonic causes. While all Freemasons' Lodges throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia practice charity in their own right, the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia is the body mainly responsible for the management and distribution of money for charitable purposes; including benevolent assistance given through the Assisted Home Program and shared funding with Lodges pursuing local community and bursary programs. The Foundation's Fund used for these endeavours is the result of the donations of Freemasons by direct giving and income from investments.

The work of the Foundation is of great significance to all Freemasons in Nova Scotia and charitable giving is a privilege taken very seriously. As a purely private organization Freemasons are proud to be working quietly within their communities for the benefit of those less fortunate. However, this gives us no right to be complacent with our results. The amount of our donations to the Fund has not shown the increase that will ensure that we will be able to face the future with confidence. There is a need for continued individual donations from all members of our Fraternity. To enable us to be “a force for good”, as has been shown by recent and past activities, all Lodges must be more proactive in their efforts to keep our name in front of the public in a positive manner, and encourage their members to remember that one of our fundamental principles is charity.

There are a number of ways money from the Masonic Foundation reaches the Recipients.

Support for Individuals - Applications can be made to the Assisted Home Program through any of the individual Lodges in Nova Scotia. These are mainly for assistance in cases of cost-of-living relief, home maintenance and healthcare for Masons and their widows. Naturally, Lodges are concerned for their own members and families, and may apply for assistance on their behalf.

Support for Education - The pursuit of higher education at degree granting universities and community colleges for selected students is provided through a cost sharing scholarship program with the Lodges. In addition, the Foundation in cooperation with the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation funds the operation of a Masonic Learning Centre for Dyslexic children.

Caring for the Community - In addition to the needs of individuals, the Foundation contributes on a shared funding basis to support Lodges’ own fund-raising efforts, many of which are for assistance to community organizations. The Foundation provides guidelines which must be met in order for these applications to be approved.

Natural Disasters - The Foundation may assist people who have been adversely affected by natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fire or hurricanes. These funds are given in circumstances where immediate help is essential.

***“May a Freemason’s charity have no bounds,
save that of prudence”***