

GRAND LODGE CHARITIES
by R. W. Brother William P. Mayberry, Sr., Sr. Grand Deacon

Freemasons have always believed in supporting their neighbors. This philosophy has led us to create "The Charitable Foundation of The Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Ohio". The purpose of the Foundation is to operate as a charitable Corporation, exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. Your donations are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of The Internal Revenue Code.

It is our intent to increase our good works throughout the various needy areas in Ohio and selected national Masonic causes. The Grand Master has appointed a special committee to investigate and verify all requests for Masonic charity that are submitted to them by the brethren of Ohio. This committee will examine each request and recommend amounts that are felt to be appropriate based upon need and availability of funds. Each donation will be subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

Through The Charitable Foundation, the Masons of Ohio currently pay the registration fee for every athlete participating in Ohio Special Olympics Summer Games. Over the past 12 years, we have . contributed over \$1 million to send athletes from their local communities to this special event.

Your Grand Lodge also supports the Scholarship Foundation. These contributions have been significant to the educational growth of the young people in our Ohio colleges, universities and seminaries. Forty-three grants, in the amount of \$2,000 each, are awarded annually.

The lodges of Ohio, individually, donate to several charities. The following is a partial list of those recipients:

American Cancer Society American Red Cross Boy Scouts of America
Child Protection Program DARE Diabetes Association Food Pantries
Hospices March of Dimes Multiple Sclerosis The Ohio Masonic Home
The Otterbein Home The Salvation Army The Special Olympics
American Heart Association Big Brothers/Big Sisters California Earthquake
College Scholarships DeMolay Fire Departments Girl Scouts of America
Job's Daughters Meals on Wheels Muscular Dystrophy Oklahoma Disaster
Rainbow for Girls Shrine Children Hospitals Texas Flood Relief Toys for Tots
Veterans Hospitals YMCA Youth Baseball Teams

In addition to these monetary contributions, our brethren volunteer many hours for charitable organizations.

Every community has genuine needs and if we work together to aid as many people as possible, you may continue to be "Proud to be a Mason!".