Is a Gift Annuity Right for You?
(Try this simple little test to find out.) True or False

1. I would like to make a gift to Masonic Homes that would not only help Masonic Homes, but also would provide me and possibly one other person with income for life.

2. I would like to assist in providing financial security for a friend or family member with special needs.

3. I would like to receive regular, fixed payments that I can count on.

4. I would like to receive payments that would be as much or more than I might receive from other financial arrangements.

5. I would like a portion of each payment I receive to be tax-free for a period of years.

6. I would like to receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction for my gift.

7. I would like to reduce the size of my estate to lessen (or avoid) estate taxes.

8. I would like to know more about charitable gift annuities.

If you answered "yes" to most or all of these questions, a gift annuity from Masonic Homes may fit your needs perfectly. To learn more about gift annuities, and other forms of tax-wise charitable giving, contact Fred D. Rissinger, Director of Development or John R. McFadden, Planned Giving Officer at Masonic Homes. You can reach them by calling 800-599-6454. As always, your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

Dear Friends of Masonic Homes:

Please send me free literature about gift annuities.

Please contact me to arrange for a personal visit or other assistance.

I have already provided for Masonic Homes in my will.

Please send me information about making a will.

Please send me information about other planned giving opportunities.

Name
Address
City
State, Zip
Phone

MAIL THIS POSTCARD TO:

Fred D. Rissinger, Director of Development
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
The Grand Master’s Message

Key Words Define The Course

Brethren:

Key words stand out in my messages and the words of the Grand Lodge team that define commitment and direction designed to drive Freemasonry in Pennsylvania positively and confidently to the doorstep of the 21st century.

"Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community" encircling the square and compasses on the Grand Master’s medal sets forth my vision and direction for Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. It is more than a slogan; it is a doctrine for action.

We have the “Faith.” Masons always put their own “Families” first and involve the “Family of Freemasonry” in their activities, programs, and projects. We must rebuild the “Fraternity” in our lodges and in the appellant bodies. And, we need to serve the “Community” — each lodge reaching out to serve their fellow men and being known for its deeds in its own hometown.

“A Perfect Match” is a perfect term that Past Grand Master Samuel C. Williams tagged to the Matching Charity Grants Program. Across the state, this program of benevolence matches the lodge with the community; the lodge charity with community needs; the Mason with his neighbor; and the vitality of Freemasonry with the welfare of mankind. It is marvelous that this worthwhile program has gained such strong, immediate support.

As a fraternity, we want to continue our good works — to make some good and worthy men — your sons or other relative, a good Mason. They have to ask.

If we are genuine and sincere, we will ask each Mason to be the recommender of at least one worthy man to join you in lodge. If each Mason does that, we will not only meet our goal of NET ZERO, we will surpass it.

The Grand Lodge Officers

On The Cover

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers

With Pittsburgh’s well known Golden Triangle and Three Rivers Stadium as the backdrop, the newly installed Officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania are pictured at the time of the Annual Communication held in the new Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. They are (l-r): William Slater III, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; Marvin L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master; Robert L. Dluhe, Jr., R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary, and Martin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer. [Photo by Bro. Howard Dobmeier]

Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers

At The Grand Master’s Banquet


(1.) Standing in front of a huge Square and Compasses ice carving, Grand Master James L. Ernette and Brenda prepare to host the Grand Master’s banquet. (2.) Grand Master Ernette greets Thomas Jackson (front left), M.W. Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge. In the rear are (l-r): Lawrence Harris, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge; Alexander Civesen, R.W. Junior Grand Warden of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium; and Russell W. Baker, D.D.G.M., 3rd Masonic District. (3.) Stuart Cowan (right), M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii, and his wife, Victoria (center), present mementos to Grand Master Ernette and Brenda. (4.) State Representative and Bro. Jess M. Stairs, 59th Legislative District, Westmoreland County, presents a Citation from the House of Representatives to Grand Master Ernette. (5.) Allegheny County Commissioner and Bro. Larry Dunn congratulates the Grand Master. (6.) The Lettermen prepare to serenade Brenda Ernette. [Photos by Bros. Robert Binnie and Howard Dobmeier]

Sincerely and fraternally,

James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master

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**Grand Lodges in Germany And D.C. Honor Grand Secretary**

Twice, in November and December, Grand Masters of Grand Lodges in the United States and in Germany bestowed high honors upon Thomas W. Jackson, the R.W. Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and awarded him prestigious medals.

During the Triennial Convention of the United Grand Lodges of Germany on Nov. 2 in Berlin, M.W. Grand Master Rainer J. Schicke presented Bro. Jackson with the Grand Order of Merit, the highest ranking distinction of service to Masonry by that Grand Lodge. Bestowing it is a privilege that rests with the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Germany.

On Dec. 23, during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, M.W. Grand Master Robert F. Drechsel presented Bro. Jackson with the Grand Master W. Fred Stevens. The donation, a very special contribution of $1,650 was presented to the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Erie in memory of Past Master W. Fred Stevens. The donation, which comprised contributions from fellow employees of the late Bro. Stevens, was accepted by William D. Besor, Past Potentele of Syria Temple and a member of Harmony Lodge. Bro. Stevens had been known for his strong support of Shriner's Hospitals, often saying that the help that had been given to his niece was a major influence for his desire to be a Mason.

**Memorial Gift for Shriners Hospital**

At the January stated meeting of Harmony Lodge No. 429, Zelienople, a very special contribution of $1,650 was presented to the Shriner Children's Hospital in Erie in memory of Past Master W. Fred Stevens. The donation, which comprised contributions from fellow employees of the late Bro. Stevens, was accepted by William D. Besor, Past Potentele of Syria Temple and a member of Harmony Lodge. Bro. Stevens had been known for his strong support of Shriner's Hospitals, often saying that the help that had been given to his niece was a major influence for his desire to be a Mason.

**Concordia Lodge Awards 15 College Scholarships**

At a banquet following its October meeting, Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, awarded 15 scholarships to qualifying college students. Past Masters Norman L. Day and William J. Greit made the presentations derived from earnings of the Ronald Clarkston Scholarship Fund that was established to help members of Concordia Lodge and their immediate families meet college expenses.


**The Grand Order of Merit** was presented to Bro. Jackson in recognition of "Your manifold personal examples of promoting the cause of Freemasonry ... Even more inspiring were, and is, your personal reaching out over the ocean to Craft Masonry in Europe in your own special ways ... encouraging us to make our world a better place to live."

**The Valentine Reinzel Medal** was presented to Thomas W. Jackson in recognition of the contribution that Thomas W. Jackson is making to Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, elsewhere in the United States, and, in fact, throughout the world.

**PA Masons to Build Pavilion for VA Center**

The Masons of Pennsylvania will build a much needed recreation pavilion at the Pittsburgh Veterans Administration Health Care Center in Aspinwall, O'Hara Twp., near the city. James L. Emret, R.W. Grand Master, accompanied by William Kratzenberg, D.D.G.M., 54th Masonic District, made the announcement on Jan. 15 when they visited the site and reviewed plans for the structure.

Construction will get underway as soon as weather permits. Completion is scheduled for early June.

The new facility will provide a place for residents of the VA Hospital and their families to visit an outdoor space for summertime enjoyment; and a focal point for special activities. The facility will be a key location when the VA Hospital hosts the 1998 Wheelchair Competition in July.

Bro. Kratzenberg is Chairman to carry out the project, which includes accepting lodge and individual contributions to support the Grand Lodge commitment.

▲ Plans to have a new pavilion built for the VA Pittsburgh Health Care Center were announced by James L. Emret, R.W. Grand Master (second from left) and William M. Kratzenberg, D.D.G.M., 54th Masonic District (left), accompanied by William Vaupel and Richard Angelo, Masonic Services Volunteer. (Photos by Bro. Roman)

▲ Looking over the plans for a new pavilion at the Pittsburgh VA Health Care Center are (l-r): David G. Timurcko of the VA Volunteer Services; D.D.G.M. Kratzenberg; Grand Master Ernette; Max Darosa, VA Facilities Management Engineer, and Masonic Services Volunteer Representatives Vaupel and Angelo.

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The late Bro. Clarkston, a member of the Lodge, was born and educated in England as a chemist. He held several patents for pelletizing medications. Having no children, he made the bequest to the Lodge with the mandate that the income be distributed as a grant among student applicants attending accredited colleges.

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5th Masonic District’s 2nd Annual Drug and Alcohol Expo is Successful

Williamson Lodge No. 309 and the other lodges of the 5th Masonic District conducted their Second Annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Expo on Saturday, Oct. 4. The successful event, held from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Center for Arts and Technology in Coatesville, was attended by several hundred persons from surrounding communities.

There were booths staffed by the Liquor Control Board, law enforcement agencies, treatment centers, and community-based programs combating drugs and violence. The Pennsylvania State Police Aviation Unit landed a helicopter (photo) on the grounds and gave children a tour of the aircraft. Refreshments were served and five bicyclists were awarded as prizes.

MASON'S NOTE

A Friend to Friend Toast Medalion was presented to Louis J. Ludwig, P.M. (left), during the stated meeting, Dec. 9, of Conimbia Lodge No. 278, by Robert R. Hovers, Sr., D.D.G.M., 41st Masonic District. The Toast Medalion is a Grand lodge award for having been the first-line signer on 12 petitions.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of New York, Ralph H. Beeser, D.D.G.M., of the 33rd Masonic District represented the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in presenting a 50-Year Service Award to Robert H. McGarry, a member of Union-Cooksey Lodge No. 93, Elmira, NY. Bro. McGarry is currently a resident at the Bucknell Medical Center in Renovo, PA. Officers of Renova Lodge No. 493 who accompanied Bro. Beeser to make the presentation were Phil Marks, W.M.; John Pantz, S.W.; and Edward Winsel, P.M.

Guy Izso, J.W., of Fidelity Lodge No. 655, Willow- Barre, was pictured and cited as an outstanding “Person of the Year” by The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader for his community services as President of the Willow-Barre City Crime Watch Coalition.

Noted artist Edward C. Praeliger (right), a member of Harmony Lodge No. 52, Philadelphia, was presented a Grand Lodge 75-Year Certificate of Recognition by Kenneth W. Blixer (left), D.D.G.M., Masonic District “E.” The presentation was made on Dec. 13 to Bro. Praeliger in his new home in the Independent Living Community at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown. Bro. Blixer said that the walls of the new home, where Bro. Praeliger and his wife have resided for several months, are covered with his outstanding artwork. Bro. Praeliger will be 92 in August.

G. Llewellyn Duggan (left), a member of Rural Aimsy Lodge No. 70, Athens, was specially honored Oct. 14 for 68 years of Masonic service. A Certificate of Recognition was presented by the Worshipful Master, James W. McClure (right). Anniversaries of 28 other members of The Rural Aimsy Lodge were recognized.

1947 W.M. Invests 50-Yr. Awards

It was an evening of gold in Oasis Lodge No. 416, Edinboro, on Oct. 14. Past Master R. A. Fuller enjoyed the honor of investing 50-Year Emblems of Gold on several brethren who were initiated when he was the Worshipful Master in 1947. In addition, he invested his brother, Max W. Fuller, with his 50-Year Emblem of Gold. Bro. Max was eligible for the award last year, but was unable to attend the lodge at that time. Pictured are: (Front row) Glenn M. Olson, D.D.G.M.; Vern M. Backy, D.D.G.M.; and Past Master of Oasis Lodge, who presented the 50-Year Emblems; Glode E. Wright, Max W. Fuller, and J. Robert Bellings, all 50-year honorees; and Stephen F. Sanders, W.M. Back row: Ralph C. Zindel, Jr., P.H.; and S.W.; 50-year honoree; Past Master Fuller; Vera O. Woods, a 50-year honoree; and Larry E. Saltman, S.W. Phillip A. Walker also received his 50-Year Emblem, but was unable to be present for the picture.

District Sends Officer to Utah

Officer Wendy Calosimo, of the Reading Police Dept., was presented a check for $864 to attend a training conference for D.A.R.E. in Salt Lake City, UT. Seventh Masonic D.D.G.M. Frank E. Daniels is presenting the check from the District's Board of Governors. Officer Calosimo is the wife of Reading police officer Francis Calosimo, who is a member of St. John's Lodge No. 435.

P.M. Welcomes 4 Sons to Lodge

Four sons of Past Master James T. Carr (front left) were introduced to Freemasonry during a one-day conference on June 21 in Bethel Lodge No. 761, Bethel Park, Pittsburgh. The Past Master's father-in-law, Franklin Register (front center) was present for the degrees. Three brothers of the Carr family are in the back row: Jim C., Jason M., and Jared A. The fourth, Christopher R. Handwork (front right), is a stepson of Past Master Carr and a grandson of Bro. Register.

Brethren Travel to Award 50-Year Emblem

A contingent of Past Secretaries, who are also Past Masters of Crescent Lodge No. 576, Pittsburgh, traveled to the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown last summer to present a 50-year Emblem of Gold to Past Master Vern Woodward (center in photo). The 98-year-old resident of the Masonic Homes and 23rd Scottish Rite Mason, is a nationally-known playwright, author, and poet who was inducted as an International Poet of Merit by the International Society of Poets last August. The Past Masters shown with Bro. Woodward are (front): Allen J. Brown, Jr.; C. Edward Tripp, Jr., present Secretary of Crescent Lodge; Lewis R. Roahecker; and Louis Satter.

District Officers Raise W.M.'s Two Sons

Officers of lodges in the 27th Masonic District (pictured in the rear two rows) joined together in Leechburg Lodge No. 577 on Oct. 23 to confer the Master Mason’s Degree on two sons of Leechburg’s Worshipful Master, Alvie E. Eshelman, Sr. (center). The sons are Alvie E., Jr. (second from left) and John E. Eshelman (front right).

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Five high school seniors were selected from among 125 applicants statewide to receive $1,000 scholarships from The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children. (Effective January 1, the name was changed to "The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children.")

This annual grant is called the Carl W. Stenberg, Jr. Scholarship, established in honor of the late R.W. Past Grand Master who was the founder of The Foundation. Recipients are young persons who have coped with drugs or alcohol in some form. They were helped by their school's Student Assistance teams to overcome their problems and turn their lives around. They have maintained favorable academic records and have been accepted for enrollment in accredited colleges. Students receiving scholarships are required to continue meeting the guidelines of character and academic achievement.

This year's recipients bring the total number of Stenberg Scholarships awarded since 1993 to 19. The first scholarship recipient was graduated from Stenberg, Jr., Scholarship, established in 1993 to 1999.

Prevention, a day-care center for income families, a crippled child, a community food bank, Special Olympics, and a senior citizens' center.

To qualify for the jewel, a brother will have to have served a minimum of six years as a subordinate lodge treasurer. The jewel may be presented following the completion of six years' service, with the treasurer entitled to wear it from that time forward. The jewels must be ordered through the subordinate lodge. They may not be purchased by individuals.

The jewel will be inscribed with the name of the intended recipient and the years of service. The jewel will be presented at the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge.

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The jewel will be inscribed with the name and number of the lodge on the top bar; the name of the recipient on the middle bar; and the years of service on the lower bar. For those recipients still serving as treasurer, the completion of service date will be added at the end of the term.

The Masonic Matching Grants Program was introduced by R.W. Grand Master James L. Emette in 1997, and a total of 5,000 grants were made per year, the charitable contributions that a lodge makes in its local community.

Comments and questions have been coming in to the Matching Grants Committee from across the jurisdiction as lodge officers plan for an increased community presence through their charitable activities. The funds to be matched can come from lodge funds, member donations, or appropriate fund-raising programs.

Some lodges have planned to expand programs already in place. Others are looking to establish something uniquely supported by the lodge. Some of the intended recipients include a women's crisis center, a youth soccer league, a recent widow, a scholarship program, a day-care center for low income families, a crippled child, a community food bank, Special Olympics, and a senior citizens' center.

The screening process that is in place requires the use of a simple application for prior approval of the matching grant. In order to use charity funds of the Grand Lodge, the committee simply needs to assure that specific requirements of the IRS are met. The screening process is guaranteed to take just a few days, and provisions have been made to handle truly emergency situations.

Remember, when all is said and done, the lodge is to receive all of the credit for the combined donation and matching grant. Look at some of the comments already received by the committee:

"This is an excellent program... obviously a lot of thought was put into this... from the legal, financial, and fraternal angles." — William M. Baily, D.D.G.M., 29th Masonic District

"Program looks great! It's easy to follow, and well thought out. Simple. Fantastic!" — Walter J. Fahy, W.M., Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown

In each issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason, the Committee will be reporting developments of successful Matching Grants projects and how this program has increased the public's awareness of the charitable work of the Masonic Fraternity.

For more information about the Matching Charity Grants Program, contact your Worshipful Master or Lodge Secretary, or call to speak to a member of the Committee at 1-800-266-8424.

The lodge secretaries of Masonic District "E" were honored at a banquet on Nov. 22, Thomas W. Jackson, R.W.G. Grand Secretary, was the special guest and speaker and presented Secretary Service Jewels to two of them. Joining in cutting a celebration cake are (l-r) C. Roger Evans, P.M., Olivet-Oriental Lodge No. 385; William C. Jameson, P.M., Williamson's Corner Lodge No. 393; Donald H. Dabney, D.D.G.M. of the 15th Masonic District and a P.M. of Canawacta Lodge.

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Three Sons Raised

With their father present, three brothers were raised at an Extra Meeting of Greater Johnstown Lodge No. 538 on Oct. 16. Pictured after the meeting are (l-r): Michael J., and Timothy A. Washko; Robert R. Havers, D.D.G.M., 41st Masonic District; James R. Virgin, W.M., Lodge No. 538; Daniel L. and Michael C. Washko, the father and recommender for the three sons.
Admissions Counselors Return for Another Successful Session

On Thursday and Friday, Oct. 16 and 17, the Masonic Homes hosted 53 Admissions Counselors for an annual training session. The two-day event served as an opportunity for counselors to learn more about the facility, to see firsthand how it operates, and to reunite with old friends and fellow counselors.

The Admissions Counselors are available in Pennsylvania, Florida, and some neighboring states to assist applicants and their families who are seeking admission to the Village Green Area and the Masonic Health Care Center. They assist individuals in completing their applications and are available to answer questions.

Masonic Homes welcomed ten Eastern Star Admissions Counselors who now provide additional assistance to those seeking admission to the Masonic Homes and the Masonic Eastern Star Homes. They are:

- Jane Bleam, Margaret Nies, Jane Newcomer, Lorene Sinclair, Marjorie Timchak, Bonnie Weisluft, Margaret Knatch, and Deborah and Jeff Nale.

Grand Lodge Officers to Host PA Masons in Florida

Invitations were sent to Pennsylvania Masons residing in Florida to meet with Grand Master James L. Ernette and other officers from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Executive Director/CEO of the Masonic Homes accompanied by the Admissions, Development, Outreach, and Marketing staff, will be part of the group.

The informational meetings will be held on Thursday, March 27, at the Egypt Shrine Temple, Tampa; and on Saturday, March 28, at the Amora Shrine Temple, Palm Beach Gardens. Each meeting will begin with a reception at 11 a.m., lunch at noon, and social hour from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meetings is to share important information on the full continuum of new services and benefits provided at, and by, the Masonic Homes.

If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend one of these sessions, please call us at 1-800-462-7664.

Grand Master Awards Pin at I.L.C.

When Glenn Sowash (second from left) of Shiloh Lodge No. 601, Ireni, was unable to return to his lodge to receive his 50-Year Service Emblem, R. W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisler (right) and Richard J. Stensland (left), 30th Masonic D.D.G.M., made the presentation at his home in the Independent Living Community at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown. Looking on is his wife, Janet.

Visit Masonic Homes and Enjoy Hospitality

If a trip to Elizabethtown requires traveling a long distance, you can enjoy the overnight hospitality of the Masonic Homes. If you are interested in becoming a resident in the Independent Living areas, this is an invitation to spend the day touring the beautiful grounds, including the Masonic Health Care Center, enjoying dinner with residents, and staying in one of the beautiful apartments for the night. You will have the opportunity to talk with residents and become acquainted with the services provided in a loving and caring environment. What better way to learn about the Masonic Homes than to experience it first-hand?

To schedule an appointment, return the coupon or call 1-800-667-6452.

Please contact the Masonic Homes at 1-800-422-1207 if you have any questions regarding this position.

I would be interested in being an Admissions Counselor

Name: ________
Address: ________
City: ________
State: ________
Zip: ________
Phone: ________

[ ] I will [ ] I will not attend a training session.

Location: ________
Date: ________

Please complete coupon and return to:
Admission Office
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Masonic Homes' Renaissance Unit Sends Patients Home Healthy!

Since the Renaissance Unit opened to receive persons requiring transitional or subacute care, the Masonic Homes admitted more than 325 individuals to the facility in 1997, 14 of whom were not residents of the Masonic Homes at the time. After receiving quality care services in the Renaissance Unit, the vast majority of those patients have returned to their own homes, or to their most independent living environment.

The Masonic Homes has provided transitional care services to residents since 1996, but with the opening of the Renaissance Unit last February, those services are now provided in a more homelike environment, within the beauty, comfort, and security of the Masonic Homes. Since today's health care facilities face cost containment pressures which often lead to shorter hospital stays for persons who require rehabilitative services, the Renaissance Unit provides this level of care to help them make a smoother transition from the hospital back to home.

The 51-bed Renaissance Unit, located in the Ben Franklin Building of the Masonic Health Care Center, is designed with capabilities to perform transitional care services for persons who may require complex medical management following a hospital stay. The staff utilizes equipment conducive to providing a wide range of complex medical services. Immediately after, or instead of, acute hospitalization, one who has had an acute illness or injury, or in the exacerbation stage of a disease process, can receive active, complex medical treatments through subacute care until stabilization occurs. The unit provides comprehensive medical, rehabilitation, and consultation programs and services designed to meet the individual needs of each patient. The staff of this unit receives special training and encourages patients to get better and reach their highest level of independence at their own pace. The unit currently provides all of the services available at a hospital transitional unit for a much lower cost and in a more homelike environment. Often, the services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other insurers.

The Renaissance Unit provides services to all Pennsylvania Masons and their eligible family members, and is not limited to serving only residents of the Masonic Homes. It offers a valuable choice to those who are eligible and require a subacute level of care. If you, or someone you know, needs this level of care, you are urged to call the Masonic Homes to learn how you can help.

Call 1-800-422-1207.
**Children's Home and Lodge No. 9 Celebrated Christmas Early**

In November 1997, David Woodhead, W.M. of Lodge No. 9, (Tacony) Philadelphia, called Gilson "Buz" Craig, Director of the Masonic Children's Home, with a plan to make the holidays extra special for the 38 youths residing at the Masonic Homes.

The Lodge decided to spend the money from its charity fund to purchase "wish items" for the children in a special way. More than 50 lodge members and their families held a Christmas party for the youth from the Children's Home on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14. Lodge members and their families provided food for the celebration. They bought gifts for each of the children, having chosen special items from the children's "wish" lists, such as: bicycles, dolls, games, movie passes, toys, and practical gifts for the seniors. The lodge also bought two big screen television/VCRs to be shared in two of the children's cottages.

Mason was helped to stay with his only remaining family in San Diego. We helped a Brother with a family get back on its feet financially and find employment that will bring security to him, his wife, and children. With financial support from the community, we helped a child with special physical needs gain placement into a treatment plan. We helped caregivers meet together and encouraged them to build networks of strength and support. We helped people gain access to information that provided answers to important questions.

We do this as an extension of the Masonic Homes "Mission of Love." That brotherly love is extended to all as we reach out, into our community, offering information and direction to people who are not certain about where they can turn to meet their needs. The Outreach Program's help is available and working. Together, we will seek solutions to life's problems.

To learn more about your Outreach Program and its services call: 1-800-4-MASONIC (1-800-462-7664).

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**Discover Residential Living at the Masonic Homes**

In your retirement years, wouldn't you like to be relaxing among friends? Let Masonic Homes show you how to live your retirement years to their fullest! This Spring, look forward to living within the tranquil environment of the Masonic Homes, surrounded by colorful flowers, tall shade trees, and close friends. All of the conveniences of a small town are provided: transportation, a myriad of activities, and recreational opportunities, as well as access to medical care, is available to all residents.

The Masonic Homes continue to make plans for single and double room accommodations in the beautiful Village Green Area to be available in the Spring of 1998.

Think about joining the Masonic Homes' family today. Call now to make an appointment for a visit and tour. For more information or an application to the Masonic Homes' Village Green Area, return the coupon or call 1-800-422-1207. Now is the time to start planning for your future!
Renovations Continue on Respite Cottage for Adult Children

Renovations are continuing on the Masonic Homes’ respite cottage designed to meet the needs of Masons and members of the community who are caring for their developmentally challenged and mentally retarded adult children. The opening of this eight-bed cottage is scheduled tentatively for March 1, 1998.

If you are the parent or caregiver of an adult child with special needs and are looking forward to scheduling a vacation, the Masonic Homes can help by offering a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. It can be a home away from home for your loved one, with around-the-clock supervised service in a comfortable cottage within the beautiful and caring environment of the Masonic Homes. Guests will receive three nutritious meals a day, plus snacks, social and recreational activities, assistance with personal care, and access to medical care. All of this is available at a reasonable cost.

For more information about the Masonic Homes’ Respite Care Program, or to make your reservations, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33301.

Masonic Homes Considers Managed Care Insurance Options

The Masonic Homes has recently signed a managed care contract with MediGuard, a division of Health Guard. MediGuard is an insurance company offering a Medicare-risk HMO product which appears to be the insurance of choice for some individuals in the community.

Since some of the residents at the Masonic Homes have expressed an interest in this type of insurance, a task force consisting of residents and staff has over the last few years considered managed care options for Masonic Homes’ residents. A few months ago, the task force heard a MediGuard presentation and after careful consideration felt that insurer currently offers the strongest provider list of physicians and specialists in Lancaster County. While the Masonic Homes is not actively promoting this particular type of insurance to current and prospective residents, it is providing the information to those who may wish to explore this option.

This option is available to residents regardless of pre-existing medical conditions. Ample time was taken to consider this option because the task force wanted to make sure that the contract would cover medical and clinical services provided in the Masonic Health Care Center such as x-ray, laboratory, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, podiatry, ophthalmology, etc.

The Masonic Homes is open to talking to other managed care organizations in the near future and always works to provide a continuum of quality services to allow people to choose how they prefer to live for their most independent level, either by receiving skilled services in the Masonic Health Care Center or by utilizing home or community-based services.

Those who choose this insurance option may save money because with it they no longer will have to pay for Medicare supplemental insurance. The plan also offers additional benefits beyond what is provided by traditional Medicare, such as savings through prescription drug purchases and vision services.

It is important to remember, however, that individuals who enroll in the MediGuard insurance option will be required to choose their physicians and medical specialists from MediGuard’s network of health care providers.

Opening of Freemasons Building to End Eight-Year Construction Project

The completion of the eight-year Masonic Health Care Center construction project is within sight! In May, the Freemasons Building will soon become home to 127 residents requiring assisted living accommodations.

These new accommodations will provide assisted living services for residents who are basically independent, but who require some assistance in their daily activities such as bathing, dressing, transportation, and taking medications. Assisted living accommodations allow residents to live at full potential with the assurance that individual and personalized assistance will be provided when needed. This area will also offer convenient access to all clinics, beauty and barber shop, therapy pool, gift shop, activities and social events.

If you would like more information about the accommodations to be offered in the Masonic Homes’ Freemasons Building, call 1-800-422-1207.

Blood, Organ Donor Poster Contest Entries Excellent

Henry L. Lesher (photo at left), 11th Masonic D.D.G.M., presented the first place prize to Carla during the annual Ladies Night of Page Lodge No. 270, of which her father is a member. Additionally, it was a fitting occasion to make the presentation because the Rainbow Assembly helps to serve the banquet and many of Carla’s Rainbow friends were there.

The annual contest serves an important role in promoting an awareness for the importance of blood and organ donations and it involves the Masonic youth groups in fraternal activities.

Of 17 excellent finalists in the statewide Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Club poster contest, the one created by Carla Liddle, a member of Pottsville Rainbow Assembly No. 75, Schuylkill Haven, won first place for which she earned a $300 prize.

Second place was won by Emily Dotson, of Ohio Valley Assembly No. 157, Pittsburgh, earning $200; and third place by Jenna Wicherman, of Marthas Matron Assembly No. 28, Roslyn, earning $100.

The winning poster was reproduced and sent to every lodge for posting. Judging of the entries was done by the Masonic Education Committee.

Lodges Find Great Programs Presented By Youth Groups

Youth programs were presented on the stated meeting dates in nearly one-third of the lodges in Pennsylvania in 1997, according to reports received by the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation. The reports verify that they were well received ... made our Lodge feel very proud of our Masonic youth groups.” — Larry E. Maynard, W.M., Watertown Lodge No. 491

* "The Rainbow Girls led the Lodge in singing patriotic songs. They also discussed their duties and the Cross formation.” — John L. Warning, 21st Masonic District Youth Chairman, Mohawk Lodge No. 391, Phillipsburg

* "I have to support the youth because I have seen many youth in our area ... become Master Masons in my Lodge. By supporting the youth, I have increased the rolls of my lodge by at least a half-dozen good men.” — John Muszynia, W.M., Wilson-Joppa Lodge No. 714, Dravosburg

* "The Greenville Rainbow Girls presented the lessons of the Rainbow stations. The program demonstrated the poise and dignity of these exceptional young ladies.” — Mark E. Hills, Youth Chairman, Greenville-Fairview Lodge No. 290
GRAND MASTER PRESENTED IN HIS LODGE

After his installation on Dec. 27 in Pittsburgh, James L. Ernette was presented in his Lodge, Westmoreland Lodge No. 518, during a special meeting held in the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. He is pictured above with Richard J. Sternewirth (third from right), D.D.G.M., 30th Masonic District, and the officers of Westmoreland Lodge (left to right) Front - Charles D. Kapulski, Sec.; Anthony Dawson, S.W.; Gerald A. Sutherland, W.M.; Bro. Ernette, Bro. Stemmler; Theodore A. Johnson, J.W.; and E. Michael George, J.D. Back - Charles R. Miller, S.M.C.; William L. Trender, Chaplain; Charles H. Johnstone, Tyler; G. Ervin Boyce, Pursuant; J. Paul Stewart, J.M.C.; Charles H. King, S.D.; Howard T. Silbaugh, Aide to the Grand Master; and Rodney E. Boyce, Treasurer. Grand Master Ernette was escorted by an honor guard of Pennsylvania State Police Troopers (above right) comprising of Troopers James F. George, Todd L. Pounds, Jeffrey L. Edwards, G. Ekl. Allen G. Evans.

Reading No. 549 Doing Big Things For Big Celebration

This is the “Bicentquinquagenary” in Reading. That’s a big word that means the 250th anniversary. It also signifies a big time planned for the city and for Reading Lodge No. 549.

The Worshipful Master, Carey M. Kaucher, P.M., started planning far ahead for the big year. He has designated “Reading — 250” as the theme for 1998 lodge programming. His plans include being a part of the city’s 250th Anniversary Parade; a rail ramble to Grand Lodge and City Hall in Philadelphia; and a year-long offering of a commorative collectible.

On May 16, Reading Masons will be part of the city’s gigantic Bicentquinquagenary Parade. Parading Masons will accompany the Greater Kensington String Band, a regular headliner in the Philadelphia Mummers’ Parade. Following the parade, the string band will perform in concert in Reading’s City Park.

On Friday, Sept. 25, Reading Lodge No. 549, in cooperation with appropriate city committees, is planning Masonic aspects of a rail ramble to Philadelphia. Twelve buses are planned to take tourists to tour the Masonic Temple and Philadelphia’s City Hall. While touring the buildings, they will be greeted by W.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette, Mayor Ed Randall, and “Ben Franklin.” After they have lunch in the Grand Ballroom of the Masonic Temple, the travelers will board a specially chartered Amtrak for the return trip.

The train will be pulled by two restored original engines that were built in the Reading Company Car Shops. Information and reservations for the $99 rail ramble ($85 without lunch), are available from Carey Kaucher, W.M., 1518 Linden St., Reading, PA 19604.

The limited edition collectible that has been designed for the lodge depicts the original Masonic Temple at 124 N. Fifth St. in Reading, which was razed many years ago. The $20 commemorative cutout piece is hand-screened on wood by Hometown Collectibles artist Dennis Ruffner, who served with the Worshipful Master on the Committee chaired by Dennis Hagan. Information about the collectible is available from Bro. Hagan, of 124 Oley St., Reading, PA 19604, who is the sales coordinator.

The Committee that designed and produced the commorative collectible (displayed in center of picture) depicting the old Masonic Temple in Reading comprises (l-r): Dennis Hagan, Chairman; Dennis F. Ruffner, artist; and Carey Kaucher, W.M.

Haag Scholarship Winner

Jill Place, a second-year student at Kutztown University, receives the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation’s Donald Haag Scholarship Award from Lonnie A. W. Bacherl, W.M. of J. Simpkin African Lodge No. 629, Stroudsburg. With the recipient are her parents, Bro. Horton and Cassandra Place. The winner’s father, grandfather, and uncles all are members of J. Simpkin African Lodge.

Organ Donor Families Thanked At Harrisburg, Philadelphia Meetings

Several hundred members of organ donor families were greeted in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Nov. 16 and the Zembo Temple, Harrisburg on Dec. 2. W.W. Grand Master Edward O. Wissler hosted the Philadelphia meeting and in a moving welcome, compared a fallen autumn leaf to an organ donor. He said, “As a leaf falls from the tree, a living bud remains to give new life. In like manner an organ donor gives new life to the recipients of his organs or tissues.”

The third annual Donor Appreciation Program was held to honor those donor families who made the decision to donate organs or tissues during the past year. Each family was presented with the “Gift of Life” donation medal and a yellow rose. The events were coordinated by the Delaware Valley Transplant Program.

The Grand Lodge continues to encourage all members and their families to become organ donors. For information or donor cards, contact the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Program through the Masonic Education Office at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Phone 1-800-462-0430, menu choice 5.

One Day Degrees for Fourth Generation Mason

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Let's Use the Freedom We Have

By Bro. Thomas W. Jackson
R.W. Grand Secretary

My Brothers:

We have just passed through that period of the year when each of us probably passes and considers the significance of the blessings and privileges we have been granted in life. It does not matter what our religious persuasion may be. It is a time when the existence of a Supreme Being probably carries a greater impact upon our hearts because it is the time in which our minds are stimulated more frequently to appreciate His importance in our lives.

We, as both Americans and Freemasons, have a greater reason to be thankful than perhaps anywhere else in the world. We live in a country where freedom is an accepted aspect of life. We live in a country where we can openly choose to worship God as we please without concern. We live in a country where we can be a member of the Masonic Fraternity without fear of any type of retribution.

And, yet, we all too often take these freedoms for granted. There are many places in the world today where these freedoms simply do not exist. How often we tend to forget that our freedom to worship God and our freedom to be a Freemason are freedoms enjoyed by others, if not freely given, at the expense of others. Prosperity has a way of dulling appreciation for those whose sacrifices and commitments gave us that prosperity. It is easy to become complacent when we have not had to struggle, and we have become complacent.

I have had the privilege in recent years to be in conversations with Freemasons from many parts of the world. As a result, I have developed an even greater appreciation for being able to walk into a lodge room and sit with my brothers, and of being able to walk into a church of my choice and worship God as I choose.

I have talked with brothers who had to leave their native countries because Freemasons were being persecuted and killed. I have talked to those who today live with a continuing concern for their lives or their freedom because they are Freemasons. I have written to brothers in countries where I had to use envelopes with no Masonic reference because it could place them in jeopardy.

And we, with no reason to fear, do not even put forth the effort to attend our meetings. We have so much for which we should give thanks to the Grand Arch of the Universe and to those who made supreme sacrifices for our freedoms. We cannot do that by not using these freedoms.

My brothers, let us individually commit ourselves to make use of that which we have, the least of which is not the freedom of sitting in a lodge room with our brothers.

Goelv Passed Brother to Brother

Brethren, Take Notice

The Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held Wednesday, March 4, 1998 in the Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA. The meeting will be served at 5:00 o'clock; Grand Lodge will open at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

The senior brother passed the gavel to his younger brother when retiring Worshipful Master Gregory T. Otto (left) installed Clinton J. Otto in Valley Lodge No. 797, Valley View. The brothers' father, Trant E. Otto, is also a member of Valley Lodge.

KNOEELS PARK, ELYSBURG, PA

Pavilion "E"

Saturday, May 16 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Package #1: Food and Rides
Price: $28/Person

Package #2: Rides Only
Price: $14/Person

Package #3: Food Only
$14/Person

Children 4 & Under Free

Parking Included With All Packages

DEADLINE: MAY 10

Name: __________________________
Lodge No. ________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________
State: __________________________
ZIP: __________________________

No. of Package #1 @ $28/Person ______
No. of Package #2 @ $14/Person ______
No. of Package #3 @ $14/Person ______

Total Amount Enclosed: $ ______

Make Checks payable to "Masonic Picnic" and mail with ticket requests and stamped, self-addressed #10 Envelope to:

Hugh A. Jones, 150 Pochannas Lane, Elysburg, PA 17824 (717) 672-1083

The schedule for ten Sectional Schools of Instruction has been continued for 1998 by William M. Jones, Director of Ritualistic Work.

February 28 ................ Clearedfield
March 8 ...................... Washington
March 14 ...................... New Castle
March 21 ...................... Pittsburgh
March 28 ...................... Harrisburg
April 4 ....................... Altoona
April 11 ...................... Scranton
April 18 ...................... Philadelphia
May 2 ....................... Warren
May 9 ....................... Williamsport

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