The Scottish Rite
Grand Almoner’s Campaign

A Path Appears
A Path Appears is a riveting book that offers practical, results-driven strategies for giving that are effective and impactful. What makes the book especially powerful is the research it presents on how philanthropy not only helps those in need, but, benefits the giver both physically and spiritually. Authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn write, “Helping others is not a heroic burden, but a transcendent source of fulfillment.” Those words are heady and bold. But for those involved in the Grand Almoner’s Fund, they resonate deeply.

As Freemasons we take an obligation to lead a life of integrity and reverence. In many ways, this pledge defines who we are. The path we have chosen taps into an elemental driver of the human spirit—the profound yearning to live a life filled with meaning and purpose. Altruism is one important way we assert our Masonic values.

Helping others is not a heroic burden, but a transcendent source of fulfillment

— Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, authors of A Path Appears
Typically, altruism begins with a compassionate desire to help and empower others. When we care for a Brother facing towering hardships, we help him transform his life. We open a path—one that leads away from suffering to a place of greater optimism.

As we follow a path of kindness and outreach in our own lives, what we find along the way is a cause larger than ourselves. The Almoner’s Fund reminds us that those in need are in complex situations—but the call to action is simple. As Freemasons, we respond by honoring our values, rising to our duty, and asserting our humanity. As we do, we learn that altruism, compassion, and optimism give us great gifts. Our spirits are uplifted and we are affirmed.

In this publication, we present the stories of those helped through the Grand Almoner’s Fund as direct evidence of the power of your giving. None of us has perfect tools or endless resources. But, when we put our hearts and minds to it, we create paths to hope and faith for our Brothers and their families who need it most. The work of the Almoner’s Fund creates a sweeping tapestry of Freemasons in service to each other.

Talk about helping others can sink into sentimentality or sanctimony. The simple yet inspiring truth, however, is that giving is a source of joy. It is not an ascetic sacrifice, but an act that brings to pass our own deep fulfillment.

We hope you will take your place in this important and meaningful work. Please join in support of the Grand Almoner’s Campaign and join the Commander’s Circle.
Two weeks before the birth of his first child, Brother Steven Zuhlke, 32°, lost his life in a fire that burned his home to the ground. His wife, Kat, was asleep at the time the fire broke out, and woke to find their home fully engulfed. She climbed out of a bedroom window, and tried to get to Steve, who was in the living room. She worked to break down the back door, but could not rescue her husband as the fire raged and smoke thickened. Eventually, firefighters were able to pull Steve from the house and transport him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Scottish Rite honored its obligation to Brother Zuhlke’s widow and his unborn child when representatives of the Valley of Indianapolis
presented Kat with a generous check from the Grand Almoner’s Fund. “We are overcome with grief at the loss of our esteemed brother. We know he could not wait to be a father,” said Paul C. St. Pierre, 33°, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Valley. “Our love, compassion, and prayers for Kat and the Baby Z will never end. We can take small solace in helping to provide for some of their material needs.”

Steven Zuhlke was raised a Master Mason in 1994 and developed a passion for the Fraternity. He was a proud member and Past Master of Pentalpha Masonic Lodge #564, Indianapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite, and Murat Shriners. Steve was a well-respected figure among his Masonic brothers, and a close friend to many of them.
CANCER BRINGS SERIOUS FINANCIAL TROUBLE

How much can one man endure? After losing his job, John, 59, was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. Job loss left him without health insurance, yet he was facing several surgeries and multiple rounds of chemotherapy. Medical costs began adding up into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Household bills piled up, too. Utilities were under threat of being shut off, and the roof began to leak. Property taxes were in serious arrears. John is single with little family support. The stress and worry he carried troubled his physicians, as they knew his body was already under assault from the cancer and its treatment.

Brothers from the Valley of Pittsburgh petitioned the Grand Almoner’s Fund and were able help cover some of the expenses that had accumulated since John’s unemployment. “This is a good man who is going
through a very sad and frightening time,” said Russell W. Baker, 33°, Emeriti for Pennsylvania. “To have the Scottish Rite step up and provide real relief to our Brother in need is gratifying beyond words. The heart of the mission of the Grand Almoner’s Fund is something I am very proud to be a part of.”

Beyond the financial help, Baker explained, the Fraternity also stepped up to help in a number of other ways. The Valley hospitaler, together with a local social worker, is petitioning for state aid to cover the medical bills. One of the caterers out of the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center sends food to John’s home so he has something to eat. His Blue Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and other Masonic organizations all made arrangements to waive his dues. “That’s the thing about the Fraternity,” said Baker. “Financial help is not the be-all and end-all of the caring we provide to our members. We will continue to reach out to John and give him our support as he weathers one of his life’s most difficult chapters.”

**SUPPORT THAT GOES BEYOND DELIVERING A CHECK**

The work of the Almoner’s Fund does not end with simply delivering a check. As shown in John’s case in the story above, the ongoing outreach and care offered to a Brother in need are important parts of the relief we as Freemasons provide. It is central to the Scottish Rite vision.

Recently, Sovereign Grand Commander John William McNaughton and his wife Judy paid a visit to Alan, a Scottish Rite Mason who is caring for his wife, Kathy. She is suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Said Commander McNaughton, “Our Fraternity is dedicated to knowing our members, and reaching out to them when they are in need. Financial assistance through the Grand Almoner’s Fund is certainly important, but continued emotional support is vital, too. Our duty to offer relief to one another is as old and rock solid as Freemasonry itself. Never underestimate how much it means to a Brother in need to pay a visit, lend a helping hand, or make a simple phone call.”
Proof of how much a visit can mean to someone facing hard times can be heard in Alan’s words of thanks.

Dear Commander McNaughton,

Kathy and I very much enjoyed your visit. It was an example of true brotherhood for you to take the time to come. Kathy has had a few falls and bad days after your visit. She is getting weaker, and is now in a wheelchair about 90% of the time.

My days are spent preparing special meals she can tolerate, and then feeding her. Doctor appointments take much of our other time. I am not complaining, but I hope you can see how your visit brightened our lives. We were honored to have you both in our home. The brotherhood and caring you showed us were appreciated beyond measure.

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— Alan, Scottish Rite Mason
Touchstones of Thanks

I cannot express the gratitude I have for your generosity. After my husband’s death, the money allowed me to stay home a little longer with my grieving children. They miss their dad, and to be there for them is an enormous gift to us all. You made that gift of time possible.

—Samantha, widow and mother to three children, ages two to seven

The check and the thoughtful way it was brought to our home by two of my Brothers demonstrates again what a fine organization this Masonic brotherhood is. Never will you find a more thoughtful group of men. When they delivered the check I was speechless. People who know me will tell you that rarely happens. The money came when we truly needed it, and my wife and I will be eternally grateful.

—Bob, Scottish Rite Mason

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the Grand Almoner’s effort, and present a check to a family in crisis. Between the quickness of the response and the impact on the family, words fail me. When tears well up in a man’s eyes and his wife is stunned at what the Scottish Rite made happen, it is beyond me to say how gratifying that feels. Thank you for showing me again why I have long been proud to be a Mason and a member of the Scottish Rite.

—Kevin Williams, 33°
The Commander’s Circle

PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEAT....

Help from the Grand Almoner’s Fund moves lives from states of devastation and desperation to places of greater stability and calm. Won’t you take your seat and be part of this most essential and meaningful work?

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, commissioned a special honor to recognize the most generous donors to the Grand Almoner’s Fund.

The Commander’s Circle is made up of two levels of giving:

• **The Gold Circle** is an exclusive honor limited to donors of $10,000 or more to the Grand Almoner’s Campaign. A gold pin has been commissioned to acknowledge members of this group.

• **The Silver Circle** recognizes those who donate or make a bequest of $5,000 or more to the Grand Almoner’s Campaign. A silver pin recognizes the members of this group.

Members of these donor societies are commemorated on a plaque in the newly constructed Supreme Council Headquarters located in Lexington, Massachusetts.

WAYS TO GIVE

**Direct donations and pledges** that can be paid over a period of up to five years are excellent ways to support the Grand Almoner’s Campaign. Bequests are also encouraged and deeply appreciated.

**Gifts of securities** may be donated, as well. Gifts of real property may be possible, but are subject to review before acceptance.

Your donation can be sent in the envelope provided. Or you may contact the Development Department directly at:

**Grand Almoner’s Campaign**

Attn: Jim S. Deyo, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519 • (781) 862-4410
The Commander’s Circle is a special group of donors who have chosen to honor their commitment to the principles of our fraternity through their generous support of the Grand Almoner’s Fund. Their passion and their giving are a true and lasting expression of “Masons Caring for Masons.”

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Our obligation to offer relief to one another is as old and as rock solid as Freemasonry itself. Times change, but our basic beliefs remain steadfast.

– John William McNaughton, Sovereign Grand Commander