But for Scottish Rite...

The Scottish Rite
Grand Almoner’s Campaign

Brother-to-Brother
Consider This an Invitation

Consider this an invitation—an invitation to do an astonishing amount of good.

It is a summons to step forward and uphold a fundamental covenant of our Craft—helping Freemasons and their families in need. This is a call to join your fellow Scottish Rite Brethren who nurture a culture of altruism and compassion in our Fraternity through their support of the Grand Almoner’s Fund.

In many cases, what the Grand Almoner’s Fund means to Masons and their families in crisis is startlingly poignant, as you will read in the pages ahead. The cold facts and flesh-and-blood stories of the Masons we help are at once moving, yet also filled with hope. We hear their words of gratitude, and we feel the joy and satisfaction that comes from giving and lending our hearts.

But what we don't often hear are the words of the remarkable men at work behind the scenes—your Scottish Rite Brethren who arrange the relief and provide follow-up care to the Masons and families we help. These are the men in the trenches. How the Grand Almoner’s Fund has transformed their lives will touch and inspire you. Their words leave no doubt that the benefits of giving flow in both directions. Through these men, we reaffirm how the Grand Almoner’s Fund allows this Fraternity to uphold a higher standard of humanity. In return, our deep personal yearning to make a difference in the lives of others—the generosity of spirit deep within us—is blessed.
Gail N. Kemp, 33°
Grand Lieutenant Commander
Deputy for Indiana

When I called the wife of one of our members shortly before Christmas, I was confronted with a story of a life in pieces. Her husband, a proud Freemason for all of his adult life, was suffering from Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. Sobbing on the phone, she told me the demands of his nursing care was depleting them financially. She had under $300 in her account, which was not unusual. They were flat up against the wall, and there was a worrisome hopelessness in her voice. “Everything is falling apart, and I am lost and alone. We have no family to turn to,” she said. Moved to my core, I told her, “You have your Masonic family, and we are here for you.” With help from the Grand Almoner’s Fund, this family was pulled from the brink of financial and emotional collapse.

I have been lucky enough to have an ongoing role in the Scottish Rite’s commitment to care for our Masonic Brothers in need. To make a difference in the lives of others has been one of the most meaningful things I have ever done. To have a part in doing so much good, especially in the season of giving, is incredibly fulfilling. I am not sure about a Miracle on 34th Street, but we created a Christmas miracle on a small street in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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—Gail N. Kemp, 33°
Battling cancer since he was 12, the good and decent Freemason we helped through the Grand Almoner’s Fund is now on borrowed time. He can now barely walk, but remains determined to get back to his job within the next month. He feels the pressure to do so because even with his wife working, they live paycheck to paycheck.

When I handed over the check from the Grand Almoner’s Fund, he looked at the letter and was completely amazed at what he saw. The tears started, he stood up, shook my hand, gave me a big hug and hung on for a while. He said we would never know how much pressure was taken off him and his family. He asked that I express their heartfelt thanks to the Scottish Rite for what the Almoner’s Fund has done.

As this deserving Mason faces the end of his life, he will always know his family was cared for in a very real way by our Fraternity. Having a role in that is a gift to my spirit I can never repay. I feel this experienced changed my life.

Being a Freemason and a member of the Scottish Rite has always been a significant part of my life. As an organization we can take pride in the fact that we do fulfill our vision “to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.” Some would say we do God’s work. I know it feels that way to me.

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— Michael A. DeWolf, 33°
Kevin Williams, 33°
Valley Secretary, Terre Haute, Indiana

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the Grand Almoner’s effort. When I delivered the check today, our member was stunned at what the Scottish Rite has done for him and his family. He had never before seen our Masonic obligation taken to heart in this way. I explained our vision statement, and that our Fraternity “walked the talk.”

I cannot put into words how significant this experience has been in MY life. Helping in this way has been one of the most meaningful acts of giving I have ever been part of. I am more proud than I can say to be a Freemason and a member of the Scottish Rite.

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— Kevin Williams, 33°

We hope you will take your place in this important and meaningful work. Please accept the invitation to support the Grand Almoner’s Campaign and join the Commander’s Circle.

Scottish Rite Vision
We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.
Sam Allen: Lobsterman and Freemason
Junior Deacon, John T. Heard Lodge, Ipswich, Massachusetts

A BOAT IN FLAMES, A LIVELIHOOD LOST

Freemason Sam Allen is a hardworking, give-a-helping-hand kind of guy. He loves the outdoors, particularly the ocean, where he plies his trade as a lobsterman. Friends and family will tell you that making a living on the water means the world to him.

Sam has long balanced the rigor of life as a fisherman with the needs of his parents. For five years, he was the primary caregiver for his mother while she battled cancer. Sam juggled lobstering with driving his mom 60 miles round-trip from their home in Ipswich, MA to Boston’s Dana Farber Cancer Center for treatment. She passed away in early 2015. During his mother’s illness, Sam also looked after his disabled father. Today, he continues to be the sole caregiver for his dad.

Sam Allen’s livelihood was lost when his boat, *Dawn Breaker*, sank on November 6, 2015.
On November 6, 2015, Sam Allen lost his livelihood when his boat, the 28-foot Dawn Breaker, caught fire and sank. While hauling traps, Sam saw flames in the wheelhouse. He radioed a mayday to the Coast Guard, put on a survival suit, grabbed a portable radio and an emergency beacon, jumped into the 50-degree water of the Atlantic Ocean—and prayed for help.

Sam was pulled to safety by two other fishermen who saw the smoke rising from the water. He was then transferred to an emergency vessel and safely brought to shore. His wood-hulled boat burned to the water line, then sank.

The sinking of the Dawn Breaker meant the complete loss of Sam’s livelihood. Financial pressures were escalating even before the crisis due to mounting medical bills. Sam was forced to make many choices to cut costs, including keeping only minimal insurance on his vessel. The policy would not replace the boat.
“We had to help get Sam back on the water,” said Donald Moran, Deputy for Massachusetts. “This private, hardworking, caring man is always willing to give, but is not the kind to ever ask for help. We heard from members of his lodge that the fire took everything. His only remaining possessions were his truck and what little gear not on the vessel. Yet, even in the face of this tragedy, Sam continues to give—volunteering, as he often does, at a community meals program run out of his lodge.”

With help from the Scottish Rite’s Grand Almoner’s Fund, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the John T. Heard Lodge, and members of the community, Sam is getting back on his feet. He has replaced the *Dawn Breaker* with a 35-foot Novi named *Girty*, after his mom. After some maintenance and repairs to the vessel, Sam will be fishing again in the next few months.

“I am overwhelmed with the generous gift from the Grand Almoner’s Fund,” said Sam. “I cannot express how much it means to me and my dad. The support from the Scottish Rite and the Brotherhood has been amazing. Your gift lifts some of the burden off my family, and will help me with what I love most—fishing and caring for my dad.”
“This year has been extremely hard on us, and I would like you to know that I will not forget your kindness. I believe in ‘paying it forward’, and you can be assured I will. Thank you again. Your generosity makes me tear up and get short of breath every time I think of it.”

Media coverage of the sinking of the Dawn Breaker was extensive. If you would like additional information on the incident, you can see a newscast here on YouTube. https://youtu.be/vLj07G6yIPw

Touchstones of Thanks

“I DON’T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE OTHERWISE”
For more than 40 years, my husband was a member of the Scottish Rite in South Bend, Indiana. He continues to decline due to Alzheimer’s and dementia. His worker’s pension provides barely enough to cover our health insurance. Our savings are depleted due to his illness. Thanks to the Grand Almoner’s Fund, we were able to fix our house. You helped us replace our roof and, literally, keep it over our heads. I am so grateful for your relief at this very difficult time. I don’t know what I would have done otherwise. — BS

“I WAS LOSING THE WILL TO LIVE”
Your check from the Grand Almoner’s Fund arrived right before Christmas. Our situation seemed hopeless and I was losing the will to live. My husband who has been a Mason most of his adult life needs round-the-clock nursing due to Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. Virtually, all of our money goes to covering his care. We have no family to turn to and I was feeling lost and alone. Thank you, thank you for easing my pain and worry. You were there in our hour of need. — SE
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 is a true and lasting expression of “Masons Caring for Masons.”

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The hallmark of Freemasonry since time immemorial has been the labor of love for one another. This is the truest of our values.

– John William McNaughton, Sovereign Grand Commander