

Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire  
Provincial Grand Charity



Together we can make a bigger difference

Freemasons' Hall  
Sheaf Close  
Lodge Farm  
Northampton  
NN5 7UL



## A Message From Our Chairman

Brethren, the Provincial Grand Charity is a cornerstone of our Province which has had excellent management for many years and I would thank committee members, our Lodge Charity Stewards and all brethren of the Province for their past support and for the firm basis on which it rests.

Today the importance of the Provincial Grand Charity has never been greater. The pressure upon The Grand Charity resulting from increasing applications for help and the general financial climate, will mean that we move towards a future with less support coming from that source we will therefore have to be more self-reliant and focus on helping our own members and their families in distress.

In addition our Province has a number of key projects, TLC, Friends of Devonshire Court and Lifelites, I do ask you all to consider these worthy causes and support your Worshipful Master and your Lodge in contributing to them all. There are many ways to help, best of all is a Regular Payment Promise to your Lodge's Charity Relief Chest. I would also encourage the use of The Provincial Grand Charity Gift Aid envelopes for one or two of your meetings. For UK tax payers, Gift Aid increases the value of your charity donation by 25p for every £1 you give, this additional 25% would greatly assist us in meeting the Objects of our Charity. (The Provincial Office can supply these envelopes if required). We should all be mindful of our obligation and the commitment we made during our Initiation to support each other in times of need.

Thank you in advance for the support you give.

*Trevor Biswell*

### CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

As Freemasons, our primary fundraising objective is to attend to the needs and difficulties of our fellow brethren and their dependents. Our overall focus of giving both financial and moral support should be retained. As funds from The Grand Charity reduce, we must focus our attention on our own members in distress, and as such the focus of the Provincial Grand Charity will be to offer timely support to our own brethren.

### SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

The Provincial Grand Charity is keen to add some supplementary funding to charity initiatives when groups of Lodges come together with a local project. The rules of the charity are clear that it cannot support any national charity or non registered charity applications. Due to increasing requirements to support our own brethren and families in times of difficulty, it is likely that funds will not be available to assist with individual Lodge applications. Some examples of group Lodge ventures have been the Cyber knife for Peterborough Hospital, the hematology project for Northampton Hospital and the aid to rebuild the Sue Ryder hospice at Thorpwood.

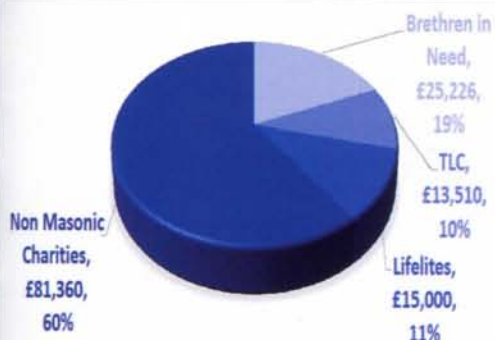
## The Work of Provincial Grand Charity and its' Executive Committee

### WHAT DO WE DO?

- Support brethren in distress
- Support widows and dependents of brethren.
- Support the central masonic charities
- Support local registered charities

### WHO ARE THE COMMITTEE?

- President— Provincial Grand Master
- Chairman—Deputy Provincial Grand Master
- Vice Chairman—Senior Assistant PGM
- Secretary—Provincial Grand Almoner
- Treasurer—Provincial Grand Treasurer
- Member—Assistant Provincial Grand Master
- Member—Provincial Grand Charity Steward
- Co-opted Member—Provincial Grand Secretary
- Three Elected Members (3 year term)



### HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Meet four times a year
- Consider requests for support and assistance
- Use income to make donations
- Submit annual accounts each year at AGM

### HOW DO WE SPEND YOUR DONATIONS?

Each quarter the Trustees of the PGC meet and consider applications from brethren, Lodges and individual charities, which have been received via the Provincial Grand Almoner during the past three months. The chart below shows successful applications during a typical year. Applications to support masonic and non masonic charitable organisations are discussed at these meetings.

Confidential requests from brethren and their dependents in distress are dealt with outside of the committee and by the Provincial Grand Almoner, Committee Chairman and the respective Lodge Almoner. This distress may, for example, take the form of support for the cost of respite care, home adaptations, medical procedures where the NHS waiting list is lengthy or financial assistance following an illness or redundancy.

### WHAT IF THE APPLICANT CAN'T WAIT THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE NEXT PGC MEETING?

Processes are in place to enable the PGA and Chairman to make timely contributions in the case of emergencies, should the need arise.

## THE FOUR CORNER STONES OF OUR PROVINCIAL GRAND CHARITY GIVING

**Provincial Grand Charity** Charity begins at home, helping our own brethren in distress is our first priority. This central pillar of Freemasonry is as important today as it has ever been. As a fraternal society, it is our duty as members to help those who through no fault of their own find themselves in distress, as such offering assistance to the brethren of our province will always be our key responsibility.

**Teddies for Loving Care** Since 2004, over 91,000 Teddies have been distributed by this Province to children's wards, A&E Units, Ambulances, Fire and Rescue Units and Air Ambulances, to help alleviate children's distress during admission to or use of emergency or hospital services within the province. Feedback received suggests that the gift of a small teddy brings great relief to a distressed child.

**Friends of Devonshire Court** To assist the RMBI, the 'Association of Friends of Devonshire Court' provide extra assistance in the form of welfare to the residents and fund raising for specific projects. As one of the Activity coordinators highlights, our donations are used for various things around the home and help to pay for a range of different activities on a week to week basis, such as craft items and trips out including a canal trip (see picture opposite). Our support and kindness is very much appreciated by the residents and staff.

**Lifelites** Through the magic of technology, Lifelites gives life-limited and disabled children in hospices opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. Lifelites provides specialist entertainment and educational technology packages such as the new Eyegaze software being used in the picture opposite, for these young people to learn, play, be creative, control something for themselves and communicate - for as long as it is possible.



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHARITY

Together we can make a bigger difference.