



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE 2024 Festival Appeal



For Freemasons, for families, for everyone
www.mcf.org.uk

FOREWORD

R W Bro Max Bayes,
Provincial Grand Master



You will have heard of the recent change in the organisation of our central Masonic charities. The four original charities have merged to form the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

This, our national Masonic charity, provides tremendous support for Freemasons, their families and the wider community.

In this Province, I am proud to launch the 2024 Festival, which, for the first time, gives us the opportunity to raise funds for the MCF – a most worthy cause.

In its first year, the MCF supported around 5,000 Freemasons and their families, at a total cost of £15million. Some of those families were in our Province. Whilst we may not know individual stories due to the confidential nature of support, it is comforting to know that, as well as our local support network, our Masonic family has national support, should they need it. The MCF also extends its support into the wider community, and gives around £5million in grants for local and national

charities each year. You and your families may well benefit from this funding, without even knowing it.

Thankfully, many of us do not think we will ever need such support, but it is comforting to know that, if we ever do, help is available to us.

I therefore urge each one of you to play your part in supporting this Festival, safe in the knowledge that your efforts are helping others perhaps less fortunate than ourselves at times of greatest need.

R W Bro Max Bayes,
Provincial Grand Master



Support in Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire

The Foundation is currently supporting



FREEMASONS & THEIR FAMILIES
at an annual cost of **£215,747**

Over the last

5 YEARS
support amounted to
£1,306,468

RECENT GRANTS AWARDED
to local charities in
Northamptonshire
& Huntingdonshire



£42,663

Last Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire Festival Appeal



RAISED
£2,187,169 for the
ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

What we do for Freemasons and their families

The MCF builds better lives by encouraging opportunity, promoting independence and improving wellbeing for Freemasons and their families. A wide range of help and support is available for financial, health, family and care related needs, including:



Financial

- Essential daily living costs
- Help through a personal crisis
- Funeral bills
- Emergency home repairs



Family*

- Educational expenses for children
- University costs
- Support for exceptional talent



Health

- Medical treatment
- Mobility aids
- Home adaptations
- Counselling



Care

- Masonic care homes
- Respite care
- Guidance and support from professional advisors



Real Lives The John Family

“I’d been unemployed for about two years after being made redundant and things were becoming incredibly hard financially. Our children, Tanya and Natasha had started gymnastic classes, which meant they could make new friends – they loved it, but we were faced with having to pull them out of lessons when finances became tight. The MCF provided us with daily living grants, which allowed us to stop worrying. They then told us that they could fund activities for the children which we didn’t even realise would be possible. Tanya and Natasha went back to gymnastics and our son, Rhys, began lessons for the first time - we can’t even begin to explain the transformation. Rhys used to cling to my leg when we dropped him off, but now he’s helping others and winning medals in competitions. The MCF have been there for our family, and there are no words to explain how grateful we are. We can’t thank them enough.”

Christopher, father to Tanya, Natasha and Rhys

Can the MCF help you?

For advice about the support available, eligibility or how to apply, speak to your Lodge Almoner or contact the MCF directly:

Freephone **0800 035 60 90**
Email help@mcf.org.uk
Visit www.mcf.org.uk

Alongside the MCF’s financial help, the Advice & Support Team offers confidential, impartial and practical guidance about the grants available, state and local authority benefits and other useful organisations.

* For children under the age of 25 and in full-time education



Supporting the wider community

The MCF awards millions of pounds each year to local and national charities that help the vulnerable advance medical research and provide opportunities for young people.

Grants are awarded to charities that provide support in the following areas:

- **Financial hardship** for those in poverty, debt or unemployment
- **Health and disability** for people experiencing chronic or life-limiting conditions and disabilities
- **Education and employability** for disadvantaged children and young people

➤ **Social exclusion and isolation** for those facing barriers to participating in society

Funding is provided to support major natural disaster relief appeals at the Foundation's discretion, as well as medical and social research initiatives.

The charities supported by the MCF make a significant and lasting difference to those in need. The grants seek to benefit as many people as possible and further the causes about which Freemasons and their families are passionate.

The MCF's most recent support in Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire has been through a £3,800 grant to Lakelands Hospice and Thorpe Hall Hospice. Both hospices are dedicated to providing palliative care for people of all ages with cancer, heart failure and other life-limiting illnesses.



“Our care for patients extends far beyond medical help. We are there for them both physically and emotionally during an incredibly hard and personal time in their lives. We also support their loved ones as we know that watching someone you care about suffering, is one of the hardest moments someone may have to deal with. With the help of the MCF we can continue to care, support and comfort our patients and their families, and carry on providing the best service we possibly can.”

– **Allison Mann,**
Hospice Director, Sue Ryder
Thorpe Hall Hospice



In 2017, the MCF gave an additional
£3M300
TO CHARITIES
to celebrate the Tercentenary year.

In Northants & Hunts
6 CHARITIES BENEFITTED
FROM A **£67K**
share of this fund

in support of

Sue Ryder

Thorpe Hall
Hospice



A Province united in support

Holy Royal Arch



**R Comp Wayne Williams,
Most Excellent Grand
Superintendent,
Northamptonshire
and Huntingdonshire**

“Craft Freemasonry is the bedrock of all Masonic involvements and in the Holy Royal Arch, as the completion of Pure Antient Masonry and the very completion of Craft Masonry itself, our success will always be inextricably linked to the strength and success of the Craft.

As Craft Masons first and foremost therefore, we should look to support our Craft Province in all its endeavours, not least in achieving its 2024 Festival target in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

We in the Royal Arch pledge our support.”

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner



**R W Bro Robert A Stokes,
Provincial Grand Master,
Northamptonshire
and Huntingdonshire**

“As Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree, I am delighted to give our full support to the 2024 Craft Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I feel that this should be a priority for every Freemason to assist Brethren and their dependants who are experiencing difficult times in their personal lives.

I am confident that members of this Order will support the Festival both individually and collectively.”

Provincial Priory



**R E Kt Dr Viv Thomas,
Provincial Prior of
Northampton, Huntingdon
and Bedford**

“It seems such a short while since we successfully produced a magnificent result for the last Festival, when I know the whole Province worked wonderfully well together. Now that you are launching your 2024 Festival, may I take the opportunity to wish you well in the endeavours of the whole Province, once again, to show how generous and innovative Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Freemasons are in the way they support charity.

On behalf of all the Knights Templar, I wish you every success and we shall do our best to add to your coffers over the ensuing years.”

Ancient and Accepted Rite



**V Ill Bro Revd Anthony
W Avery, 33° Sovereign Grand
Inspector General,
Ancient And Accepted
Rite of Princes Rose
Croix, Northamptonshire
and Huntingdonshire**

“On behalf of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for the District of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, I am pleased and proud to confirm our support for the Craft Festival. The Ancient and Accepted Rite donated £1,875 to the last Festival in 2012, and I am sure that we will be able to better that figure this time. Charity is the greatest gift we can offer to a Brother, or to our fellow Man. With all blessing.”

Red Cross of Constantine



**R Ill Kt S John Manby,
Intendant General,
Red Cross of Constantine,
East Midlands Division**

“As Intendant General of the Red Cross of Constantine in the East Midlands, I am delighted to offer our support to the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire 2024 Festival Appeal on behalf of the recently formed Masonic Charitable Foundation. Craft Masonry is the bedrock upon which all the Orders are founded and I believe it is incumbent on us all to support those less fortunate than ourselves. We wish the Province every success.”

Royal Order of Scotland



**R W Bro Tom Quinn,
Provincial Grand Master,
Royal Order of Scotland
Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire**

“The Royal Order of Scotland Province is delighted to have the opportunity to support the Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire 2024 Festival. Our membership includes many Craft Masons of that Province and we all look forward to contributing to the success of this worthy venture, launched at such a significant point in the history of English Freemasonry.”

Royal & Select Masters



**R Ill Comp Martin Wilson,
District Grand Master,
Royal and Select Masters,
East Midlands District**

“As District Grand Master for the East Midlands which covers three Craft Masonic Provinces we have six of our eleven councils that are within Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire Province. I am pleased to support the 2024 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation, as I am sure all of my members will. As we are all Craft Masons we need to give the MCF our whole hearted support.”

How to support the 2024 Festival

Become a Festival Steward

Freemasons can become a Steward of the 2024 Festival by donating a minimum of £600 towards the Festival Appeal. This can also be paid in monthly instalments of just £8.50 over the six years. This equates to just 30p per day or £2 per week.

Complete the form included in this brochure and hand it to your Lodge Charity Steward, to become a Festival Steward!

You can also make a single donation online by visiting:

www.mcf.org.uk/donate

mcf.org.uk/festival/northamptonshire-huntingdonshire-2024-festival

Use Gift Aid envelopes

The Masonic Charitable Foundation has supplied dedicated Gift Aid envelopes for our Festival. These can be obtained from the Provincial Office and are also located at each Masonic Hall. Use these envelopes wherever possible and, assuming they are completed properly, eligible donations will increase by 25% for those paying income tax. Using these envelopes will allow your donations to go directly to the Festival and be credited to both individuals and Lodges.

Festival jewels

Northants & Hunts 2024 Festival jewels will be on sale at £10 each. We encourage qualifying brethren to purchase one and wear it with pride.

Donate £5 by texting N&H to 70500

Texting N&H to 70500 will donate £5 to the Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire 2024 appeal and will allocate the donation to you personally and your Lodge.

Organise Lodge fundraising events

Fundraising and sponsored events will raise vital funds for the Festival and it is tremendously important that each Lodge gives careful consideration to planning and holding one or more each year. Consider quiz nights, musical events, sponsored entertainments and other events which

might involve friends and family and put the 'fun' back into 'fundraising'.

Use the MCF Fundraising Platform

Once you have organised a fundraising event, create a personalised sponsorship page to receive donations. For more information, visit:

www.mcf.org.uk/festival/northamptonshire-huntingdonshire-2024-festival

Leave a legacy

Remembering the MCF in your will can make a lasting difference to the lives of Freemasons, their families and the wider community. To find out more or request a will-making guide, visit mcf.org.uk/legacy

Stay up-to-date

www.mcf.org.uk

www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk/2024festival

 @2024Festival

 @2024Festival

Promote the Festival

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward will be liaising with the MCF for the supply of promotional materials, posters and banner stands for use at Masonic centres and fund raising or social events. He will also be arranging for an MCF speaker to attend appropriate events to speak about the work of the charity. It is also a good idea to share the MCF's Tweets and Facebook posts regularly to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the work they do and the Northants & Hunts 2024 Festival.

Honorifics

Individual Honorifics

The Province wishes to acknowledge the generosity of its Brethren by issuing Festival jewels to all qualifying Brethren. The Province fully understands that it may not be within every Brother's means to qualify for the various honorifics and greatly appreciates all donations made.

Steward

£600 equates to £2.00 per week

Vice Patron

£1,000 equates to £3.20 per week

Patron

£1,500 equates to £4.80 per week

Grand Patron

£3,000 equates to £9.60 per week

*Excluding Gift Aid tax reclaimed by the MCF where applicable.



On completion of this form

...your donations will go through your Lodge into the Provincial Festival Relief Chest no. **E0168**. Your donation will be attributed to you to help you qualify for your Honorific.

You can keep up with the latest news from the MCF on their social media pages or by subscribing to their online mailing list. Watch video stories of just some of the Freemasons and their family members the MCF has helped on YouTube now.

 **MasonicCharitableFoundation**

 **@Masonic_Charity**


 **@themcf**

 **masonic_charity**

For updates about the Northants & Hunts 2024 Festival Appeal visit our website or social media pages:

www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk/2024festival

 **@2024festival**

 **@2024festival**



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

For Freemasons, for families, for everyone

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