

West Essex Hospices Appeal

Masonic Benevolent Fund for West Essex Hospices - Registered Charity No: 801746

Patron: R W Bro. John Michael Webb Provincial Grand Master of Essex

Newsletter No.8

December 2006

The Trustees of the fund wish to thank all Lodges, Chapters, LOI's and Brethren who continued to support the fund with their generous donations over the past year. Your assistance is much appreciated. Below are some ways in which our fund really can and does make a difference.

Essex Freemasons

With your valuable help we were able to continue providing the regular quarterly assistance, which our local Hospices need in order to give the hope and support which is so often required by the patients.

For this we have received many expressions of thanks for the help and assistance offered by the generosity of Freemasons in the West Essex area of our Province.

For the information of those members of Lodges, Chapters, LOIs and individual Brethren who regularly support us, but are not already aware of the assistance we provide to the Margaret Centre at Whipps Cross and St. Francis Hospice in Havering, the Trustees can confirm that the quarterly donation has been increased from £400 to £500, making a total of £2000 to each.

During the early part of the year, £500 each was donated to St. Clare Hospice and Haven House.

St Francis Hospice

Our regular donations to St Francis Hospice give tremendous help and support to the Hospice which assists them in helping patients in an advanced state of Cancer. The following article featured in their January Newsletter:

“The social work department is very aware that many of our patients and their families struggle with the additional financial burden that serious, long term illness or bereavement brings. Despite accessing relevant benefits, families frequently struggle with the day to day bills, with little left for anything else.

However, a local division of the Masonic Benevolent Fund gives us a way to directly help some of our patients and their families.

For many years now this organisation has generously made regular donations, via our department, to be used to assist those patients in need.

In the past year we have been able to help with some difficult bills, repairs to

homes, special holidays, wedding expenses, school uniforms and transport costs, among many others.

To ensure optimum use of the fund we always ensure that the reason for the request cannot be met in any other way, e.g. that there is no statutory duty for another body to be contributing such as health or the Department of Works and Pensions, or that there may be other benevolent organisations that could help.

One of the joys of having this fund is the ease of accessibility; frequently the patient can be given a donation on the day of request and this avoids long delays, which can be distressing to patients. Neither do they need to fill in complicated forms or declare all their personal financial details, which some people find embarrassing. We just ask that the patient has a gentle conversation with someone from our department about the intended use of the money so that we can ensure that we are managing the fund appropriately.”

The Margaret Centre

All staff and Officials at the Margaret Centre would like to thank you all for your donations.

They have put the money towards their latest project – to refurbish a play therapy room, which will be used by trained Counsellors to help bereaved children. This room was just a basic consulting room, which has been painted in bright, sunny colours, the flooring replaced and colourful blinds fitted to the windows. The room now looks very cheery and more child friendly.

Our continued support has enabled them to extend this project by redecorating the complementary therapy room. This room is used by the reflexologist and massage therapists and has a very calm, relaxing ambience.

St Clare Hospice

At the beginning of 2003 St Clare Hospice began training a group of carefully selected volunteers to work with bereaved people.

They had not identified funding, so this small but significant development was an

act of faith.

Our donation allowed them to further develop this important work and to pay the travelling expenses and telephone costs for the volunteers.

Haven House Foundation

The first children were welcomed into this Hospice in 2003 and our further donation of £500 will help to keep the Hospice open to provide care 24 hours a day 7 days a week for these children and their families.

The West Essex Hospice appeal continues to go from strength to strength and we are pleased to be able to support these Hospices over the past years.

We could not achieve this level of support without your generosity and you should be aware that your contribution is important and really does make a difference to those who benefit from these organisations and the wonderful work that they do.

Above are just a few of the many tragic stories there are to tell, so we appeal to Lodge Charity Stewards, Almoners and Members, to remember these people and the fund and please contribute to our work whenever you can.

Remember the Trustees cover all expenses and every penny you contribute goes to the benefit of the fund.

**For more Information
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**THANK YOU ALL
FOR YOUR MOST
GENEROUS SUPPORT**