

# Charities Supported by Masonic Lodges in Virginia

Although it is true that Masonic ritual varies between Grand Lodges, a consistent message conveyed to every candidate is that charity is an essential part of the foundation of Freemasonry. From this philosophy comes much of a 'Mason's work', given freely and willingly. Charity comes in many forms, both large and small.



**Grand Lodge of Virginia Masonic Home:** The Masonic Home of Virginia is a vital, dynamic home environment for over two hundred and twenty Masons, their wives and widows. Our residents live in a beautiful, healthy setting, surrounded by friends and cared for by professional staff in a supportive manner.



**Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship Program:** In general, Virginia Freemasons are committed to high standards of excellence, and this program operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Its purpose is to provide scholarships, fellowships and other forms of financial assistance to deserving men and women from the Commonwealth of Virginia.



**RiteCare® Childhood Language Program:** Today, there are 170 RiteCare clinics, centers, and special programs operating for children throughout the United States. Each facility is staffed by speech-language pathologists or other trained personnel. The Scottish Rite Valley's in Virginia support the RiteCare Center here in Richmond.



**Masonic Community Blood Program:** The Grand Lodge Community Blood Program is designed to get every Lodge in the Commonwealth to support the American Red Cross and to save lives. Tuckahoe Lodge hosts several blood drives annually in cooperation with other nearby Lodges.



**Grand Lodge Masonic Relief Fund:** The Masonic Relief Fund was initiated in 1988. Its purpose is to make funds available to Virginia Master Masons, their widows, and orphans, wherever a bona fide need exists.



**Shriners Hospitals:** Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of 22 pediatric hospitals in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, providing specialized care for orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate. All services are provided, regardless of the patient's ability to pay.



**Knights Templar Eye Foundation:** Provides assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment provided that they are unable to pay for or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies. The Foundation also provides funds for research in curing diseases of the eye.



**Masonic Service Association of North America:** Providing relief around the world for national disasters. Our first disaster relief appeal was in 1923 to help the victims of an earthquake in Japan. Since that time more than 50 appeals have been made on behalf of individual Grand Lodges.



**Order of the Eastern Star:** Eastern Star Chapters donate funds to a wide variety of worthy charities, including the Cancer Research Project, Arthritis Fund, Heart Fund, Knights Templar, Eye Foundation, and Shriners' Hospital for Children, orphanages and many other charities.



**Grottoes of North America:** Welcome to the Humanitarian Foundation -- a Masonic Charity -- where our primary purpose is providing dentistry for special needs children.



**Royal Arch Masons:** Supporting the Alzheimer's Association, a national network of chapters, is the largest national voluntary health organization committed to finding a cure for Alzheimer's and helping those affected by the disease.

*In the United States alone, Masonic organizations give more than 2.6 million dollars every day to charity.*



Virginia Freemasonry...So good to be part of it !