

Dungannon District Masonic Charity Committee

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 December 2023 **Charity no. 104606**

The Trustees present the annual report and statement of receipts and payments, and assets and liabilities for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives ("objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

Purpose 1:

The relief of Poverty of Freemasons, their wives/partners, children and the families and widows of deceased Freemasons who are experiencing financial hardship and who are inhabitants (*hereinafter called the "beneficiaries"*) of the island of Ireland in particular, but not exclusively, (*hereinafter called the "area of benefit"*)

Purpose 2:

To assist any duly constituted Masonic Charities, i.e any charitable Masonic Undertaking which meets the legal requirements of the country or state in which they are registered, or any other legally regulated non- Masonic Charity as approved by a majority of the Committee.

Purpose 3:

The advancement of Health or saving of lives by providing funding to facilitate Medical Research in Ireland and by providing Teddies for children in severe distress attending hospital emergency departments and who, in the opinion of medical staff would benefit from the provision of a teddy in order to alleviate their distress.

Activities:

Dungannon District Masonic Charity Committee oversees and co-ordinates the raising of funds for several charitable purposes by fourteen Masonic Lodges which are all represented on the Committee. Funds are raised by the individual Lodges by voluntary giving, donations and fund raising. These funds are then channelled through the committee, where if possible, Gift Aid is claimed and added to the amounts received and then forwarded to our administrators for allocation. In addition we co-operate with other Charity Committees who operate within the Masonic Province of Tyrone and Fermanagh. Members of the Committee are kept informed of the needs of the various charitable purposes we support and are encouraged in the raising of funds.

Achievements and Performance:

Dungannon District Masonic Charity Committee has continued to address its purposes as laid out in their Constitution in the following ways:

- By contributing £14,437 to Victoria Jubilee and Welfare Fund
- By contributing £6,437.00 to Masonic Local Benevolent Fund which provides temporary and emergency relief to distressed Freemasons and their families
- By contributing £1,467.00 to Masonic Charity "Teddies for Loving Care" we were able to assist with the provision of Teddy bears to Emergency departments in Enniskillen and Omagh Hospitals.
- By contributing £745.00 to the Harold Mc Master Memorial Fund which exists to provide bursaries to mature students wishing to further their education.

The committee at all times have had regard for the Public Benefit Guidance as issued by the Charity Commission(NI) in all decisions where the guidance was relevant.

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The Committee made the decision to return to donating a large portion of their income in 2023 to the Victoria Jubilee and Welfare fund Fund because of the demands placed upon the local Provincial Grand Lodge Benevolent had lessened as a direct result of the ending of the pandemic.

Financial position has been maintained in accordance with guidelines as set out in our constitution.

The work of Dungannon Masonic District Charity Committee is only possible with the support of the various Masonic bodies within the Masonic Province of Tyrone and Fermanagh who continue to support us year after year and to whom we are indebted.

Public Benefit

Purpose One: The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an improved standard of living and greatly reduced levels of stress and anxiety not only for the recipient but also for the recipient's dependents. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from the recipients and those directly involved in administering the funds. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are Freemasons, their wives, children and families and the families and widows of deceased Freemasons whether situated in Ireland or Overseas. There is no private benefit from this purpose.

Purpose Two: The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include: improved health and well-being outcomes, reduced levels of poverty, stress and anxiety and building confidence which will help circumstances and opportunities. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from beneficiaries through Lodge almoners, and evaluation of our activities. There is no harm anticipated from this purpose. The charity's beneficiaries are primarily, but not exclusively the widows and families of deceased Freemasons and distressed Freemasons and their families living within or beyond the area falling under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland using the rules and regulations of the governing bodies of the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund, The Masonic Welfare Fund and the Tyrone and Fermanagh Provincial Local Benevolent Fund. There is no private benefit from this purpose.

Purpose Three: The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include (1) a better understanding of medical conditions and diseases and improved treatments. These benefits are demonstrated through new and improved treatments and procedures being used by our medical professionals. In implementing any new procedure or treatment there will always be a potential for harm through unintended side effects however the potential benefits will outweigh the risk of harm. The beneficiaries are persons carrying out Medical Research in Ireland. There no private benefit from this purpose. (2) Alleviating the distress being suffered by a child who through illness or injury has been brought to a hospital emergency department. When the child is less distressed the parent or guardian benefits, the staff in turn benefit by being able to treat the child more easily and more quickly which then means that other patients benefit by not having to wait as long as they might have. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from parents, guardians, hospital staff and other patients. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are children attending hospital emergency departments in Ireland in a distressed state and who in the opinion of staff would benefit from being given a teddy. There is no private benefit from this purpose.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Charity has considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Charity's objectives and activities , as well as providing public benefit.

Financial Review

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It is our policy to distribute all monies before the end of the Financial Year (31/12/2023) and only maintain a minimal balance in the account at year end. There were no debts or outstanding debts or liabilities, nor were there any funds held by the charity as a custodian trustee.

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity
The charity is governed by its constitution.

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the statement of receipts and payments, as well as the statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Trustee RICHARD S KOOK

Trustee

Date: 30-03-2024