

THE MASONICARE ANNUAL APPEAL NEWS

BY THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT



Summer 2008

Principles in Action . . .

Supporting Masonicare's Mission Through Stewardship, Volunteerism



Bro. Guy Tommasi puts his principles into action as a faithful supporter of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Integrity, respect, compassion and stewardship: those are the values Bro. Guy Tommasi chooses to live by as a Mason and as a Masonicare employee.

Bro. Tommasi, who is a member of Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford, said he joined Masonry because it gave him an opportunity to be associated with a fraternal organization whose values he believes in – to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

As director of business and community development for Masonicare's Connecticut VNA and

Connecticut VNA Partners, Tommasi puts his principles into action as a faithful supporter of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Masonicare's philanthropic affiliate.

In 2007, Tommasi increased his annual giving to the Masonicare Annual Appeal to become a member of the Masonicare Society. The Masonicare Society is a giving society whose members donate \$520 or more per year to help the not-for-profit healthcare continuum provide vital programs and services for its residents and patients.

"I believe it's important to give to The Masonic Charity Foundation so that Masonicare can continue providing the highest quality healthcare to the population it serves," said Tommasi, who has been with Masonicare since 1997. "Charitable giving allows Masonicare to provide services, equipment, and programs that might not otherwise be possible."

Donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal benefit all Masonicare affiliates, including Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford, and Ashlar of Newtown in Newtown, Connecticut.

At Connecticut VNA, Annual Appeal dollars have been used to provide patient education materials that support its cardiac, fall risk,

diabetic and wound care programs, and to lease telemonitor units that are used to monitor patients with congestive heart failure, hypertension and diabetes. Donations have also been used to produce a compact audio disc of uplifting and supportive music for hospice patients and their families.

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*—Bro. Guy Tommasi
Masonicare Employee*

"The generosity of our donors has helped Masonicare's patients and families in so many ways," said Tommasi, who oversees 14 field-based clinical and community liaisons, who educate referral sources and the community about the distinctive and innovative services provided by Connecticut VNA, Connecticut VNA Partners, Masonicare at Home and the entire Masonicare continuum.

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Prince Hall Increases 2008 Masonicare Annual Appeal Support



Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, a longtime supporter of the Masonicare Annual Appeal, increased its support for 2008. Pictured here with Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (left) and Jennifer King, Foundation President, are (l-r) Brother Floyd E. Bagwell, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Brother Lewis Myrick, Sr., Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, and Brother Michael L. Ferguson, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Connecticut.

When it comes to charitable giving, the Masonicare Annual Appeal is part of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge tradition.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut has been a longtime supporter—and a leading donor—of the Masonicare Annual Appeal, a giving campaign coordinated by

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Donations raised by the Masonicare Annual Appeal support the many programs and services of Masonicare and its affiliates, which include Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford, Ashlar of Newtown in Newtown, Connecticut, and Connecticut VNA, which is statewide.

“As Masons, we are pleased to support our Masonic Brothers through their Masonicare Annual Appeal and are delighted we can increase that support for the coming year,” said Bro. Michael Ferguson, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

For the past two years, the Lodge has been one of the campaign’s top donors, donating \$6,000 to the Annual Appeal. For 2008, Prince Hall increased its support to \$7,000.

“We know that the money we donate benefits residents and patients throughout the Masonicare continuum,” said Bro. Ferguson. “We are pleased we can make a difference in this way.”

“We are grateful for the support of Prince Hall,” said Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development at The Masonic Charity Foundation. “Their support — like that of all of our donors — is appreciated by so many.”

2007 Masonicare Annual Appeal Meets Goal

Donations to the 2007 Masonicare Annual Appeal totaled more than \$374,000 from all sources, meeting and exceeding the year’s campaign goal.

The Masonicare Annual Appeal — an annual giving campaign coordinated by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut — benefits patients and residents of all Masonicare affiliates, including Masonic Healthcare Center of Wallingford, Ashlar of Newtown in Newtown, Connecticut, and Connecticut VNA, which is statewide.

The 2008 Masonicare Annual Appeal goal is \$380,000.

Showing Its Support . . .

Composite Lodge No. 28 Joins the Masonicare Society



Composite Lodge No. 28, based in Suffield, Connecticut, joined the ranks of the Masonicare Society, a giving society whose members donate \$520 or more per year to the Masonicare Annual Appeal. Bro. David Slack, 2007 Worshipful Master, makes the Lodge's membership official as he presents a check to Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development at The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Ten dollars may not buy much these days, but \$10 a week – or \$520 a year – will enhance the lives of many – and put you or your organization in good company.

Composite Lodge No. 28 of Suffield recently joined the ranks of a growing group of caring and committed individuals and Lodges throughout Connecticut collectively known as the Masonicare Society.

Its members are those who generously give \$520 or more each year to the Masonicare Annual Appeal – an ongoing campaign of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut that helps Masonicare and its affiliates provide an impressive and unmatched continuum of care for seniors.

“We wanted to do something special,” said Bro. David Slack, 2007 Worshipful Master of Composite

Lodge No. 28 of Suffield. “Joining the Masonicare Society is a concrete way of showing our support for Masonicare.”

Since its inception in November

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*—Bro. David Slack
Composite Lodge No. 28*

of 2005, the Masonicare Society – founded by Past Grand Masters Gail N. Smith and Gail L. Smith – has grown to 143 members. Annual donations of \$520 or more to the Masonicare Annual Appeal help enhance the quality of life of residents and patients at the Masonic Healthcare Center, Ashlar of Newtown and Connecticut VNA

– all Masonicare affiliates.

Past quality of life purchases for residents have included items such as reading magnifiers, newspaper subscriptions, clothing and shopping vouchers to the affiliate shops and cafes, dentures and hearing aids, recreational programs and more.

“We are so pleased that Composite Lodge has chosen to support the Masonicare Annual Appeal by joining the Masonicare Society,” said Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development at The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, the philanthropic affiliate of Masonicare. “This is a very generous donation and one that is truly appreciated.”

According to Bro. Slack, Composite Lodge's interest in joining the Masonicare Society took root in February of 2007, when more than 20 Lodge members toured the Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford and discovered what a comprehensive healthcare facility and continuum it is. “It is something to be very proud of,” he said.

Composite Lodge No. 28 – approximately 350 members strong – is a merger between Apollo Lodge No. 59, Doric Lodge No. 94, Euclid Lodge No. 109, and Morning Star Lodge No. 28. The Lodges had originally split off from Morning Star Lodge in the 1800s, but came full circle when they merged in April 2006 as Composite Lodge No. 28.

For more information about the Masonicare Society, contact The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at (203) 679-5555.

If you would prefer not to receive any future fundraising communications from The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, please write to us at MCF of CT, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492. In order to ensure that we accurately reflect your request, please provide your full name and street address. Please note that it may take six to eight weeks to make your request fully effective.



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Connecticut VNA – a full-service home healthcare and hospice agency with 13 patient care offices statewide – provides nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapies, medical social work and home health aide services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In addition, Masonicare at Home – a private duty service – provides personal care attendants and homemakers to its Connecticut clients.

“Our hospice program, in addition to traditional nursing and home health aide services, offers a wide range of support and counseling services, including individual and grief counseling, resource planning and assistance with end-of-life issues,” said Tommasi. “We also provide complementary services, such as therapeutic massage, expressive art activities, music therapy, pet visits, and expressive puppetry.”

In 2007, Connecticut VNA and Connecticut VNA Partners – a partnership created between Masonicare and Saint Francis Hospital last December – made more than 300,000 home care and 80,000 hospice visits throughout the state.

The Masonicare mission is one that Tommasi believes in and chooses to support not only through his gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation, but also through his volunteer efforts. Tommasi actively volunteers in The Masonic Charity Foundation’s fundraising events, including the Masonicare Quality of Life Walk and the Annual Masonicare Golf Classic.

“As employees of Masonicare, we should be guided by our mission and values – namely integrity, respect, compassion and stewardship,” said Tommasi, who lives in Middletown with his wife, Teresa, and their dog, Lily. “If we follow these principles, giving back becomes the right thing to do.”

The Foundation’s Bequest Language

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut deeply appreciates gifts of all kinds. Should you wish to remember The Foundation in your Will, we encourage you to provide the following bequest language to your attorney:

“I give, devise, and bequeath \$_____ (sum of money), or _____% (percentage) of my estate, or all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, CT.”

Bequests provide important revenue in support of the mission of Masonicare, enabling us to provide the highest quality healthcare programs and services to our residents and patients regardless of their ability to pay. If you wish to discuss a bequest to The Foundation, please contact Jennifer King, President of The Foundation, at (203) 679-5555.