

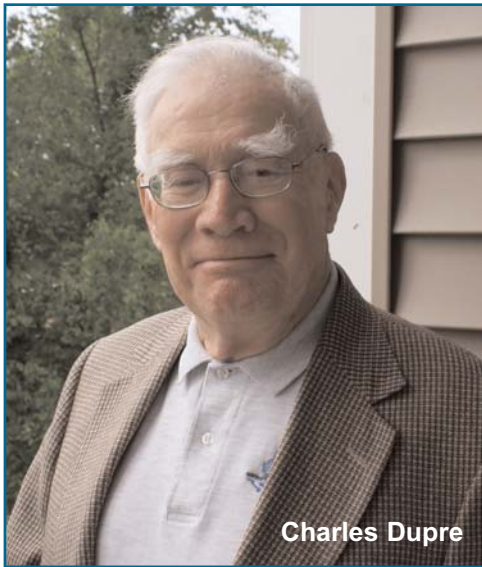
Masonicare at Ashlar Village Helping Hands



A Publication of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut

SUMMER 2009

Tribute Gifts Honor Friends, Benefit MCF



Charles Dupre

Sometimes, it's hard to find the right words to express condolences to someone who has just lost a loved one. For Masonicare at Ashlar Village resident Charles Dupre, tribute giving offers a tasteful, convenient method of expressing sympathy while also benefiting The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF).

"When friends here have died," Charles said, "I find tribute gifts to be a nice way to honor them. It's quick and easy and, for me, is better than just sending flowers. When I send in a check to The Masonic Charity Foundation, I know they'll notify someone in the deceased's family that a donation has been made in their honor."

Gifts of this type are known as "memorial gifts." However, many

Ashlar Village residents choose to recognize a job well done by a Masonicare staff member or commemorate a special occasion like a friend's birthday or anniversary. These tribute gifts are called "honorary gifts."

"Tribute gifts of all kinds offer a wonderful opportunity to show how much you care," said Foundation President Jennifer A. King. "Gifts are easy to make using the Tribute Giving envelopes that are sent each year to Ashlar Village residents, or can be found in the Ashlar Village

"I do what I want, when I want, and Ashlar Village provides a lot of opportunities to be involved in things."

*-- Charles Dupre
Ashlar Village resident*

Administration Office. The Foundation keeps all gift amounts confidential and, as an additional benefit, all tribute gifts are fully tax-deductible." (For your convenience, Tribute Giving envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter.)

If Charles looks familiar, it might be because you spotted him lifting weights in a Masonicare TV commercial that aired not long ago. Or he

may have greeted you in the lobby at Bridgehouse, where he mans the reception desk for a few hours on weekends. Or you may have shared an elevator ride with him.

Moving east from his native Columbus, Ohio around 1960, Charles settled in Hamden and found work as a safety engineer at Pratt & Whitney. Earning the nickname "Safety," he had a wide range of responsibilities that kept him busy and interested for over 20 years on the job. At Pratt & Whitney's North Haven plant, Charles was the factory's blood drive organizer. At 85, he continues to lend a hand at Red Cross blood drives, doing registrations and serving refreshments to donors.

Retiring in 1982, Charles moved to Ashlar Village in 1999.

"When my wife passed away," he said, "I knew I was going to sell our house. I started looking at retirement facilities in the area. It took about four years to get in here, but it was a good move. I'm quite content at Ashlar Village. I like knowing that there's assisted living available and Masonicare Health Center is right down the hill. Plus, it's close to where my son lives in Cheshire."

The adjustment phase lasts longer for some new residents than

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Freedom, Friendships Highlight Life at Ashlar Village



Jack and Barbara (Bobbie) Dilks are regular supporters of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Bro. Jack Dilks and his wife, Bobbie, remember vividly the event that sparked their interest in supporting The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

“It was late 2001,” Bobbie recalled, “Our first year here. I had to stay at Masonicare Health Center over Christmas and New Year’s for rehab. Jack and I noticed that every person there got a holiday gift thanks to donations made to The Foundation. We both thought that was so nice. They made it as pleasant as they could for the patients and residents, under the circumstances.”

Since then, the Dilks have remained enthusiastic and generous supporters of The Foundation, contributing to the Masonicare Annual Appeal and the Holiday Appeal while also participating in the Masonicare Quality of Life Walk. In 2008, they joined The Foundation’s Masonicare Society, a giving society established by MW Brothers Gail L. Smith and Gail N. Smith, Past Grand Masters, which recognizes contributions of \$520 or more per year.

The Dilks, previously of Meriden, traded in their condominium for a cottage at Masonicare at Ashlar Village because they wanted the safety and convenience of a single-floor residence without the responsibilities that come with ownership. They also felt it was important to find a facility that offered on-site healthcare.

“Because,” Bobbie said, “you never know when you’re going to need it.”

Visits to the Wallingford retirement community convinced the couple that this was the place to be.

“Residents we met advised us that this is a good place to live with a stress-free environment,” Jack said. “We love that. That’s exactly what

“This is a good place to live with a stress-free environment. We love that. That’s exactly what they offer at Ashlar Village.”

*-- Bro. Jack Dilks
Ashlar Village resident*

they offer at Ashlar Village. Another thing that attracted us was the campus itself. The rural setting is really nice. And the continuum -- you don’t see that in other non-profit organizations.”

Bobbie agreed.

“When it comes to medical issues,” she said, “there are people here who can steer you in the right direction. That means a lot to me, and to Jack, too.”

The Dilks enjoy the privacy of cottage living and the freedom to do as much, or as little, as they desire.

Still, they manage to stay quite busy.

A Mason raised in Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford, Bro. Jack did not join the fraternity until after moving to Ashlar Village and has since become a dual member at Ashlar Lodge No. 332. He also enjoys playing pool, runs a weekly poker game, has served on the Board of Directors of the Ashlar Village Association (AVA), and continues to be active on several AVA committees. Bobbie plays Scrabble and cards with friends and also volunteers at the front desk in the Bridgehouse lobby. It’s the ideal job for someone who puts “friendliness” atop her list of favorite Ashlar Village features.

“I actually had to adjust to the friendliness,” Bobbie said, “because back in our condo, you closed your door and that was it. People were friendly to a point, but nothing like at Ashlar Village. I always tell the story about the time, shortly before we moved in here, that I came over to drop off some things in the cottage. A resident walked up to me and was so friendly that I was just at a loss for words. I’d never met anyone who cared that much about how we were doing. I got so distracted, that I locked my car keys in the trunk of the car. We laughed about that for a long time.”

Masonicare Annual Appeal

To find out how you can support the Masonicare Annual Appeal, please contact Eloise Mongillo at 679-5572.

Helping Hands Questions & Answers

In this issue ...

How The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Benefits the Entire Masonicare Continuum

Q: Which Masonicare affiliates receive support from The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF)?



A: Beneficiaries of MCF support include Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare at Newtown, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, and Masonicare at Ashlar Village. In fiscal year 2008, for example, MCF allocated **\$7.2 million** to support various needs at these affiliates.

Q: Why is MCF support necessary?

A: MCF funds basic needs required to operate and maintain Masonicare facilities, like technology and equipment, quality healthcare staffing, and building renovation and construction. MCF support is also critical in helping offset areas of declining reimbursement that Masonicare receives from the state and federal government. As of Fall 2008, **50 percent** of residents at Masonicare Health Center were on Medicaid (Title 19), **60 percent** of residents at Masonicare at Newtown were on Medicaid, and **92 percent** of residents at the Wright Residence qualified for Title 19 benefits. There is a gap of \$135 per day per person between Title 19 funding and

the actual cost to deliver high-quality skilled nursing care to these residents. MCF funds that gap in revenue.

There are also “extras” that enhance the quality of life for Masonicare patients and residents but aren’t funded by any other source. These include spiritual services, transportation, grounds upkeep, and smaller purchases like wheelchair batteries and clothing.

Q: Where did that \$7.2 million in MCF support come from?

A: These funds were a combination of charitable contributions to The Foundation, unrestricted cash reserves, and earnings from investments.

Q: How were the funds divided between the affiliates?

A: Masonicare Health Center received \$3.5 million, Masonicare Home Health & Hospice received \$2.3 million, and Masonicare at Newtown received \$1.4 million.

Q: What about Ashlar Village?

A: Every year, MCF provides approximately \$85,000 to Ashlar Village residents who qualify for temporary financial assistance in meeting their monthly fees. Additionally, MCF helps fund a wide range of Masonicare services used by the residents of Ashlar Village and Pond Ridge. These include the Acute Care Unit, Rehabilitation, Masonicare Primary Care Physicians, Audiology, and Physical Therapy.

You should feel good about your Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, and our mission to provide for the healthcare and wellness needs of residents and patients across the Masonicare continuum!

Did you know ...

... that it only costs The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut 13 cents to raise \$1.00? The national average for non-profit organizations is 25 to 35 cents to raise a dollar.

As supporters of the Masonicare Annual Appeal, donors should be pleased to know that for every dollar they donate, 87 cents goes directly to care for the patients and residents served by Masonicare.

The Masonic
Charity Foundation
of Connecticut

Charitable Gift Annuities ...

A Great Way to Support Yourself *and* a Good Cause!



Andy and Claire Wofford

Masonicare at Ashlar Village residents Andy and Claire Wofford recently discussed their satisfaction with the Ashlar Village experience and how it contributed to their decision to fund a charitable gift annuity with The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

The charitable gift annuity is a simple contract under which Andy and Claire will receive a steady income stream for life at an attractive rate from The Foundation, while simultaneously enjoying the benefit of a charitable deduction.

“Given our age,” Andy said, “the charitable gift annuity was a good option. The annuity rate for us is just under 8%, so it’s an attractive financial arrangement for both parties.”

“We both feel that The Masonic Charity Foundation does wonderful work,” Claire said. “It’s a solid foundation and we don’t have any fear of it dissolving. We’re very confident that the work they do is beneficial. That was important to us. For example, I know our contribution will help Masonicare residents on Title 19 (Medicaid). That’s just one of the many, many ways that giving to The Foundation benefits seniors.”

The Woffords visited many retirement communities in Connecticut but were most impressed with Ashlar Village.

“The people here are very friendly, very warm, and very welcoming,” Claire said. “Ashlar Village was everything I hoped it would be. I was a little reluctant to come, but immediately felt at home here. It really was immediate.”

American Council on Gift Annuities:

Rates Effective February 1, 2009

SINGLE LIFE

Ages	Rates
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%
90+	9.5%

TWO LIVES (JOINT AND SURVIVOR)

Ages	Rates
65-65	4.9%
65-70	5.0%
70-70	5.2%
70-75	5.3%
80-80	6.1%
80-85	6.5%
85-85	7.0%
90-90	8.3%

If you are interested in learning more about a charitable gift annuity, please call Jennifer King at 679-5555.

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and the
Ashlar Village Association

P R E S E N T

An **AMERICAN**
In **PARIS**

We hope you will join us for a jazz brunch featuring live
entertainment by The Bill Cofrances Jazz Quartet

Saturday, July 18, 2009
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Knapp Auditorium in the Hartog Activities Center

\$45 per person (*ticket price includes a champagne brunch*)

For more information, including how to purchase tickets, please
contact **Danielle Thibault** at **679-5571**

All proceeds from this event will benefit
The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut

The Stars Came Out in Wallingford ...

Masonicare Idol

On May 16, an audience of over 300 filled the Hartog Activities Center at Ashlar Village to witness the crowning of the 2009 Masonicare Idol. Proceeds from the singing competition totaled **\$45,325.30**, and will be used to benefit the quality of life for residents and patients at Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare at Newtown and Masonicare Home Health & Hospice.

Eleven finalists took part in the competition, which was open to Masonicare employees and fami-

ly members. East Haven's Pedro Garcia, the son of Masonicare Health Center CNA Dorcas Osorio, took First Place honors.

"This event was a very special one for the extended Masonicare family," said Stephen B. McPherson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Masonicare. "Pedro moved all of us with his inspirational music. But all of the contestants, their families and friends, and the volunteers deserve recognition for their outstanding talent and support of each other. The Masonicare spirit filled the Knapp Auditorium at Ashlar Village and stirred all of us present."



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others, but Charles recalls that it took him very little time to get comfortable at Ashlar Village.

“I remember that there were a couple of women who dined right near the entrance to the Dining Room,” he said. “When I was brand-new here, they had a seat at their table and they invited me to sit with them. And when anyone walked by, they would call that person by name so I would learn their names, too. That was really helpful. Now, I’m taking new residents to dinner.”

What Charles enjoys most about living at Ashlar Village is the “unrestricted” lifestyle.

“I do what I want, when I want, and Ashlar Village provides a lot of opportunities to be involved in things,” he said. “On Wednesday mornings, for example, I read to kindergartners over at the public school in town. It’s a good life.”

Bequest Language

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut deeply appreciates all bequests.

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 _____% (percent-
age) 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, at (203) 679-5555.