

# Masonicare NEWS

## ANNUAL APPEAL

### “FAMILY” TIES INSPIRE APPEAL GIVING



We often mention the Masonic family when thanking the many individuals and organizations that have been so generous to our Masonicare Annual Appeal. For Masonicare board member and Annual Appeal donor Janet Berry, the term “Masonic family” holds a much deeper meaning.

A Past Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, Janet recalls how her relationship with Freemasonry and, by extension, Masonicare, began the day she was born.

“My father, Arthur Syphers, was a Past Master of Meridian Lodge No. 77,” she said. “Both he and my mother, Dorothy, belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star. She was still pregnant with me – and two weeks overdue – when she was installed as Worthy Matron of Meridian Chapter No. 8, OES.”

As a child growing up in Wallingford, at Lodge functions

with her parents and as a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Janet forged familial bonds with people to whom she wasn’t related by blood, but by shared values.

“Although I have a sister, my son and daughter-in-law, and one grandchild,” she said, “I don’t have any extended family. My parents were only children, so I don’t have any aunts, uncles, or cousins. I grew up very much a part of the Masonic community and the people I met there have become my family.”

She does recall, however, a great (or great-great) aunt who

came to live at the Masonic Home and Hospital – what we know today as Masonicare Health Center – in the early 1960s. Janet, who lived less than two miles away on Cook Hill Road, visited the Home often as a Rainbow Girl.

Today, a significant portion of Masonicare’s long-term care residents and community-based patients have limited or depleted financial resources, and many receive government assistance to

help pay for their care. Government reimbursement is not adequate in meeting the actual costs of delivering care to these individuals.

“As donors to the Masonicare Annual Appeal,” Janet said, “we’re able to add quality to the lives of Masonicare’s residents and patients in need. It makes a huge difference – the difference between just surviving and truly living.”

Through the generosity of Annual Appeal donors like Janet – who takes advantage of her employer’s gift-matching program and spaces out her gift in smaller,

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Janet Berry

monthly installments – The Masonic Charity Foundation is able to help Masonicare cover the cost of this significant gap in funding.

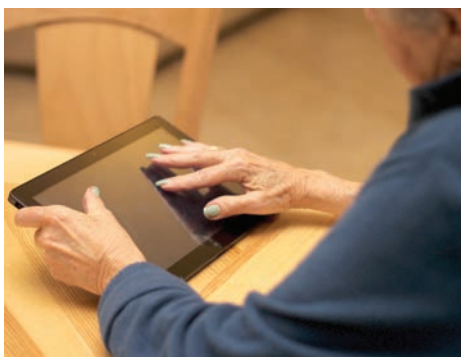
“I feel good about giving to the Annual Appeal,” she said, knowing her words will resonate with families of all kinds, “because I know I’m helping the people who really need it: our mothers and our fathers and our sisters and brothers.” ■

# Thanks to you, our sun shines 24/7!

As a symbol, the sun is found in all cultures throughout history and often represents a life-sustaining force. It also signifies happiness and hope. That's why, over a decade ago, The Masonic Charity Foundation chose the sun as a symbol of the spirit and purpose behind the Masonicare Annual Appeal.

The sun logo that has long adorned our Annual Appeal mailings also figures prominently in the design of *Annual Appeal News*, a publication for and about the donors whose generosity has brought warmth and light to countless Masonicare residents and patients.

## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK GIVING A VOICE TO THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK



Recently, Annual Appeal dollars were used to purchase Proloquo2Go, a customizable application for iPads and other tablet computers that offers a solution for people who have difficulty speaking, including patients with ALS, MS, Parkinson's Disease, or traumatic brain injuries. Users choose from an on-screen vocabulary of words or symbols to communicate. More advanced users can type out complete sentences.

Laura Halovatch, a Speech Pathologist at Masonicare Health Center, is currently working with a Proloquo2Go user with stroke-induced aphasia, a language disorder affecting one's ability to speak. The app has had a dramatic effect on this resident.

"With aphasia, you know what you want to say but can't get the words out," Halovatch explained. "That was extremely frustrating for this patient. She was excluding herself from activities and withdrawing. Since learning how to use Proloquo2Go, she's become active at Masonicare. She's attending events. She's able to tell her grandchildren that she loves them. She's able to make decisions about her own medical care choices. It's been amazing to watch her transformation. What this app did for this patient is incredible. Giving someone back their ability to communicate is the most rewarding thing I do, and this technology helped make that possible." ■



# ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL APPEAL MAKING A GIFT OF STOCK

Some of Jane Massey's favorite purchases at Masonicare Health Center made possible by gifts to the Masonicare Annual Appeal include having CNAs accompany long-term care residents to their medical appointments and providing fresh flowers to all women in long-term care on Mother's Day.

"I love all the little things – the special things – that The Foundation is able to do with gifts to the Annual Appeal," said Jane, a regular donor to the Appeal since moving to Masonicare at Ashlar Village two years ago. "That's what's important to me because those things wouldn't be paid for any other way. And, who knows? Maybe I'll need that kind of support someday, too."

In 2017, Jane made a generous gift of appreciated stock to the Annual Appeal that qualified her for inclusion in the Trustee's Circle, a giving society of The Masonic Charity Foundation recognizing gifts of \$5,000 or more in a calendar year.

Gifts of shares of stock is typically done via wire transfer (The Foundation can provide you with wiring instructions for your broker). Making a gift of stock that has increased in value and has been held for more than one year has numerous benefits to the donor. You can avoid capital gains taxes on the stock transfer to The Foundation. You may also be eligible to receive a charitable

income tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock on the date the gift is made. In addition, you'll have the satisfaction of supporting the charitable mission of Masonicare with your gift of stock.



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Jane Massey

A native of Manchester, Connecticut, Jane is a retired physical therapist who worked both in home care and in long-term care facilities where many of the residents relied on government assistance to help pay for their care. She believes that experience helped inspire her support of the Masonicare Annual Appeal.

So, too, has her experience as an Ashlar Village resident. She first toured our Wallingford retirement community years ago with her parents, the late Charles and Katherine Burr, and it left a lasting impression.

"My sisters and I agreed," Jane recalled, "that one of the greatest gifts our parents gave us was that they chose a retirement community for themselves. I didn't want my kids to have that responsibility for me, either, so I took it upon myself when I was ready. I never looked anyplace other than Ashlar Village. I love it."

As much as Jane enjoys skimming the weekly resident newsletter for upcoming programs and activities, she enjoys the friendliness of the entire Ashlar Village community even more. She has found that no matter who you are or where you came from, you will be greeted with a smile by residents and staff alike.

Which is another little thing that means a lot.

*Do you own shares of appreciated stock that you would like to donate to the Masonicare Annual Appeal? We can help. Please contact Alison Koons, Associate Director of Philanthropy, at 203-679-5573 or [akoons@masonicare.org](mailto:akoons@masonicare.org) for more information. ■*



# LEAVING A LEGACY

Your gifts to the Masonicare Annual Appeal are having a tangible and meaningful impact on the lives of seniors in need. But a gift in your will, also known as a bequest, is another wonderful way to support The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and a powerful statement to others of your belief in the mission of Masonicare.

Bequests are also fully deductible for federal estate tax purposes.



There are three types of bequests:

**Residuary:** This bequest directs that The Foundation receives all or a portion of the balance of your estate after all necessary costs and specific bequests have been met. A residuary bequest is a gift of whatever remains in your probate estate. If you have more than one residuary beneficiary, then you would make sure that the total passing to the residuary beneficiaries equals 100 percent.

**Percentage:** This is a bequest of an amount equal to a fixed percentage of the value of your estate at the time of your death. While the percentage will stay fixed, the amount ultimately passing to The Foundation will

depend upon the value of all your assets passing under your Will upon your death.

**Specific:** This is a bequest of a specific dollar amount that won't fluctuate if your estate increases in value after you have signed your Will. Assuming your executor has sufficient other assets to pay expenses, debts, taxes and the like, this bequest will not be reduced.

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 all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, or \_\_\_\_% (percentage) of**

**my estate, or \$\_\_\_\_ (sum of money) 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 health-care programs and services to our residents and patients.

Please note that The Foundation is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization and its full, legal name is “The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc.” The Foundation’s federal tax identification number is **06-1435920.**

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, Attention: Administrative Assistant. Please provide your full name and street address. Note that it may take six to eight weeks to make your request fully effective.