

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction
**SCOTTISH
RITE**

The Grand Almoner's Fund

Fulfilling Our Masonic Obligation



**“BUT THEN CAME
ALL OF YOU”**

Our Vision Stands True



David A. Glattly, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have changed our lives, forever. I certainly hope that this update on our Grand Almoner's Fund finds you well. Your well-being is very important to me. We are all looking forward to the end of this when we are able to reach out and extend our warm hand of Brotherhood once again.

As our Brothers and their families have faced unexpected hardship in the last few months, our Grand Almoner's Fund and our White Flower Society have stood ready and assisted many of our Scottish Rite members and widows throughout our current health emergency. When the need arose, we reacted quickly to support those in need. It is your generous support of this Fund that allows us to provide this relief to those in need. I cannot thank you enough for what you have done to help build this Fund.

Now more than ever, the Grand Almoner's Fund is critical to our Fraternity. Many of our Brothers and their families are struggling, and the Grand Almoner's Fund is our way of making a huge difference now. This life-changing work is only possible with your continued support.

Please stay well!

My best personal regards,

The Spirit of Help Alive & Well



Robert J. Bateman, 33°

Deputy for Pennsylvania

I recently had the privilege of reaching out to the widow of one of our Scottish Rite Brothers to inform her that she would be receiving assistance from the Grand Almoner's Fund through the White Flower Society. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was unable to meet her face-to-face. But believe me when I tell you that this conversation was just as emotional and heart-warming as when I present the checks in person. The only things missing were the physical hugs and seeing each other's tears. Even though we were unable to feel the embrace, we both gave each other a hug in our thoughts and shed tears over the phone.

She told me she did not know what else to do or where to turn for help, so she prayed to God, and God answered. I truly believe that in times of great danger, difficulty or distress, when you put your trust in God, He will give you an answer.

Maybe the Coronavirus has changed the way we do things, but it sure has not changed the spirit in the way we take care of our Scottish Rite family. Thank you to all who generously support the Almoner's Fund. It truly will make a difference in this Masonic lady's life.



The Grand Almoner's Fund

No Rainbow Without Your Support



Peter J. Samiec, 33°

Grand Almoner

If the last few months have taught us anything, it's that we never know what tomorrow brings. No matter how prepared we are, sometimes situations beyond our control leave us in need of a helping hand. That's why the Almoner's Fund exists – to help members of our Scottish Rite family facing unexpected hardships.

As Grand Almoner, I'm privy to a wide range of needs experienced by our members in distress. Some are resolved with a gentle hand up. Others are more complex, requiring additional time and attention, but in the end all is well. Occasionally we have a situation that doesn't have that happy ending, and a dark cloud of disappointment lingers, proof that some things are in His hands and His alone. These are the most difficult and heart-wrenching.

No matter the severity, complexity or outcome, it's our goal to assist swiftly, and with a Brotherly touch that says, "We care."

Our First Lady, Monica Glattly, recently established the White Flower Society with the express purpose of caring for our Scottish Rite widows going through these dark moments. Not long ago the White Flower Society was able to assist a widow whose husband had passed away suddenly, and the loss of income was making it difficult to meet her financial obligations. Because of your support, we were able to get her back on solid ground, easing the stress created by her life change.

One of my favorite Maya Angelou quotes, which has become my guiding light as Grand Almoner: "Be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud." To say that our country has experienced "cloudy times" in recent months might be a bit understated, but these times too will pass. In the meantime, should a need arise, we're here to help, aid and assist.

It's nice to be "the rainbow in somebody else's cloud." There would be no rainbow without your support. Thank you for remembering the White Flower Society and the Grand Almoners Fund.

Support & Love



Dayna Girken was born with cystic fibrosis and suffered from severe lung disease. A former member of Job's Daughters International and the granddaughter of a Scottish Rite Brother, Dayna was on the waiting list for a lung transplant when she was diagnosed with liver cancer. Her existing conditions made it impossible to receive chemotherapy or radiation. After a long fight and extended hospital stay away from her family, Dayna wanted nothing more than to be home with her infant son. Support from the Almoner's Fund helped make it possible for her to spend the time she had left with her family when she needed them most.



Dear Scottish Rite,

Our family truly appreciates your generous donation.

Dayna's last wish was to go home and spend her final days with her 6 month old son and our family. We fought hard to get her home and were able carry out her wishes. We were undeniably blessed to spend that time with her. The burden of medical expenses came in and added up quickly. With the help of you, some of that burden has been lifted. We will never be able to thank you enough. Your kindness will always be remembered.

Love,

The Girken Family

The Grand Almoner's Fund

The History of the White Flower Society



Monica Glattly
First Lady

When attending Scottish Rite events alongside the Sovereign Grand Commander, I am always amazed by the supportive nature of the Masonic community. It's been a great joy in my life to meet the many amazing women who are part of that community and build deep, strong connections and friendships with them. I consider many of these women family, love them as such, and am inspired every day by their strength. In times of need, we always come together to lift each other up.

Never Forgotten

Not too long ago, Commander Glattly and I were at a Scottish Rite event where I was enjoying the company of a group of ladies – some of whom were widows. At one point, the conversation turned to one of our friends who was experiencing financial difficulties since her husband passed. At that moment, I could feel that every woman in our group wanted to bring her comfort. That was the moment I realized we could help her through the Scottish Rite's keystone charity, the Grand Almoner's Fund.

That day, as we prepared to leave, one of the widows in our group hugged me and said, 'please don't

forget about us.' Her sincere, touching request inspired this idea in me: The Scottish Rite and its community of women is defined by its charitable and supportive nature. So why not take the extra step to establish a fund designated specifically for Masonic widows?

To me, this seemed to be a natural extension of the mission to take care of one another. Thus, the White Flower Society was born, a charity exclusively dedicated to helping those who are often particularly vulnerable, our Masonic widows, and a symbol to show them that they can always find support from the Scottish Rite community.



How to Join the White Flower Society

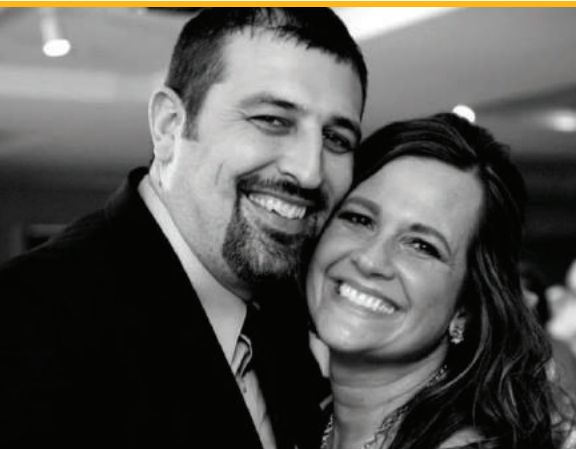
Membership in the White Flower Society reflects a \$5,000 level of giving: either as a one-time gift or a pledge over five years. When you become a member of the society, you will receive a special white forget-me-not brooch as a token of our appreciation, and a reminder that you have given the most meaningful of gifts. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support of the White Flower Society.

Anonymous	Valley of Bridgeport, Lafayette Consistory
Mary Ann Atkinson	Charles R. & Frances H. Lefever
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Barbara Elliott	Kellie R. Sellars
Karin M. Ernest in memory of Ruth Beumann Mahler	Janice Sharpe
Ginnie & Raymond Foose	Willa Jean Smalley
Mark David Gall	Karen Stein
Monica Glattly	Howard & Carol Struble
Brian & Lynne Hartel	Thomas & Joan Sturgeon
Kim Hecht	Barbara Tryon
George & Leslie Hixon	Brenda & Len Vander Horn
Susan Jacobson	Maureen Williamson
Thomas & Ginny Labagh	Connie Wilson



To sign up for the White Flower Society or to learn more, go to

WhiteFlowerSociety.org



“But then came all of you”

The Grand Almoner's Fund is there for Masonic families in some of their darkest moments. While it can't take away the pain that these families experience when losing a loved one, it can lighten the financial burden they're often forced to carry.



When Scottish Rite Brother Jared McKnight and his wife Peggy first learned of his cancer diagnosis, finding the time and resources to support each other became an immediate challenge. “We had no family where we lived, so I didn’t have a lot of people to help me. I had to take a lot of time off work,” Peggy recalled. “It was so stressful.”



Before the diagnosis, Peggy said they were a thriving family. Jared was a surgical ICU nurse and also did travel nursing on the side. He had aspirations to become a nurse anesthetist and continued studying even during his chemotherapy treatments. "He was a warrior," Peggy said. "I was and will always be so proud to be his wife."

Some of the hardest days for the family were the five day long overnight hospital stays when Jared was undergoing chemotherapy. "It was such a difficult struggle," Peggy said, "but then came all of you."

Support from the Almoner's Fund helped ease Jared's worries about

his family's financial situation and allowed Peggy to be with him when he needed her most. "It gave us time," she said. "I almost never left his side, and your generosity helped us to be together till the end. He wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

Jared was only 42 when he lost his battle with cancer last year, and Peggy said she is taking life day by day. She called the assistance her family received from the Almoner's Fund a God-send.

"It's amazing what this organization does and has done for our family. It literally answered prayers for us."

Before Jared's passing, he sent these words of thanks for the assistance his family was receiving from the Almoner's Fund:

I wanted to say THANK YOU in the biggest way. We are overwhelmed and touched by your generosity. The money I received from the Almoner's Fund will help us during the most difficult time in our lives. I have worried daily about my family's finances after my diagnosis and I was not sure how we were going to make things work.

When my father presented me with the first check, I was speechless. When he told me that there would be four more to follow, I was overcome with emotion and gratitude. Recently, my long-term disability was denied. I felt completely hopeless. My wife works hard to make things work but has had to take so much time off to care for me and get me to my doctor appointments. Without family nearby, most of the responsibility falls on her shoulders and it has become too much financially to handle. This gift has come when we needed it most and will change our daily lives more than you will know.

May God richly bless this organization and all the people who support it.

Sincerely, Jared McKnight

Why I Give

There are so many reasons why I give. People argue that making donations help us lower taxes, promote generosity in our children, and bring meaning to our lives. But to me, it's that feeling of satisfaction when I know I am helping someone else and making a difference in their lives.

It is never about the amount you give. It's never about the recognition or the thank you. But it's about that joy when you know your contribution, no matter how small, is meaningful to someone else.

Even scientists have proven that making a charitable donation makes you happy. When you give to Scottish Rite Charities, you can rest assured that your contributions are being made to people who are genuinely in need. This is because those who are responsible for distributing donations care very much about every single case that is presented to them for their review.

I have seen Scottish Rite first hand help people in need. I have witnessed distressed and utterly destitute Brother Masons, who are not even Scottish Rite Masons being helped by the generous donations made to our Almoner's Fund. This is one of many reasons why I'm proud not just to be a Freemason, but to be a Scottish Rite Freemason.

Mohamad A. Yatim, 33°, New Jersey



I believe in the Scottish Rite vision that we will honor our obligation to care for our members.

I believe that it's easy to say the words, but it's always a challenge to put them into practice. The wants of humanity are great. The needs of our members are significant, and there are only so many ways that we can respond to those needs.

The Grand Almoner's Fund is one way to make a meaningful, helpful difference in the lives of people in need. It's an opportunity for us to fulfill our Masonic obligation, to live our words as we made those promises at the altar of Masonry. That is why I give, and that is why I encourage others to support the Almoner's Fund.

Douglas N. Kaylor, 33°, Ohio

A man wearing a blue baseball cap, sunglasses, a grey t-shirt, and dark pants stands in a lush, green forest. He is holding a German Shepherd dog on a brown leather strap. The dog is looking towards the camera with its tongue out. The background is filled with dense foliage and a small waterfall in the distance.

Helping a Brother in Blue

When Brother Sean Stradley was on duty as a police patrolman, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and permanent spinal cord injury during an altercation with a suspect. His injuries left him permanently disabled and forced him to retire before he turned 45.

Doctors recommended a service dog to help improve his quality of life, but the high cost of securing this life-changing helper seemed an impossible hurdle. That's when the Grand Almoner's Fund stepped in to help this worthy Brother. The story that follows was told by Brother Sean as he prepared to meet his service dog for the first time.

I wanted to tell you how honored I am to share my story. My Scottish Rite Brothers have helped tremendously in raising funds for my service dog. I was hesitant at first to reach out for help. Pride sometimes gets in the way. But I was encouraged as my mother told me how much the Masons helped my father when he was sick.

With that information, I decided to send an email asking where I might go to possibly get help. I was contacted right away, and things took off from there! As a matter of fact, I am flying out tomorrow to Florida to meet and be paired with my service dog - or as Guardian Angels calls them, "a medical device with a heartbeat."

This has been a long process starting with an extensive application, background check, review of my medical records, and selection process. Guardian Angels works primarily with veterans, police and other first responders - professions that many of our Brothers like myself are called to in order to fulfill our obligation of service. The organization specializes in training dogs for those suffering with PTSD like myself. There is a very long waiting list for their dogs, and they have a process to prioritize who gets a dog first and work to be as fair as possible.



Once I was selected, they had to identify my specific needs that the dog could help me with. These included helping me deal with my PTSD, assisting me with my balance, retrieving items for me, and more. Since Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit organization, they rely on sponsors and donations to pay for their service dogs. Each dog costs approximately \$25,000, which includes raising, training and veterinary care.

Each recipient is asked to fundraise as much of that amount as possible to help offset the organization's costs, and the money is put towards the raising and training of another dog. Between a GoFundMe that one of my sons created and the amazing generosity of my Brothers, I'm proud to say that we have raised almost the entire amount. I now have a fire inside, and I want to see what I can do to help raise more funds for Guardian Angels so they can continue to do their great work.

This has been a long road. Now, finally, after two and a half years, I have made it to the top of the list. They have raised and trained a dog specifically to meet my needs. I can't wait to meet him. I want to thank everyone at the Scottish Rite. I know this dog will change my life.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Bro. Sean A. Stradley, New York

Commander's Circle Members

The Commander's Circle is a special group of donors who have chosen to honor their commitment to the principles of our fraternity through their generous support of the Grand Almoner's Fund.

Their passion and their giving are a true and lasting expression of "Masons caring for Masons."

For more information about becoming a Commander's Circle member or joining a new giving level, visit ScottishRiteNMJ.org/Almoners



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