



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

Our Impact
2022/23
with your help



**Support where
it is needed most**

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Foreword

Welcome and introduction

“The MCF has laid strong foundations and built on a proud legacy”

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am honoured to share in the responsibility of steering this remarkable charity. The Board is committed to fulfilling its charitable objects, providing strong governance, prudent stewardship, measuring our impact and ensuring the organisation is fit for the future. To help achieve this, the MCF has laid strong foundations and built on a proud legacy of providing charitable support for individuals and communities since the eighteenth century.

Our journey over the last seven years has been marked by resilience, delivery and adaptability, qualities that have become even more critical in the face of evolving challenges including the recent pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, as well as responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine when we were proud to be able to coordinate charitable support totalling over £1 million on behalf of Freemasonry.



Since the last report the charity has continued to develop a strategic partnership approach with national charities such as Age UK, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Hospice UK and the Cranfield Trust to address a number of the challenges presenting in wider society including our aging population, mental health needs and disadvantaged young people. We have also responded to requests from Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Lodges to support local charities.

I would like to thank all of our Trustees for their ongoing support in the development of our new strategy and I look forward to working alongside them as we oversee its implementation by our Chief Executive and his excellent team. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the six Trustees who retired this year, all of whom have helped the MCF to strive for and achieve excellence and they should feel justifiably proud.

**Sir Paul Williams OBE,
KStJ, DL**

Chairman and Deputy President

“We are helping to respond to genuine needs within society”



At the heart of the MCF’s mission is a deep commitment to understand and address the needs of our beneficiaries – this applies equally to the individuals and the charities we support. As Chief Executive, and having had over 35 years’ experience of working for Masonic charities, I am acutely aware of the importance of allocating our resources with precision to ensure that we are making a meaningful and positive impact on society. I trust that readers of this report will be satisfied that we are working in such a manner.

This year, we have made significant strides in enhancing the availability and quality of the data and analysis that is used to compile this impact report. I hope these valuable insights demonstrate the tangible difference we are making to the lives of those we support, and that we are helping to respond to genuine needs within society. I would like to thank our recently formed Impact and Evaluation team for leading this project and those across all departments for supporting this important part of our work. I believe that this report demonstrates a significant step forward in our ability to monitor and share our impact as well as adapting to the outcomes and recommendations that arise as a result of this measurement.

This year, for example, a significant operational change has been the introduction of enhanced support for children and young people’s mental health; a direct response to increasing demand for these services from those we support. Our strategic partnerships with major charities have also helped us become more responsive, by enabling us to work with Provincial Grand Lodges and others to determine how we – as the national charity of Freemasonry – identify and support local charities and community projects.

All of our work continues to be funded solely by Freemasons, with the support of their families and friends. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and fundraisers, in particular those supporting a Festival appeal. Our work, and the impact that it has throughout society, is only possible because of your tireless efforts. I hope that, when reading this report, you take pride in knowing that you are helping us respond to need which is perhaps greater now than it has ever been.

Les Hutchinson
Chief Executive



Chapter 1

Our year in brief

Funded entirely through the generous donations of Freemasons, their families and friends, we responded to the needs of disadvantaged people and communities across England, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and internationally.



In 2022/23 we awarded £26.2 million

£12.7M

awarded through **4,297** grants to individuals or households

Of which...



£7.4M

was awarded to help with essential daily living costs



£4M

was awarded to help with health, care and wellbeing needs



£1.3M

was awarded to help children and young people in education

£6.7M

to support RMBI Care Co. residents with the cost of their care

£6.8M

awarded to **451** charities

In addition...



1,038

visits to applicants were completed by **340** trained volunteers



13,884

enquiries were received from people seeking support



£1.2M

was given to disaster relief efforts

Chapter 2

The MCF, our work, our impact



What is impact?

To say 'we have made an impact' means that the MCF's support has contributed to a tangible and positive difference to someone's life.

Supporting individuals and households

The support MCF provides to individuals and households usually takes the form of grants to assist with daily living costs, but grants can also be provided for specific items or services. A wide range of help and support is available for daily living costs; health, care and wellbeing; and education-related costs for children and young people. The MCF offers confidential, free mental health support for Freemasons and their family members, including children aged five years and over. In addition, a network of 17 care homes operated by the RMBI Care Co. across England and Wales provides high quality residential, nursing and dementia care.



Supporting charities and communities

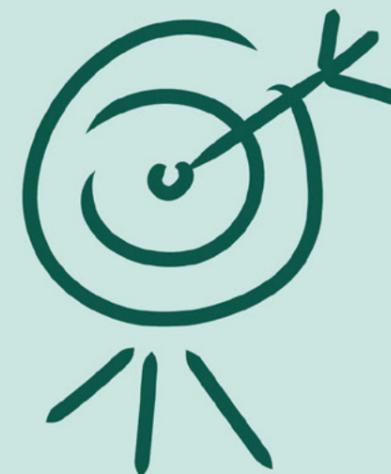
Through the MCF, Freemasons tackle some of society's most important issues by awarding grants to local and national charities, and by forming partnerships with leading organisations in the sector.

Each year the MCF supports charities that help people to live happy, fulfilling lives and participate actively in society. Funding is targeted where it is most needed, within causes that Freemasons care about passionately.

The current target areas are:

- Reducing isolation in later life
- Creating the best start in life for disadvantaged children and young people
- Medical research into degenerative diseases
- Funding care services in the hospice sector

The MCF also helps those affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises as quickly as possible by contributing to major international aid appeals.



Our approach to measuring our impact

This year marked the beginning of a new approach to impact and evaluation at the MCF. This approach enhances an existing commitment to gather evidence which allows us to determine the extent to which we are having a positive impact on the individuals, families, and communities we support.

The evidence we gather will help us to understand exactly how the MCF is creating positive change in society on behalf of Freemasonry, and to help us challenge long-held assumptions about the difference we hope to make.

Through a systematic approach to measuring our impact, we can be more confident that the evidence we gather is helping us to continually evolve and improve our support.



Chapter 3

Supporting individuals and their families



The MCF's evaluation model builds on four core areas:



Who we have supported

We continue to support disadvantaged individuals, families and communities in England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and also overseas Districts.

Support for daily living

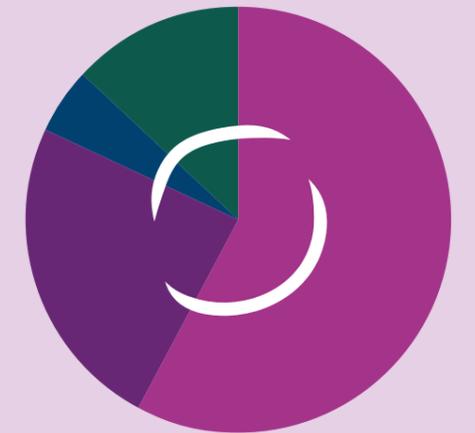
We provided **2,259** grants at a cost of **£7.4M**, to **1,769** individuals and families to help them meet everyday living costs.

Support for children and young people in education

We provided **487** grants at a cost of **£1.3M** to **338** children and young people to ensure they had access to the same educational opportunities as their peers.

Support for health, care and wellbeing

We provided **1,551** grants to **1,129** people at a cost of **£4M** to help them live healthier and more independent lives. This total includes **389** people who accessed our free and confidential counselling service at a cost of **£311K**.



Here to help the people who mean the most to you

Our Impact

We provide a wide range of support to advance three key areas of impact that we consider to be important in people's lives;

*Wellbeing
Independence
Opportunity*



Through our annual beneficiary survey we asked those we support to tell us the ways in which they believed our support has helped them.

From 708 responses:

- **58 per cent** told us that our support had helped with their **Wellbeing**
- **24 per cent** told us that our support had improved their **Independence**
- **5 per cent** told us that they were now able to access an **Opportunity**
- **13 per cent** told us that our support has helped them in other ways

How our support is changing lives

“

The help that I receive from the MCF has helped soften the blow of the rising costs of everything. I don't know how to explain fully the difference this has had on my life.”

Greater wellbeing

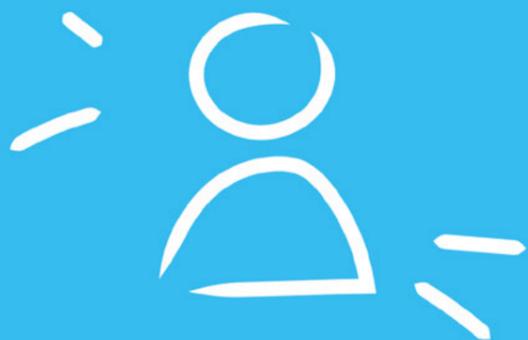
Across all age groups, the predominant impact reported was an enhanced sense of wellbeing. This sentiment was frequently linked to achieving a sense of financial control; establishing stronger connections with friends and family; and being more resilient when dealing with personal challenges.

Creating opportunities

Providing people with access to new opportunities is linked to helping them gaining control over their finances, being able to cope with more difficult situations, and recovering from a change in their circumstances.

“

My TalentAid grant has given me so many opportunities and will allow me to follow my career of choice.”



Supporting independence

Our beneficiaries told us that our grants have given them greater independence and helped people to spend more time doing activities they enjoy. Providing greater independence for someone living with a disability was shown as particularly valuable. The survey also shows that our support helped people become more independent as they got older.

“

The mobility scooter provided lets me go out, be independent and is the most important thing to me.”



Mental health support

Support for children and young people

Mental health support for adults has been a core element of our support since the MCF was formed. However, according to the NHS, one in six children and young people in the UK have a mental health concern. The need for early intervention is crucial, and counselling can help children and young people to address their problems early on, before they become more serious.

In 2022/23, the MCF launched a mental health service to support children aged five to 15. We are already beginning to see a positive impact on those who have received support.

The MCF awarded

£311,859

in mental health support grants, of which **£21,068** was spent supporting **28** children and young people.

The impact of our mental health support

We assess the beneficiary's mental health before and after accessing the service by asking them to score areas such as 'feeling bad about self' or 'feeling down, depressed, or hopeless'.

Quality of the service

We were pleased to see that the quality of the service provided by our delivery partners, coupled with the feedback from service users, shows a high level of customer satisfaction.

96.2%

Satisfaction with mental health support.

“

The response time from the original request was extremely quick. The service from the practitioner was excellent and they understood my concerns, both obvious and concealed. There was no pressure to conclude each session and each session was extremely effective for me.”

Mental Health service user

Case Study: Wilf

Wilf is retired and sought support through the MCF mental health service. Wilf's wife had recently passed away and he contacted the MCF for support. His loss had impacted his sleep and social life and he reported he had been avoiding social encounters.

After completing his course of therapy, Wilf told us that the counselling has reassured him that it is perfectly normal to still be grieving and that he can move forward with his grief at his own pace.



Supporting older people

The RMBI Care Company

One of the MCF's priorities is the care of older people, primarily through a network of 17 care homes operated by the RMBI Care Co. across England and Wales.

The homes provide a safe and welcoming environment for over 1,000 older people, and offer residential care, nursing care and dementia support. All homes are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by the CQC in England or 'Compliant' by the CIW in Wales.

Each year the RMBI Care Co. produces its own Impact Report which can be found at www.rmbi.org.uk

In 2022/23, the MCF contributed

£6.7M

towards the cost of care for eligible residents requiring support for their care costs.



What our beneficiaries told us

Every year, we ask the people we support to complete a survey about the process for applying and receiving charitable support. This year, **over 700 people** completed our survey to help us understand what our beneficiaries think of the processes we follow to support them.

98%

of beneficiaries said that our enquiries team's knowledge and professionalism when responding to their enquiry either met or exceeded their expectations.

97%

told us that our grants team's knowledge and professionalism either met or exceeded their expectations.



86%

told us that they were kept informed regarding how long they would wait to find out if their application was successful.

99%

felt that their experience of engaging with a Visiting Volunteer or Advice and Support Team member was a positive one.



93%

said that, in addition to the support they have received, they feel a connection to the MCF and understand the wider work that the charity does.

91%

told us that the MCF was demonstrating all of our organisational values of Striving for Excellence, Responding to Need and Making a Difference.

We pride ourselves on our excellent service



Chapter 4

Supporting charities and communities



Charities we have supported

Through our charitable grants, the MCF and Freemasonry work closely together to provide support to help tackle some of society's biggest challenges. Our support to the charity sector focuses on charities supporting the needs of children and young people and those experiencing isolation in later life.

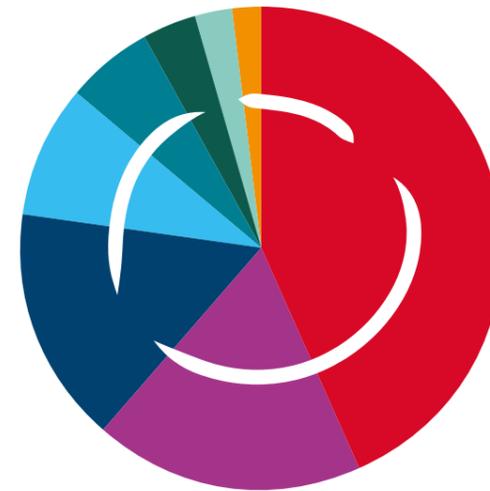
In addition, we provide further support to charities and causes through strategic partnerships, funding for PhD research into childhood diseases and conditions and through a number of programmes that support Freemasons' charitable giving at the local level.

The MCF is also one of the first contributors to international aid appeals following major natural disasters.

In 2022/23, the MCF awarded **480 grants** to over **450 charities**

totalling **£6.8M** on behalf of Freemasonry.

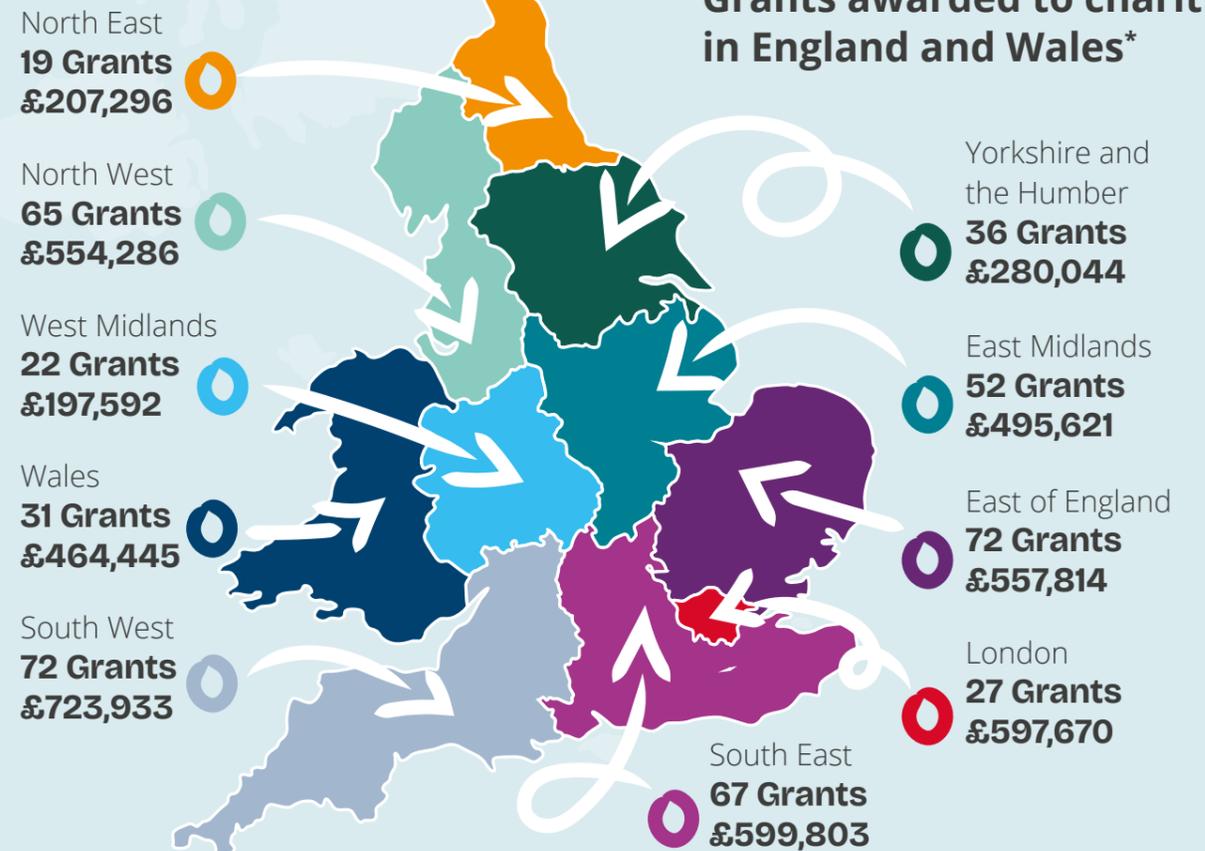
Grant Programmes



- Large Grants of between £20,000 and £60,000 over three years **£2,931,645**
- Matched funding of grants made by Provinces of up to £10,000 **£394,369**
- International Disaster Relief **£1,236,000**
- PhD Research into degenerative illnesses **£250,000**
- Small Grants of up to £15,000 over three years **£1,062,247**
- Freemasons' Community Fund **£176,243**
- Hospice UK grants **£600,000**
- Festival Grants **£114,000**

Total £6,764,504

Grants awarded to charities in England and Wales*



*Excludes Hospice UK grants, overseas disaster relief and medical research.

Working with Freemasons

As a charity funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons, their families and friends, we believe it is important to involve the membership in our decision-making when awarding grants. Following the assessment and shortlisting process, all of our large grants are referred to the local Charity Representative of the respective Province for comment before the grant is awarded.



Strengthening the charity sector

In 2022/23, we established a strategic partnership with the **Cranfield Trust** to support their work in strengthening and building capacity within the charity sector.

- **23 projects** were supported through the partnership. The charities offer a wide range of services across different areas of social need and disadvantage.
- **63 charity leaders** have been supported by 10 Peer to Peer Exchanges through online and face-to-face sessions, where charity leaders network and learn from each other.
- **A series of 12 webinars were held with 1,562 attendees** across a wide range of topics, including Effective Impact Reporting, Personal Resilience and Being Inspired as a Leader.



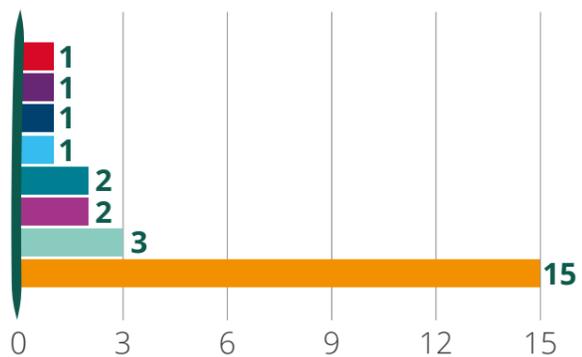
It was an excellent match. I now have more confidence to lead and empower my staff and will continue to lead to a more efficient organisation."

West Berkshire charity

Beneficiary groups supported through the Cranfield Trust partnership

The charities were supported in different ways as required by their specific needs, with the majority (65 per cent) requesting help to develop a long-term strategy.

The feedback received from the charities highlights the difference that the MCF funding made to enhance the effectiveness of small charities and help guarantee long-term service provision for local communities.



- Children, young people and families
- Homeless people
- People with mental health issues
- People with physical health issues
- Carers
- Older people
- People experiencing poverty
- People with disabilities

Note: some charities reported multiple groups.

Supporting hospices

In 2022/23, we continued our long-term partnership with **Hospice UK** and awarded **£600,000** to fund two programmes. £398,488 was awarded to fund 13 projects that will help people needing end of life care suffering from the effects of the UK cost of living crisis, including those experiencing homelessness.

We also launched a bursary scheme to develop staff skills, capacity and resilience within the hospice sector. In its first six months the scheme had supported 72 bursaries in 51 hospices.

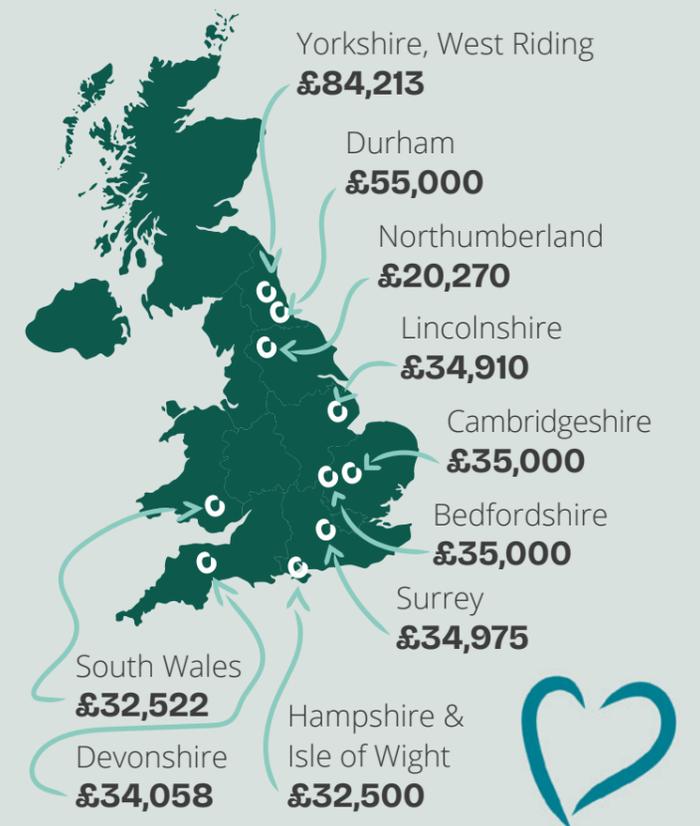
Our multi-year Hospice UK partnership has now provided

£2M

and supported **77 projects across England and Wales since 2018.**

A further £2.4M has been awarded to help with day-to-day running costs at hospices.

Project support in 2022/23



Total
£398,448



Medical research

Medical research Freemasonry has a long history of supporting medical research to support treatments for future generations. The MCF is continuing this tradition by providing funding for PhD students who are researching childhood diseases and conditions. In 2022/23, we provided support totalling **£250,000**.

What the charities we support told us

Each year, we ask the charities we support to tell us about our application and grant-making processes. This year, **166 charities** responded:

- **95%** of grantees reported the level of information provided on our website was *just right*.
- **78%** of grantees reported they found the end of year monitoring either *easy* or *very easy* to complete online.
- **95%** of grantees told us the amount of information we ask to report to us is *about right*.



“

The process for applying for our grant was great. It was easy to follow and to understand what was required.”

Cheshire charity

“

The application process was very straightforward and easy to follow. The two-stage process was welcome as it meant that not too much time was spent on an inappropriate application. Decision making was also quick which was welcome.”

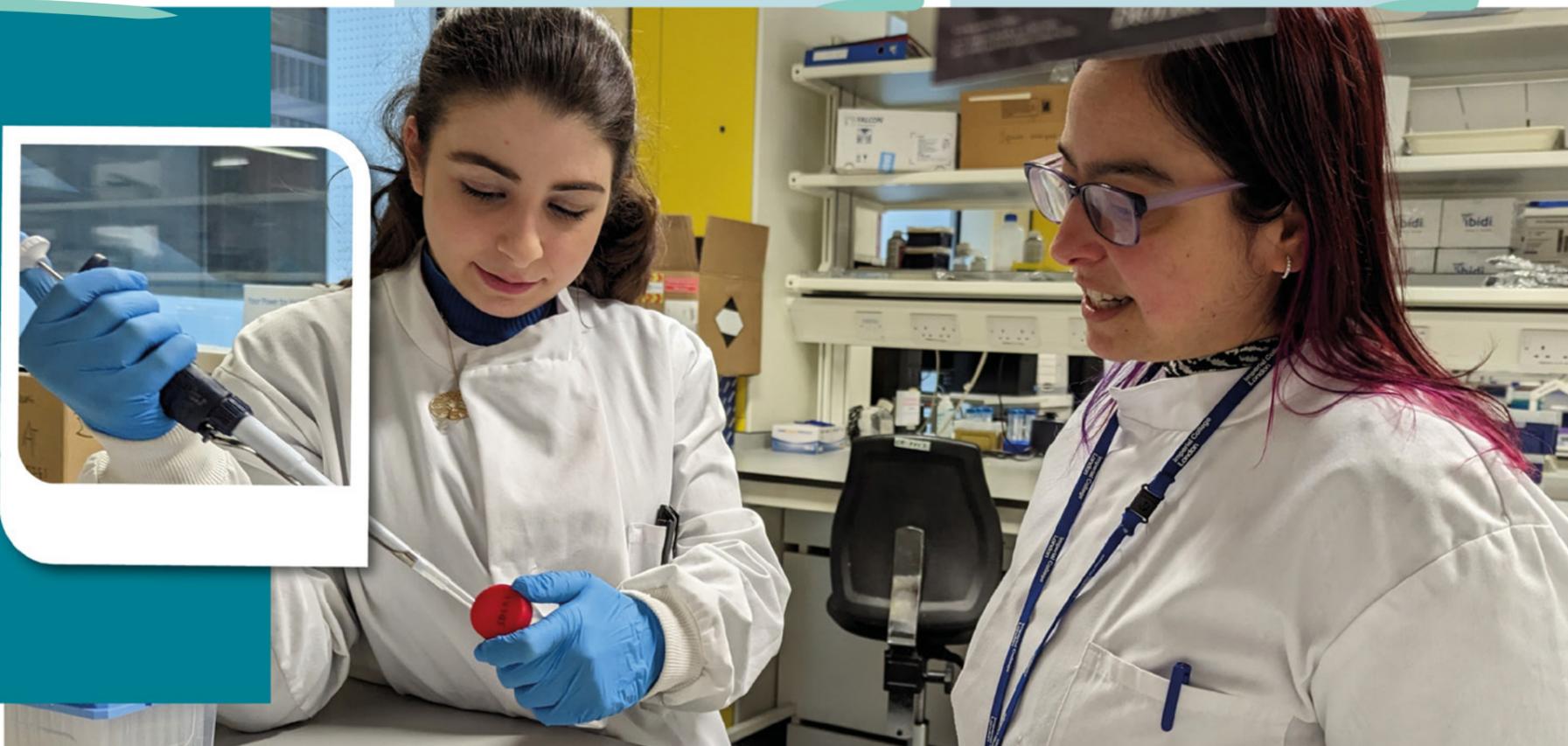
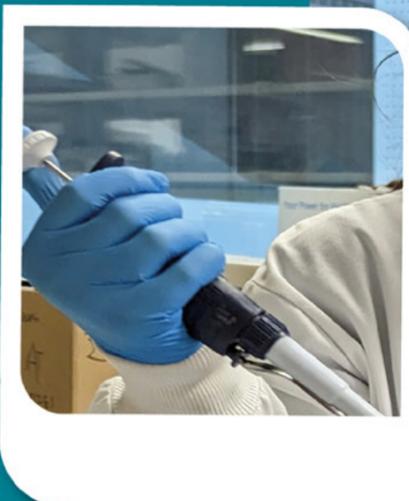
London charity

Case Study: Funding the ‘Wheeze Test’

The research project we are supporting through our partnership with Action Medical Research over the next three years is the development of a “wheeze test” for children to help prevent wheeze attacks. In England, it is estimated that around eight per cent of children under the age of five have preschool wheeze. Recurrent symptoms and multiple attacks in preschool wheezers account for one-third of healthcare costs for childhood asthma.

About the lead researcher

The successful PhD candidate was Dr Kushalinii Hillson, a paediatric respiratory registrar, who is undertaking a Fellowship at Imperial College London and the Royal Brompton Hospital. Over the three years of her PhD she will be researching the development of non-invasive biomarkers to direct individualised management of preschool wheeze. The MCF’s peer reviewer told us that this study will “address an enormous global health issue” and “will provide much needed clinically relevant information to improve preschool asthma management”.





Independent evaluation

In 2022/23, we commissioned independent research to evaluate three years of progress reports received from charities we have supported through our small and large grant-making programmes.

Our small and large grants provide support for disadvantaged **Children and Young People** and to help reduce isolation in **Later Life**. Large Grants are typically project based awards while Small Grants are unrestricted and can be used to cover the running costs of the charity.

The evaluation reviewed the reports we had received from nearly 300 charities and assessed how they described their outcomes between 2019 and 2022. We compared these outcomes to our Theory of Change to understand exactly how we made a difference to other charities and the people they support.

Even small grants make a big impact



“

Since we received this grant we have been in partnership with another local organisation to deliver intergenerational services, with tea parties hosted by groups of young students for the benefit of older people.”

East Kent charity



The evaluation identified the following conclusions:

- **64% of charities we funded described beneficiary-specific benefits** as a result of our support. These outcomes included ‘increased engagement in physical and social activities’; ‘gaining access to crucial physical, psychological and emotional support’; ‘increased knowledge about rights’; and ‘enabled access to more opportunities to advance education’.
- The remaining **36% of charities described organisational-specific benefits** to the charity itself. These outcomes included ‘recruiting and developing qualified staff with the skills needed to deliver their services’; ‘improved service delivery’; or ‘increased efficiency within their organisation’.
- The three most commonly described impacts for our **grants supporting Children and Young People’s charities** were:
 - ‘creating greater access to physical, psychological and emotional support’;
 - ‘having qualified and skilled staff to deliver the service’; and
 - ‘engaging beneficiaries in either physical or social activities’.

These outcomes demonstrate that our programmes are able to help charities meet their objectives in ways that are best suited to their specific needs.

- For our **Later Life** grants, the three most commonly described areas of benefit were:
 - ‘beneficiaries are more engaged in physical and social activities’;
 - ‘being able to access qualified staff with skills needed to deliver services’; and
 - ‘beneficiaries accessing physical, psychological, and emotional support’.

Disaster Relief

For decades, Freemasonry has helped those affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises as quickly as possible by contributing to international aid appeals; the MCF is proud to be the charity through which that generosity is distributed.

Our most significant contribution this year was supporting Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe and those who have temporarily relocated to the United Kingdom. **A total of £1.2M was awarded to support Ukrainian refugees through 14 grants.** The majority of this funding was raised through a special fundraising appeal, which was generously supported by Freemasons in addition to existing fundraising commitments.

We also provided contributions to appeals following the devastating flooding in Pakistan in September 2022 as well as the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in February 2023.



Case Study: Helping Ukrainian families start a new life in the UK

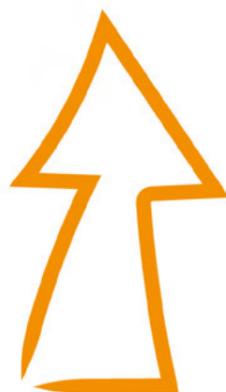
By February 2023, over 168,700 people displaced by the conflict in Ukraine had arrived in the UK.

The MCF’s funding enabled the British Red Cross volunteers to offer support and information to newly arrived refugee families at stations and airports to help them navigate the complex arrivals process and settle in the UK. **Thanks to our funding, the British Red Cross was also able to provide in-depth, practical support to over 2,300 Ukrainian refugees** including guidance for opening a bank account and access to legal advice so they could get the correct visa. We were also delighted to fund the British Red Cross family reunification service which helped families contact or reunite with loved ones who had gone missing as they fled the conflict.



Chapter 5

Working in partnership



with Freemasonry to increase our impact

In addition to the charitable grants we award centrally, the MCF engages with Freemasonry and communities to support social change locally. Our community engagement includes:

- Matched-funding grants
- Freemasons' Community Fund grants
- Festival grants
- Teddies for Loving Care



Matched-funding grants

Through our matched-funding grants programme, Provinces can apply to the MCF to double the value of a donation to a local charity.

In 2022/23, we awarded 273 matched-funding grants totalling £394,369.

Case Study: Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Freemasons donated £2,000 to the Scunthorpe branch of national charity *SOBS – Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide*. Members of St Lawrence Lodge and the Lodge of St John each gave £500, with both donations matched by the MCF.

The money bought replacement soft furnishings in SOBS' seaside caravan, used as a place of respite for survivors, or families affected by suicide. SOBS branch organiser Nina Shrimpton lost her son Russell to suicide 11 years ago. She said it was hard to get mental health support: "It's just not available. We do what we can. Providing the caravan is part of that. People need to get away. Freemasonry's help to achieve that is massive."

"For small charities even relatively tiny amounts of money given, matched-funded by the MCF, can have a much greater impact than their monetary value might suggest."

Pete Tong

Provincial Charity Steward, Lincolnshire

“

In the autumn of 2022 the national and local media were full of stories about the worsening cost of living crisis. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire wanted to support those least able to withstand the financial pressures by supporting some of the Food Banks across Hertfordshire. We used our MCF matched-funding allowance of £10,000 to increase the impact of these donations. Eight food banks were supported by Hertfordshire Freemasons, with donations totalling £57,000.”

Martin Francis

Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Hertfordshire

Freemasons' Community Fund grants

The Freemasons' Community Fund enabled Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Lodges to support a local cause important to their members. Provinces nominated local charities for a one-off grant of between £10,000 and £25,000. The charities nominated all support disadvantaged children with special educational needs and disabilities and **10 grants were made totalling £176,243.**

Festival grants

Provinces that are involved in an intensive fundraising period for the MCF known as a Festival, are offered additional funds to support their local charities. **This year, 27 festival grants were awarded totalling £114,000.**



Teddies for Loving Care

Locally-led by Freemasons, the MCF provides central administrative support and guidance to Freemasonry's Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) programme, which provides teddies for distressed children attending local accident and emergency departments.

In 2022/23, **196,684** teddies were distributed to **326** hospitals and other organisations.

The MCF collaborated with two Provinces to produce a video for TLC to explain how important the teddies are to the medical staff.

www.teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk

Supporting Surrey TLC

"The MCF have been invaluable to TLC Surrey by always being on hand to discuss matters regarding TLC.

"The MCF have helped us with our marketing of our new leaflets and flyers and fundraising activities, always pointing us in the right direction."

Steve Butwell

Chairman, TLC Surrey



Chapter 6

Other achievements

Thank you for all your help

In addition to our core activities, the MCF has also achieved the following during the year

Supporting those in need

- A new **grants and advice pilot** in the North West of England that has supported Freemasons and their families with financial support and advice on residential care options locally.
- The transition to **a new mobility aid provider** for all equipment provided to the masonic community across England and Wales.
- The **relaunch of our TalentAid grants programme** for talented children.

People and volunteers

- **Induction days for new and recently appointed Provincial Grand Charity Stewards and Provincial Grand Almoners** in partnership with UGLE to equip them with the skills and support they need to carry out their fundraising and pastoral roles on behalf of the MCF and Freemasonry.
- A staff survey revealed an overall **positive employee engagement score of 85 per cent.**



Fundraising

- The launch of the **Freemasonry Gives fundraising app and website** to replace JustGiving as the primary fundraising tool for MCF and Freemasonry at no cost to the donor.
- The launch of a new **Relief Chest Online service** providing Relief Chest holders digital access to administer their Chests securely online.
- The conclusion of five festival appeals in support of the MCF, with an average donation of **£644 per person**.
 - Buckinghamshire 2021: **£2,118,531**
 - Essex 2022: **£5,464,563**
 - Leicestershire and Rutland 2022: **£2,022,000**
 - Oxfordshire 2022: **£1,046,801**
 - Devonshire 2023: **£2,200,358**
- Increased legacies by **17%** compared to the prior year, totalling **£5.57 million**, thanks to a significant number of large gifts.

Strategy and impact

- The creation of a new **seven-year strategy for MCF (2023–2030)** and the development of impact frameworks to help drive impact-led activities throughout the new strategy period.

RMBI Care Company

- The opening of a new care home, Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh Court, in Sindlesham, Berkshire, with **45 specialist dementia and nursing beds**.
- **89% of homes** hold grades of 'compliant', 'good', or 'outstanding'.



Chapter 7

Our profile: the MCF in the media



Read all about it! Freemasonry's positive impact on society

The MCF actively seeks press coverage for the grants awarded to charities by collaborating with UGLE, Provincial Communication Officers, and the charities' communication teams. The primary focus of this press coverage is to highlight positive and uplifting stories about the impact of the charities' work and the support provided by Freemasonry. Through this proactive approach, the MCF aims to keep its donors and the wider public informed about the significant and beneficial influence of its funding on charities and the communities they serve.

*Helping us reach
more people and
be a force for good*



The media coverage of grants distributed on behalf of Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Provinces plays a vital role in transforming the public's perception of Freemasonry, presenting it as a positive and benevolent force in society. As a result of these efforts, the MCF's media profile has been steadily growing, attracting more attention from other charities interested in the MCF's grant-making programmes. This, in turn, has resulted in an increased ability to reach and assist more people through funding opportunities. Additionally, the media exposure helps local charities enhance their visibility within their communities, thereby attracting further donations and support.

Since its establishment in 2016, the MCF's grants have served as the basis for more than 2,000 news articles, showcasing the positive impact of Freemasonry in society. Furthermore, the MCF's initiatives have been featured in over 200 radio broadcasts, often featuring live interviews with Provincial Communications Officers.

Much of the coverage this year highlighted the grants we awarded to charities that support children and young people. However, Freemasonry's response to the refugee crisis in Ukraine, which was supported and coordinated by the MCF, also generated significant coverage.

To ensure effective representation in future broadcast interviews, the MCF also provided broadcast media training in-house, enabling several members of its senior leadership team and Trustee Board to serve as spokespeople.

By pursuing strategic press coverage and fostering a positive media reputation, the MCF continues to extend its charitable reach and promote Freemasonry's role as a force for good in society.

In the last reporting year, the MCF achieved an average of

27 news articles

per month, reaching a readership of over **400,000 people**.



Chapter 8

Our income and expenditure



All of our income is provided through the kindness and generosity of Freemasons and their families, both past and present. We aim to ensure that we utilise these donations in the most efficient and effective way.

2022/23 Income

- 46% of our income came from voluntary donations, including through Festival appeals where Freemasons in selected Provinces donate to the MCF for up to five years.
- Income from legacies contributed 17% of the overall income.



- Donations – Festivals **£11.26M**
- Donations – Other **£3.60M**
- Legacies **£5.57M**
- Annual contributions **£3.23M**
- Rental income **£1.81M**
- Investment income **£6.66M**

Total £32.13M

2022/23 Expenditure

For every £1 spent, 85 pence was paid out in grants and support for individuals, their families and charities. Only seven pence of every pound represent the costs of generating income, which includes investment management fees, property costs and fundraising. The remaining eight pence is spent on the administration required to deliver our life-changing work.

Resources Expended



*This figure includes grants given to charities by MCF through our Relief Chest Scheme on behalf of Provinces, Lodges and individuals.

Total £39.36M

- Generating Funds **£2.90M**
- Masonic Grants **£11.15M**
- Charitable Grants* **£13.06M**
- RMBI Care Co. Residents Grant **£6.67M**
- Masonic Support **£2.48M**
- Charitable Overhead **£3.10M**

Chapter 9

Freemasonry and charity

Each year Freemasons demonstrate their lifelong commitment to charity and helping others in many ways. They actively support their local communities and provide aid to the most vulnerable in times of need. To help quantify this generosity the MCF undertakes an annual exercise to estimate the totality of Freemasons' support for charitable causes across England and Wales.

In 2022/23, we estimate that Freemasons generously donated

£51.7 million*

to charitable causes, highlighting the remarkable extent of their support.

That's almost £1m per week!

This total includes the support provided by the MCF.



The Relief Chest Scheme

The MCF is committed to helping Freemasons to make a difference to the world in which they live and to inspire greater generosity from this community, by offering practical tailored support through a wealth of resources and tools.

The MCF's Relief Chest Scheme offers donor advised funds for individuals, Lodges, Provinces and other recognised masonic organisations, which are used to generate funds for all types of charitable purposes.

These donations are held by the MCF in a restricted fund until the relief chest holder requests that a donation is made to a charity of their choice.

The Relief Chest Scheme enables Freemasons to reach their fundraising targets efficiently. It also ensures that all statutory compliance and administrative requirements of the Charity Commission, Information Commissioner's Office and HMRC have been met.

All Relief Chest Scheme services are provided with no administration fee charged to the chest holder or donors.

In 2022/23, Freemasons used the MCF's Relief Chest Scheme to make donations of

£3.4M

to charities of their choice.

Chapter 10

About Freemasonry

Freemasonry – Building Together

Freemasonry is a unique members' organisation which has thrived for over 300 years. Having no political or religious affiliations, it comprises members of all ages, races, religions cultures and backgrounds. Freemasons gather in their individual Lodges throughout the country where they have ceremonial traditions which encourage them both to be more tolerant and respectful and actively to fulfil their civic and charitable responsibilities; they also make time to eat, drink and meet together, and form lifelong friendships.

For more information about Freemasonry and the United Grand Lodge of England, visit ugle.org.uk

*Integrity
Respect
Friendship
Service*



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mcf.org.uk

Charity number 1164703.
Company number 09751836.

*We could not do the good
that we do without you*

Discover how we helped your local community and spread the news!

Scan the QR code to find more information about the impact of our work in your Province and download a poster. You can display these in Lodges or in offices, share on social media or by email.



Grand President

HRH The Duke of Kent KG,
Grand Master

President

James Long TD

Chairman and Deputy President

Sir Paul Williams OBE, KStJ, DL

Chief Executive

Les Hutchinson

Trustees

Clive Emerson (Treasurer)

Dr Simon Fellerman

Edward Goodchild

Alan Graham MBE

Christopher Head

Charlotte Miller

Stephen Robinson

Marie Shenton

David Southern

Bruce Walker

Howard Wilson



Building better lives