



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

9th February 2017

Dear Bro Secretary,

Masonic Charitable Foundation Community Awards 2017

At the January meeting of the MCF Charity Grants Committee, the names of the charities nominated by this Province to receive a MCF Community Award were confirmed. The MCF will shortly be inviting each of them to apply for a grant of up to £25,000. The Awards are intended to raise the profile of the Foundation within the masonic, non-masonic and charity sector communities, whilst at the same time acknowledging and celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Grand Lodge.

The charities put forward by the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and confirmed as eligible for a MCF Community Award are:

- The Rainbow Centre
- Gift of Sight
- Macmillan Caring Locally
- Flutterby Fund
- 1st East Cowes Scouts
- The Elizabeth Foundation
- Parity for Disability
- Enham Trust

During the summer, the MCF intend to invite the masonic community, along with the wider public, to play an active part in deciding what size grant is given to each of your local charities. Grants of up to £4,000, £6,000, £15,000 and £25,000 will be available to the Province as shown below.

£4K Grants	£6K Grants	£15K Grants	£25K Grants	Total Grants	Total Award
3	2	2	1	8	£79,000

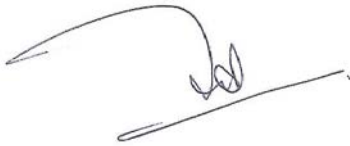
The size of grant that will be given to each charity will be decided by way of a public vote, with the most popular charity receiving the largest grant. Every charity that you have nominated will receive a grant. The MCF will be creating an online voting page on our website, which will allow the Provincial masonic community and their families, as well as the wider public, to vote for the charity they most want to support. For those without access to the internet, arrangements will be made to collect votes by telephone or by a postal vote.

As part of the due diligence process it was discovered that a small number charities had a low annual income and MCF policy stipulates that grants larger than a charity's average income over the past two years won't be offered, as such charities may be ill-prepared to spend large sums. This applies to the 1st East Cowes Scouts which has an average income of £10,413. As such, any grant awarded will be no larger than this amount.

The next stage in the process is for all the nominated charities to submit an online application to the MCF during February and March, explaining how they would use their grant to support people in this Province. The MCF team will then assess these applications and deal with any queries that the charities may have. The MCF doesn't anticipate any issues arising during the assessment stage, but they will keep us fully informed of developments.

The MCF hopes that through these Awards, we will raise awareness of the often unreported generosity of Freemasons to the general public. The MCF is confident that this initiative will contribute to generating a positive perception of the Craft and of the tireless work all the members in our Province do to help non-masons in need.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'FM', is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Milner PAGDC
Provincial Grand Secretary