



Changing Lives Through Charity

2024 Program Guide

PROGRAMS

MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME

Founded in 1891 in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Michigan Masonic Home relocated to Alma and opened to residents in 1911. Since then, the staff and residents of the Michigan Masonic Home, dba Masonic Pathways, have been active members of Gratiot County's vibrant community. Residents of Masonic Pathways enjoy many on-campus amenities such as an outdoor putting green, shuffleboard court, cozy movie theatre, all new library and media center, unique sports lounge, in-room wireless internet, and a daily activity and events calendar that changes regularly.

Along with our independent and assisted living residents, those participating in our short-stay rehabilitation program and living in our Health Care Center have on-campus access to barber and beauty services, a gift shop, and specialized life enrichment activities. Onsite medical and specialty clinics bring primary care and a myriad of other health care services right to you. Call **800-321-9357** for more information.

- **Masonic Affiliation**

The Michigan Masons and the Michigan Masonic Home offer several programs to help support our Masonic families. Special membership benefits are available, such as The Masonic Advantage program, which is designed for affiliated and eligible Masons, their Wives, Widows and Mothers as well as affiliated Order of Eastern Star members, interested in living at Masonic Pathways that supplements their cost of living. For Masons of all ages and their families who are living and active in their own communities, there are services available through the Outreach and Member Care department, such as information, referrals, and support to Masons and their families, no matter what the need. To learn more about programs and services available to assist you and your family, contact the Outreach and Member Care department at **(800) 321-9357**.

- **Masonic Advantage Program**

Everyone knows that membership has its advantages. As an affiliated member of the Michigan Masons or Order of the Eastern Star, you may be eligible for the Masonic Advantage Program.

Affiliated members include:

- ✓ Michigan Masons with ten or more years of continuous membership in good standing immediately prior to admission.
- ✓ The Wives, Widows, and Mothers of Master Masons.
- ✓ Female members of a Michigan Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, also with ten or more years of membership in good standing immediately prior to admission.
- ✓ As an Affiliated member, with the Masonic Advantage Program you receive these great benefits:
- ✓ Priority access to higher levels of care: If you suffer an acute illness, have surgery or are ready to move up to a higher level of care, you're guaranteed access to increased services.
- ✓ Priority standing on waiting lists: Affiliated prospective residents are placed at the top of waiting lists for available LifeStyle Options.
- ✓ Masonic Financial Assistance: Affiliated individuals who otherwise would be unable to afford care in the Michigan Masonic Home may be eligible for financial assistance through the Masonic Advantage Program. Assistance covers room and board, meals, medications and medical supplies, as well as selected supplemental services. The program also provides health insurance coverage and a modest personal allowance.

Lodge Charity Account

The Lodge Charity Account (LCA) Program is the gateway for allowing more Lodges the opportunity to build, enrich, strengthen and transform their relief programs and community philanthropy without the financial constraints of a match by the Lodge. Starting on April 1st, 2021 Lodges are able to utilize their LCA for any charitable cause they choose to support; philanthropy is back in the hands of the Lodges and its members where it rightfully belongs. Whether you choose scholarships, a charity in the community, or relief aid to a Brother, the choice is yours and a match gift is no longer necessary.

You now also have the choice to give directly to your Lodge Charity Account! Every donation will grow your yearly withdraw amount and support YOUR Lodge, YOUR Community, and YOUR Brothers! For more information, please contact us at **(800) 994-7400**.

<https://michiganmasons.org/foundation/lodge-charity-account/>

Chapter Charity Account

The Chapter Charity Account (CCA) Program is the gateway for allowing Chapters the opportunity to build, enrich, strengthen and transform their relief programs and community philanthropy. Starting April 1st, 2023 Chapters are be able to utilize their CCA for any charitable cause they wish to support; whether it be a scholarship, community charity or relief aid to a Masonic family member, the choice is in the hands of the Chapter.

You can also give directly to your Chapter Charity Account. Every donation will grow your yearly withdraw amount and support YOUR Chapter, YOUR Community, and YOUR Masonic family. For more information, please contact us at **(800) 994-7400**.

<https://michiganmasons.org/foundation/chaptercharityaccount/>

MASONIC SWEETHEARTS (WIDOWS)

When a man becomes a Mason, he does more than just join a fraternity of men; he becomes a Brother, a member of a family with roots planted firmly in honor and tradition. As a Brother, he is tasked with caring for those members of his family who most need his support, especially the Widows of his fellow Masons.

Caring for Masonic Sweethearts is an obligation Masons take seriously. Whether they are shoveling a snowy path or delivering a holiday gift basket to a Sweetheart in their community, Michigan Masons take pride in honoring the legacy of their departed Brethren. A Masonic Sweetheart should never have to worry she is alone or that because her husband is gone, she is forgotten.

Lodges who host a Widow-based event, such as a dinner or purchase holiday flowers, etc., are eligible for a partial reimbursement of up to 50% for their expenses. Simply complete the Sweethearts Reimbursement Form, attach your receipts, and allow 7-10 days for processing.

Sweethearts Reimbursement Form is available at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/475116519fd0461885de0829b7534b97>

MASONIC YOUTH

We fervently believe in the missions of these groups and are committed to helping these youth become tomorrow's leaders, embracing the Masonic values of honor, integrity, and patriotism. Any gift, appeal, memorial, or general donation can be designated to the Masonic Youth Groups. The Youth Groups include: The Order of the Demolay and International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

OUTREACH & MEMBER CARE

This service is your trusted Masonic resource to help you find solutions to any hardships you or anyone within our Masonic family may experience. This service is available to all Michigan Masons, their wives, widows, mothers, or orphans, as well as members of the Order of Eastern Star. Our Member Care Specialists are experienced, professional staff with social work and human service backgrounds. They partner with lodges and chapters and can address needs including, but not only limited to:

- Financial Issues
- Health and Mental health Resources
- Health Insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, Part D)
- Basic Needs
- Housing Needs
- Employment Issues
- Legal Needs
- Transportation
- Family or Children's Issues
- Senior / Elderly Needs
- Michigan Masonic Home information

Specialists are available Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm ET. Contact us at 1-800-321-9357 or email us at masonsupport@michiganmasons.org

MASONIC ORPHANS

Caring for Masonic orphans is a Masonic obligation ensuring no minor child of a deceased Mason feel that he or she is alone or forgotten and their needs are met without hardship. As a Brother, a Mason is tasked with caring for the orphans of the departed brethren and letting them know they are cherished members of the Masonic family. The definition of a Masonic Orphan is:

- A child of a Master Mason who is deceased, and typically under the age of eighteen.
- Whose father was a Master Mason in good standing at the time of his death or
- Whose grandfather is or was a Master Mason in good standing and his father is deceased and not contributing to their support.

Forms of Assistance include:

- Temporary Financial Stipends – Available to orphans under the age of eighteen whose families demonstrate a financial need to cover various child related expenses such as basic needs, clothing, school related expenses, and social recreational activities.
- Undergraduate Higher Education Stipends Masonic orphans regardless of age, whose academic records indicate worthiness and demonstrate financial need, may also be eligible for financial assistance/ grants

Guidelines for this program are located in section 14 of the blue book.

masonsupport@michiganmasons.org.

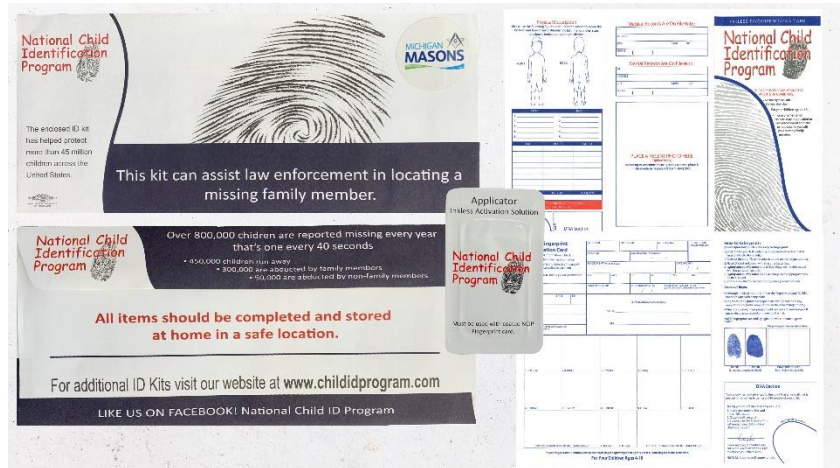
MICHIGAN CHILD ID PROGRAM

For over a decade, Michigan Masons have been dedicated to aiding parents and law enforcement in securing peace of mind in the face of the tragic possibility of a missing child through the Michigan Child ID Program. Throughout the state, Masonic Lodges annually distribute thousands of identification kits to parents at community and school events, made possible through the generous volunteerism of the Masons.

Michigan Masons firmly believe that every child deserves to be safe. Despite the unfortunate reality of children falling victim to predators each year, proactive steps can be taken by parents to prevent such horrific tragedies. In collaboration with experts in the field, the Michigan Masons strive to provide parents and communities with information on abduction prevention, recovery identification, and safety, offering the most up-to-date and credible resources available.

Child ID Kits

In partnership with the National Child Identification Program, the Michigan Masons offer free ID kits that have safeguarded over 30 million children across the United States. This program stands out for its effectiveness, employing decentralized fingerprinting and comprehensive, descriptive information in one accessible kit.



Child ID Kits include:

- Step-by-step instructions for fingerprinting
- Practice fingerprinting area
- Standard fingerprint area for law enforcement use
- Applicator with inkless fingerprinting solution
- Sections for recording the child's physical description and identifying marks
- Sections for recording medical professional phone numbers
- Space for a current photograph
- The entire fingerprinting process takes approximately five minutes. In the event of need, the completed identification card can promptly provide authorities with vital information to assist in locating a missing child.



Child ID Smartphone App

The Child ID app, the first mobile application created by the FBI, serves as a convenient platform to electronically store photos and essential information about children. This information is readily accessible, allowing parents to show pictures and provide physical identifiers to security or police officers on the spot. The app also features a special tab for quick and easy emailing of information to authorities.

The app includes tips on keeping children safe and specific guidance for the crucial hours after a child goes missing. With password protection for added security, you can add pictures from your mobile phone's image library, zoom in, and crop images before saving.

Available for free download on iPhones via iTunes and on Android phones through Google Play.

Important note: The FBI does not collect or store any photos or information entered into the app. All data resides solely on the mobile device unless needed for authorities, in which case, refer to the mobile provider's terms of service for information on app security.

Internet Safety Color Books and Crayons

Taking a proactive stance in promoting internet safety and child identification, the Michigan Masons introduce an innovative approach - the Michigan Masons Logos Coloring Books and Crayons. Recognizing the critical importance of educating children about online safety and providing families with tools for child identification, this initiative aims to empower both children and parents with essential knowledge in a fun and engaging manner.



How to Host a Child ID Event

- Complete online form at Michiganmasons.org
 - Click tab “Impact”
 - Click Michigan Child ID Program
 - Scroll to bottom
 - Click “Explore” under Request Form
- Complete and Submit Form.
- Notification will be automatically sent to our office, and someone will contact you within 1 week of submission.
- Staff will discuss event request, clarify date and number of supplies needed and coordinate delivery of supplies.
- After the Event is held, staff will follow up to determine how the event went, assess left over supplies, and coordinate return of supplies, if there are any.

Questions? Contact Patti Nowak at 1-800-321-9357

Child ID request form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/78636e7554a94f5299fc484ccb67b176>

MASONIC OUTSIDE RELIEF PROGRAM

Rooted in the principles of charity and benevolence, the Michigan Masonic Outside Relief program underscores a dedication to compassion and community service, striving to uplift and aid those confronted with challenging circumstances in their lives. The Michigan Masonic Outside Relief program is a charitable initiative aimed at providing assistance to Michigan Masons and Michigan Order of the Eastern Star members experiencing financial hardship and who have maintained good standing for a decade or more at the time of their request.

Initially, members will collaborate with Member Care specialists through the Outreach and Member Care service, while also engaging in The Greenpath Financial Wellness program offered through our partnership with this reputable longstanding Michigan non-profit organization. The goal is to help the member in need achieve future financial sustainability. If no other resources or solutions are available, Member Care specialists will assist the member in need and with lodge sponsorship, in completing the application process. The program serves as a last resort option, offering temporary assistance not exceeding one year of financial support.

The Michigan Masonic Blue Book outlines the Outside relief program beginning in Section 11.2. It is recommended that officers of the sponsoring lodge or chapter review this section prior to returning an Outside Relief Application.

Contact us at 1-800-321-9357 or email at masonsupport@michiganmasons.org for further information and assistance.

MICHIGAN MASONIC MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Michigan Masonic Museum and Library is Michigan's premier source of Masonic history and education. Being the largest and most comprehensive collection of rare books and artifacts on the topic of Masonry in Michigan, the Museum houses an extensive collection of photographs, officer jewels, Masonic aprons, hats and other collectibles.

Museum staff are available to:

- Give presentations on historical Masonic subjects to Lodges and other organizations
- Provide research and educational assistance
- Host a Lodge at the Museum as a field trip destination
- Provide shareable/educational social media content

For further information, please call **616-459-9336** or visit the Museum and Library at 233 Fulton Street East, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503.



Please scan the QR code for a link to all the Museum's social media platforms

How Can I help?

Donations to your favorite initiative can be made by calling the foundation 800-994-7400 or by making a gift online at:

<https://michiganmasons.org/foundation/donate/>

Presentations

Want a more in-depth overview of our programming? Call us to schedule a lodge presentation **Call 800-994-7400.**

Masonic News

To stay informed about the latest happenings and upcoming events, sign up for the Michigan Mason's e-newsletter. This will land in your inbox each Monday.

<https://michiganmasons.org/news-events/sign-up-newsletter/>

Follow us...



Share with us the impactful initiatives your Lodge is undertaking within the community! Are you offering scholarships, organizing Child ID programs, supporting local charities? We're eager to hear from you! Please send your articles and pictures to any of the MMCF staff listed below, and we'd love to showcase them on our social media platforms.



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