



*"Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth -  
Extended to Those Who Once  
Stood Beside Our Brothers."*

# MASONIC WIDOWS PROGRAM

**A Guide For Lodges Supporting the  
Widows of Our Departed Brethren**

[michiganmasons.org/foundation](http://michiganmasons.org/foundation)

1200 Wright Avenue • Alma, MI 48801 • Phone (800) 994-7400

The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit corporation. Michigan Charitable Solicitation License No. MICS 13630.

*My Brothers,*

*Freemasonry teaches us that our obligations extend far beyond the walls of our lodges. They reach into our homes, our communities, and into the lives of those who once walked beside our departed brethren. Among the most sacred of these obligations is the care and remembrance of our Masonic widows—our Sweethearts.*

*These women stood proudly with their husbands as they lived the principles of our craft. They supported their journeys, celebrated their achievements, and shared in the quiet, unseen sacrifices that allowed our brothers to serve. When a brother lays down his working tools, it becomes our solemn duty to ensure that his Sweetheart never feels forgotten.*

*This booklet is more than a guide; it is a reminder of who we are as Masons. Each call, each visit, each small act of kindness reaffirms our commitment to brotherly love and relief. When we honor our widows, we honor the memory of the men who once sat among us.*

*I encourage every lodge to embrace this program with sincerity and consistency. Let us continue to be the steady hand, the warm voice, and the reassuring presence our Sweethearts deserve.*

*Fraternally,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Roth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

**Deputy Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Michigan**

## ***Honoring the Legacy of Our Departed Brethren***

When a man becomes a Mason, he joins a family bound by honor, compassion, and tradition. That bond does not end with his passing. It extends to those he loved—especially his widow, who remains forever a cherished member of our Masonic family.

This program helps lodges maintain meaningful, consistent support for our Sweethearts, ensuring they never feel alone or forgotten.

### **Starting or Strengthening a Sweetheart Program**

#### **1. Maintain an Updated List**

- Keep accurate contact information for all widows.
- MMCF can assist in compiling a list, call **800-994-7400**.
- Assign a dedicated officer or committee to oversee the program.

#### **2. When a Wife Becomes a Widow**

- Reach out early with condolences and support.
- Attend funeral services when possible; offer a Masonic Service. Grand Lodge has service booklets available, call 989-466-3085.
- Present a Sweetheart pin and poem (free from Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation call **800-994-7400**).
- If donations to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation are requested, donation envelopes are available call **800-994-7400**.
- If needing help - refer her to **Masonic Outreach & Member Care: this is a free information and referral services program: 800-321-9357**.
- Encourage her to join the **Sweetheart Society** for ongoing support. She will receive regular communications from the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation. Call **800-994-7400** to join.

#### **3. Host at Least One Annual Gathering**

- Memorial service (Lodge of Sorrow) and dinner
- Dinner recognition Awards
- Open lodge dinners and events
- Honors Night or annual banquet
- Annual lunch outing with lodge members

#### **4. Additional Ways to Support Widows**

*(Choose what fits your lodge's capacity—consistency matters more than quantity.)*

- Holiday home visits with flowers
- Birthday cards or Birthday phone calls
- Adopt-a-Widow pairing with a lodge member & family
- Quarterly Coffee & Conversations
- Snow or leaf removal and other seasonal help
- Transportation to lodge or community events
- Monthly or quarterly check-ins
- Technology assistance
- Seasonal home safety checks
- Invite widows to charity projects
- Meal trains during illness
- Informational meetings
- Holiday baskets or small gifts
- Flowers for special occasions
- Minor home maintenance assistance
- Outdoor decorating help
- Annual “Thinking of You” letter from the Worshipful Master

- Annual wellness check-in
- Support during hospitalization
- Support when seeking Masonic Pathways admission information, call **800-321-9357**

**The goal is simple:  
Ensure she never feels forgotten.**

### **Financial Assistance for Lodges**

Lodges that host a widow-focused event – such as a dinner, holiday flower delivery, or similar activity - are eligible for partial reimbursement of their expenses (up to 50%). Simply complete the Sweethearts Reimbursement Form, attach your receipts, and allow 7-10 days for processing.

Form link: <https://michiganmasons.org/resources/>

**For more information contact the Michigan Masonic Charitable  
Foundation Office by calling 800-994-7400.**

