

## The Grand Charity

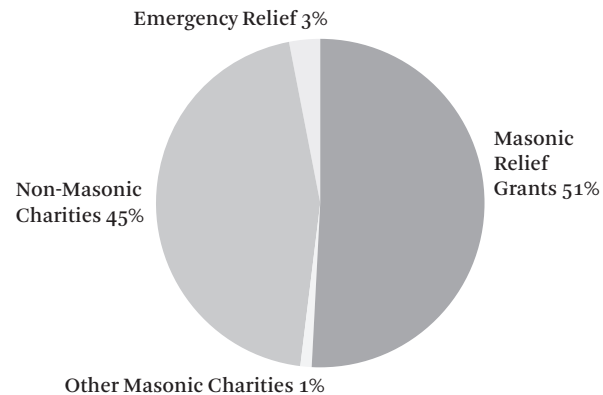
The Grand Charity is the central grant-making charity of all Freemasons in England and Wales. It was registered in 1981, and carries on a tradition of charitable support for both Freemasons and the wider community which has been maintained since 1727.

All of the funding for the Grand Charity's grant-making activities is provided by Freemasons, mainly through annual contributions made by individual Masons through their Lodges and major fundraising Festivals held each year in one of the 47 Provinces in England and Wales.

The Grand Charity makes grants to:

- Distressed Freemasons and their dependants (Masonic Relief Grants)
- Other Masonic charities
- Non-Masonic national charities serving England and Wales
- Emergency relief work worldwide

*Distribution of grants 2001–2005*



Under its current guidelines for support for national non-Masonic charities, The Grand Charity makes grants for three main purposes:

- Medical research
- Care for the most vulnerable in society (older and younger people, people with disabilities and those with healthcare needs), including a specific programme of grants to Hospices
- Opportunities for young people

## The Grand Charity

Registered Charity No. 281942

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If you would like more information about the work of the Grand Charity, including details of how to apply for a grant, then please visit our website or contact us at the above address.

Alternatively, anyone interested in the activities of the Grand Charity is welcome to attend one of the regular General Meetings held at locations throughout England and Wales. Contact the Grand Charity office for details of forthcoming meetings.

## The Freemasons' Grand Charity

# 25

years of charitable giving

## The Grand Charity: Facts & Figures

### Non-Masonic Grants

Over **£30 million** donated to non-Masonic charities of all sizes working in England and Wales

Nearly **£6 million** for more than 250 Hospice services

Over **£1.5 million** for emergency relief work following devastating disasters worldwide

### Masonic Grants

More than **30,000** applicants assisted through Masonic Relief Grants

Over **£5 million** to support other Masonic charities in their work

Since 1981, the Grand Charity has made grants totalling more than:

**£72**  
million

### Masonic support

Over the past 25 years, the Grand Charity has regularly supported individual Freemasons, assisted other Masonic charities and aided the charitable activities of many Lodges.

### Masonic Relief Grants

Over £33 million has been given in Masonic Relief grants, providing assistance for over 30,000 applicants. The grants offer support where Freemasons, their partners, widows or other dependants are in need of financial help with items ranging from everyday living expenses (e.g. clothing, travel) to unexpected needs (e.g. outstanding funeral expenses).

### The Grand Charity Relief Chest Scheme

Over 40% of Lodges have maximised the funds available for their charitable giving through the Relief Chest scheme. Delivered at no direct cost to the user, this scheme enables Lodges to earn a favourable rate of interest on money collected for charitable purposes and to give to charities easily and tax-effectively.

When the 2004 tsunami devastated South Asia, a dedicated Relief Chest was established to receive, from Masons, donations for the survivors. Over £850,000 was collected through the Chest and is now funding the long-term regeneration of the affected regions.

### Other Masonic charities

Over £5 million has been given to support the work of other Masonic charities. These donations include support given as part of the Grand Charity's unique responsibility to provide financial support to the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the New Masonic Samaritan Fund.

**£39 million** over 25 years

### Non-Masonic Grants

Over £30 million has been given to hundreds of charities to support their work in areas of relevance and interest to Masons. Individual grants range from a few hundred pounds to over £1 million.

These are just a few examples of the grants given since 1981:

#### Medical Research

£1 million to the Institute of Cancer Research to fund *The Grand Charity of Freemasons Chair of Molecular Biology* for research into male cancers.

#### Vulnerable People (Disability and Healthcare)

£1.25 million to CARE to help establish a residential community in Rowde, Wiltshire, for people with learning disabilities.

#### Vulnerable People (Older and Younger People)

£400,000 to Help the Aged to support the HandyVan Service, which visits the homes of older people to install safety and security devices such as window locks and smoke detectors.

#### Youth Opportunities

£250,000 to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme to enable the training of leaders and the geographical expansion of the scheme.

#### Hospices

Nearly £6 million towards the annual running costs of hundreds of Hospice services in England and Wales.

#### Emergency Relief Work

£20,000 for famine victims in Ethiopia, £100,000 for farming families in England, Wales and Northern Ireland affected by the foot and mouth outbreak and £150,000 in the wake of the 2005 Pakistan earthquake.

**£33 million** over 25 years