



ABOUT THE *Relief Chest Scheme*

The Relief Chest Scheme was established in 1986 as a free service to help the Craft give to charity easily and tax effectively. In 2010, over £14 million was donated to charitable causes via the Scheme.



Efficient Charitable Giving

The Scheme offers individual “Relief Chests” which are used to accumulate funds collected by a Lodge, Chapter, Province or other Masonic organisations for charitable purposes. The Chest Holders use the funds to make donations to any Masonic or non-Masonic charity or to an individual (e.g. a Lodge member or the widow or a dependant of a member) who is in need.

How to open a Relief Chest

A Relief Chest may be opened quickly and easily following a resolution passed in open Lodge, for which a Notion of Motion is not essential (subject to the practice of any Lodge).

Any of the following may apply for a Relief Chest: any Craft Lodge, any Provincial Grand Lodge and other Masonic organisations recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England (e.g. Royal Arch Chapters, Rose Croix Chapters, Mark Lodges etc).

An application form is available to download at www.grandcharity.org or can be obtained by contacting the Relief Chest Office on 020 7395 9246.

About the Relief Chest Scheme

Today, there are over **4,350** individual Relief Chests with a total holding of some **£25 million**.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity holds the money on behalf of the Relief Chest holders who retain control over the disposal of the money. The Charity operates separate Chests for each fund as requested (a Lodge etc. may have more than one Chest if required) and holds the total in a designated account, thus benefiting the Chest holders from its charitable status.

The service relieves the Chest Holders of the burden of administration by taking on the management and dispersal of charity funds as requested by the Chest holders, saving time and resources, whilst adding the ability to make full use of the tax breaks available for charities and donors within the UK.

Relief Chest holders may request to make donations on their behalf to:

Any charity registered with the Charity Commission

Any organisation holding charitable status

Any individual in financial distress

The Relief Chest Scheme is committed to helping Chest Holders give to charity easily and effectively and actively seeks new ways to assist Chest Holders.

Why open a Relief Chest?

Interest Rates

A favourable interest rate is earned on the funds held by the Charity on behalf of Chest holders. No tax is payable on interest earned and each Chest receives the same rate, no matter what the balance is in the Chest.

Tax Relief is processed for you

All eligible donations received through Gift Aid are tax efficient, so donors can be confident that they are maximising their giving. Under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, HMRC gives an extra 25p for every pound donated to The Freemasons' Grand Charity. So a donation of £100 is worth £125 to the Charity. Higher rate income tax payers can claim tax relief, equivalent to the difference between the higher and basic rate of tax.

It's easy to make deposits

Contributions can be made by direct debit or cheque.

We provide statements and reports

The Relief Chest Representative receives an annual statement, listing all activities in the Chest. Interim statements and subscribers lists are also available on request.

It's easy to make donations to Charities

The Relief Chest Representative and one other senior Officer (e.g. Treasurer, Almoner, Secretary, Charity Steward, etc.) authorise Payment Vouchers for the benefit of registered charities or for charitable purposes.

It is free of charge!

There is no direct cost to Relief Chest holders.

Festival Support

Comprehensive performance projection reports showing detailed analyses of donors; customised stationery; personalised Festival Handbooks, leaflets and posters; plus Speakers from the Charity who will explain the Festival process in more detail. We are also happy to accommodate individual requirements.



How do I make deposits?

Regular Donation

An individual may donate on a 'regular' basis for a specific period (e.g. monthly or annually). Regular donations are set up using the Direct Debit mandate attached to the donation form.

Single Donation

To make a 'single' donation, the individual should write a cheque (or send a crossed postal order) made payable to The Freemasons' Grand Charity and attach it to the donation form.

Gift Aid Envelopes

These are also used for one-off donations and are ideal for Lodge and charity collections.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is a grant-making charity that supports:

- Freemasons and their dependants who are in financial need
- Other Masonic charities
- National charities serving England and Wales
- Worldwide emergency relief work

Further information about grants in all these areas can be found at www.grandcharity.org



**THE FREEMASONS'
GRAND CHARITY**

The Freemasons' Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ
T: 020 7395 9246 F: 020 7395 9295 Registered Charity No. 281942
E: reliefchest@the-grand-charity.org www.grandcharity.org

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