

How may I deposit donations in to a Relief Chest?

Contact Us

Individual or collective payments into a Relief Chest are simple, easy and tax efficient. They may be made using one of the following methods:

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
Registered Charity No. 281942

OFFICE ADDRESS:

60 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5AZ

TELEPHONE:

020 7395 9246

FAX:

020 7395 9295

EMAIL:

reliefchest@the-grand-charity.org

WEBSITE:

www.grandcharity.org

Other useful contacts:

HM Revenue & Customs

www.hmrc.gov.uk

For information about Gift Aid

The Charity Commission

www.charity-commission.gov.uk

For information about Registered Charities

This is one of a series of leaflets covering the activities of The Freemasons' Grand Charity. Copies of all leaflets are available to download via the website and are available from the address above.

The Relief Chest Scheme

Efficient Charitable Giving



THE FREEMASONS'
GRAND CHARITY

The Freemasons' Grand Charity

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is a grant-making charity, working on behalf of Freemasons in England, Wales and overseas districts. It was registered in 1981 and continues a commitment to charitable support that began nearly 300 years ago in the earliest days of organised Freemasonry.

All of the money distributed by The Freemasons' Grand Charity is provided by Freemasons and their families, mainly through an annual contribution made by individual Masons through their Lodges, fundraising 'Festivals' held each year in one of the Provinces within England and Wales, gifts, donations and legacies.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity supports:

- Freemasons and their dependants who are experiencing hardship (Masonic Relief Grants)
- Non-Masonic charities (national charities serving England and Wales and for emergency relief work worldwide)
- Other Masonic charities

Grants to non-Masonic national charities are made to organisations working in five areas:

- Medical research
- Vulnerable people
- Youth opportunities
- Hospices
- Emergency grants for disaster relief

The Freemasons' Grand Charity also operates The Relief Chest Scheme, helping Masonic organisations to manage their charitable donations efficiently.

What is The Relief Chest Scheme?

The Relief Chest Scheme was set up to help the Craft give to charity easily and tax-effectively. Launched in 1986, the Scheme offers individual 'Relief Chests', which are used to accumulate funds collected by a Lodge, Chapter, Province or other Masonic organisation for charitable purposes. In addition to the Lodge and

Chapter Relief Chests, The Freemasons' Grand Charity also manages Relief Chests for Provincial Grand Lodges holding Festivals for Masonic Charities.

Today, there are over 4,000 individual Relief Chests with a total holding of some £30 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 Chest Holders use the funds in their individual Relief Chests 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.

Who can receive a donation from a Relief Chest?

Relief Chest holders may request The Freemasons' Grand Charity to make donations on their behalf to:

- Any charity registered with the Charity Commission
- Any organisation holding charitable status
- Any individual in financial distress

What are the benefits of a Relief Chest?

- **Interest Rate:** A favourable interest rate is earned on the funds held by The Freemasons' Grand 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:** All eligible donations received through Gift Aid are tax efficient, so you can be confident that you are maximising your giving. Under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, HM Revenue and Customs gives an extra 28p* for every pound you donate to The Freemasons' Grand Charity. So a donation of £100 from you is worth £128. Higher rate income tax payers can claim tax relief, equivalent to the difference between the higher and basic rate of tax and can donate this tax rebate to charity. Your £100 donation will then be worth £153.00 – an additional £25.00.

** 25p is currently claimed in Gift Aid tax relief and a further 3p is paid by HM Revenue & Customs as Transitional Relief until 2011.*

- **Ease of depositing:** Contributions can be made into a Relief Chest by direct debit or by cheque.
- **Ease of donating to charities:** The Relief Chest Representative and one other Senior Officer (Treasurer, Almoner, Secretary, Charity Steward, etc.) authorise Payment Vouchers for the benefit of registered charities or for charitable purposes.
- **Free:** There is no direct cost to Relief Chest Holders.
- **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.
- **Festival Relief Chests:** Provincial / Festival Relief Chest holders also benefit from comprehensive performance projection reports by members and Lodges. Customised stationery may also be provided for Festival Chest Holders at no cost.

How do I open a Relief Chest?

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

- ➔ Craft Lodge
- ➔ Provincial Grand Lodge
- ➔ 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 may be obtained from the Relief Chest Office or downloaded from The Freemasons' Grand Charity's website www.grandcharity.org.