



*Grand Lodge of Ontario,*

*Independent Order of Odd Fellows.*

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Thursday, September 19, 2024.

## **Annual Appeals Letters.**

### **To: all Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges, Grand Jurisdiction of Ontario:**

Following, please find information on the charitable projects of our Order (in alphabetical order). These groups are in addition to the President's & Grand Masters Project outlined in the Journal of Proceedings and by your District Deputy President or District Deputy Grand Master on their visitations.

For Rebekah Lodges please make cheques payable to: The Rebekah Assembly of Ontario and earmark in the lower left hand corner or on the back of the cheque how you wish your cheque allocated.

**For Odd Fellows Lodges, please make the cheques out and send them to the address as indicated under each project.**

***Please generously support these projects as your Lodge is able.***

### **ARTHRITIS:**

This disease has affected many of our personal as well as Lodge family members. Over the years the strides made in Research have meant a better quality of life for many. This organization also works to support relatives and family members of those affected to fully understand what is happening and how to help and cope.

All monies donated in Ontario stay in Ontario to work toward the many research and support programs offered by this organization.

Check out their website ([www.arthritis.ca](http://www.arthritis.ca)) to learn more about the services that your donations help with.

***Please make your cheques payable to the Arthritis Society and mail them to Brother Jason Walt, Chairman, 130 Prospect Hill, Trenton, Ontario, K8V 2V3. Any questions may be directed to Brother Jason at [woolerhillbilly@gmail.com](mailto:woolerhillbilly@gmail.com).***

## **Campfire Circle, Odd Fellows and Rebekah Capital Fund:**

As you are aware, we continue to support Campfire Circle and OuR Island. Every donation, in its entirety goes to the Campfire Circle, Odd Fellows and Rebekah Capital Fund. This fund has been established to help upgrade and maintain OuR Island and Campfire Circle so they have a good and certain future!

***Cheques should be made payable to the Campfire Circle, Odd Fellows and Rebekah Capital Fund and either given to the Grand Master or Assembly President on their Official Visit, or mailed directly to Campfire Circle, 464 Bathurst St., Toronto, Ontario. M5T 2S6.***

## **DISASTER FUND:**

The Disaster Fund was established many years ago so we would have adequate monies set aside in the case of a Disaster being declared by government authorities. In the past this fund grew by Lodges paying an amount into the fund for each Initiate. With the Grand Lodge no longer collecting a fee on Initiates we will need to seek voluntary contributions to this fund to ensure we are able to meet needs as they arise.

This fund has helped in many ways over the years in the name of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Ontario. Please consider a contribution to the Disaster Fund and **make cheques payable to the Grand Lodge of Ontario, IOOF, marked in the memo portion of the cheque as a donation to the Disaster Fund. Cheques should be sent to the Office of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, 157 Frederick St., Stratford, Ontario. NSA 3V6.**

## **HUMANITARIAN SERVICE PROGRAM:**

Each year this committee continues to oversee the lending program of medical equipment. Wheelchairs, canes, crutches, hospital beds and commodes, to mention a few, are loaned to those in need. Over the years many of those who have availed themselves of these services have given back in the form of donations. This committee would be quite happy to have your Lodge join the Committee so that vital Community contacts may be maintained. Joining the Committee would not mean that you have to have equipment to loan in your community.

***For further information on joining the Central Humanitarian Services Committee, mail Brother Tom Robinson, PGM at, 437 Brookside Drive, RR #5 Cobourg, Ontario. K9A 4J8. Email: [tsr@eagle.ca](mailto:tsr@eagle.ca) .***

## **IOOF SENIORS HOME INC.:**

The original Home started by the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows so many years ago has grown exponentially from a small home for orphans to a state of the art facility for Seniors.

The Corporation Board of Directors includes Members from the Grand Lodge and the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, continuing our contribution to the operation of this Home. Residents come from all over Ontario and there are many members from our Order who are residents at this time. Funding for capital projects such

as new purchases and replacements for equipment continue to be a major need and are not funded by the Government.

**A MAJOR Capital Project** is currently being worked on with the redevelopment of the Home for the Phase Two and Phase Three Expansions. Monies from the Government are not available for the necessary redevelopment (which totals millions of dollars) and it is the generous donations of Lodges, Members and sponsors that will make this redevelopment a reality.

The Report from the Home, that appears in the Journal of Proceedings, details each year what is needed and where funds were appropriated. The IOOF Seniors Homes INC is most grateful for any donations that your Lodge can make to help cover these costs.

***Please make cheques payable to the IOOF Senior's Homes Inc and mail them to the attention of Garry Hopkins, CEO, IOOF Senior's Homes Inc., 10 Brooks Street, Barrie, ON, L4N 5L3 705-728-2364.***

### **MEMORIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**

Each year this committee works closely with the Directors and Doctors of the Eye Bank of Canada, Ontario division. Our Order has been a continuing sponsor of a Research Grant and a Student Bursary as well as providing funds to purchase capital equipment that has been placed on the Eye Bank "Wish List".

We have purchased many pieces of equipment over the years. Recent purchases included a much needed specialized microscope, Medallions for the families of those donating eyes to the eye bank, an Autoclave for Cornea Re-Sectioning, a Pachymeter for testing Glaucoma in patients and most recently a special freezer unit to preserve Amniotic Membranes for future use in eye surgery.

Christine Humphreys, Manager of the Eye Bank of Canada is more than happy to come to your Lodge to give a presentation on the Eye Bank and required donations. If you are interested in attending these meetings which include tours of the facility please contact **Sister Kathie Noble, Chairperson, 519-763-5391, or, Brother Gene Dopp, Committee Secretary, 905-598-0387.**

Remember, the gift of one's eyes is the last gift most of us can give.

***Please make cheques payable to the Memorial Research Committee and send them to the Grand Lodge Office.***

### **Grand Master's Project:**

Our Grand Master's projects, this term, are the IOOF Senior's Home Inc Redevelopment Fund and the Memorial Research Committee. Those items are covered, with instructions for donations, in this letter. You may also give cheques to Brother Gene as he travels in our Jurisdiction.

### **President's Project:**

Our President of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario has established that her projects will be the Huntingdon Society of Canada and IOOF Senior's Home Inc

Redevelopment Fund. Donations to the IOOF Senior's Home Inc can be made following the instructions in this letter. Donations to the Huntingdon Society may be sent to the Office of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, attention Sister Carson Shulist, 5207 Valley View Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 7E5. Should you need further information you may email Sister Bonnie Desjardins, Assembly President at [bonniedesjardins1@hotmail.com](mailto:bonniedesjardins1@hotmail.com) .

**Yours Friendship, Love and Truth,**



**Brother John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary,  
Grand Lodge of Ontario,  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows.**

