



Help for the Community

We recognise that Freemasonry is part of the community in which it operates and as such the charity is pleased to give financial support for worthwhile projects particularly to small local groups engaged in voluntary work without external funding.

We are not able to help in all cases. The applicant must qualify by being either a charity or seeking assistance for charitable purposes. We only help for a specific project. We do not top up bank balances or support running costs and we do not provide help where the applicant would normally receive assistance from the NHS, central or local government or from a national charity.

We do not provide assistance for individuals other than described overleaf but can support projects for organisations helping them.

Applicants which have received grants in the past have included scouts, guides, sea cadets, places of worship, hospices, clubs and associations, cancer support groups, the air ambulance service and other rescue organisations amongst many others.

We would wish to see evidence that the applicant has been raising other funds for the project.

Requests for grants to help community schemes in the Province need to be submitted in writing either through Freemasons, who will pass it through their Group Chairmen, or direct to the charity. The Group Chairman can provide the appropriate form and guidance notes.

Further information is available on the charity's website.

Can We Help?

West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity
22 Hope Street
Liverpool
L1 9BY

phone: 0151 709 4141
email: enquiries@westlancscharity.org.uk
website: www.westlancscharity.org.uk

Financial assistance
from the
West Lancashire
Freemasons' Charity

We are here to help

The West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity was formed in early 2008 from seven Masonic charities operating in the Province of West Lancashire and provides financial assistance for hundreds of Freemasons and their dependants as well as supporting projects in the community and helping towards the education of young people.

In many cases it can provide useful help for those who find themselves in temporary or ongoing financial distress. It has not replaced the assistance which can also be obtained from the London based Masonic charities.

This leaflet is produced to describe the areas where assistance is available and to encourage those who may find their financial circumstances worrying to enquire if support can be provided.

We are convinced that there are many Freemasons or their widows and other dependants who need assistance but aren't aware of how the charity can help. You may be one of them or you may know someone who is.

We fully appreciate that many people may find asking for help embarrassing. The charity deals with all applications from Masons and their dependants in the strictest confidence.

We are here to help.

Help towards living costs and emergencies

Provided that the applicants can prove that their income and resources are not sufficient to meet their needs, the charity may be able to provide assistance to help meet basic living costs. The charity can often help towards needed home repairs and financial emergencies.

Who can claim?

Any Mason in a state of financial hardship who has been a subscribing member of a Craft Lodge or Royal Arch Chapter in the Province of West Lancashire for at least two years and is considered to be in good stead. In certain cases the charity may, at its discretion, waive this requirement. It is not necessary to belong to a Lodge at the time of application or to be resident in the Province.

Applications can also be made by widows and immediate dependants of the above.

Having savings will not disqualify anyone from applying as long as they do not exceed certain limits.

How to apply

Applications for assistance are usually made through the Lodge almoner who can obtain the necessary form and help with the application. If it is not possible to use the Lodge almoner, the Local Care Officer or in some cases another Freemason can act as the case handler.

Further help

Further help on applying for assistance can be obtained from Lodge almoners, the Local Care Officer or direct from our Central Applications Office on 0151 709 4141 which is open mid morning to mid afternoon on most weekdays.

Helping young persons' education

Children and Grandchildren of a West Lancashire Freemason

Assistance is provided through the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys where there is evidence of hardship and distress in the family, irrespective of where they reside. Application is made and forms supplied by the West Lancashire RMTGB Liaison Officer, 22 Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BY.

When an application is received from an adult requiring help towards living costs and we are aware that young persons may be involved we will, as a matter of course, see if help may also be provided by the RMTGB.

Other children

Where the child or young person (usually up to age 25) is resident in our Province and there is not the connection with Freemasonry mentioned in the above section, assistance may be provided if there is evidence of hardship in the family which is preventing an important feature of a child's education. Our help does not cover services normally provided by the state but could be for a related activity.

If you are aware of an educational project being planned for a young person or for an organisation with a particular project to help young persons, where there are insufficient funds to cover it, we will seriously consider how we might help. Applications should be sent to the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity at the address shown overleaf.