

InTouch

WITH THE RESOURCE CENTER

A newsletter brought to you by The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center

WINTER 2023

Looking Back on a Year of Helping!

By Samantha Loy, Director/NE Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator



We're looking forward to a lot of exciting things in 2023 at The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center! But first, as we wrap up 2022, we would like to send out a sincere **thank you** to all of our volunteers and the Masonic Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters! We all partner together to help one another. Together, in 2022 we were able to coordinate referrals and assist clients with clinical, financial, and social needs through approximately 1,400 new cases served. For Christmas 2022, we continued to provide care packages to individuals and families throughout the state. In addition, we were able to partner with several Lodges doing outreach to hundreds more.

If you are in need of services, or if you would like to make a donation to help individuals or families, please call us. You can also reach your local coordinator from The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center by calling toll-free, 877-881-1623 and pressing '4' for the Resource Center. Thank you again – and, as always, please let us know if we can help in any way.

District 23 MVP Committee packing fruit and candy bags for widows and shut-ins.



Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

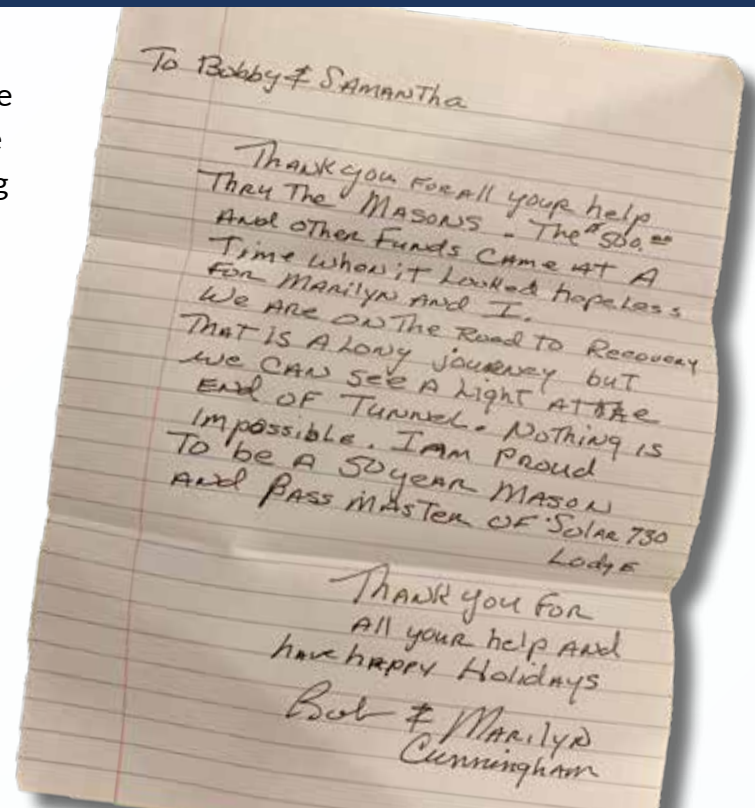
THE OHIO MASONIC HOME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Ohio Masonic Home Scholarship Program is an endowment established by The Ohio Masonic Home to provide tuition assistance for eligible full-time students working toward a bachelor's, associate's, or other undergraduate degree program at an accredited institution. Upon meeting the criteria, applicants must complete a five-page application form. Students may access the scholarship forms at The Ohio Masonic Home's website at ohiomasonichome.org, under the 'About Us' tab. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Application and supporting documents may be mailed or uploaded to The Ohio Masonic Home's website. Faxed or emailed applications are not accepted. The application deadline for The Ohio Masonic Home Scholarship Program for the 2023-2024 school year is April 3, 2023.

HELPING TO WEATHER THE STORM

The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center was able to help Brother Robert Cunningham of Solar Lodge #730. Brother Cunningham is an Ohio Mason living in Florida whose home was damaged by Hurricane Ian in September 2022. His Lodge reached out to SW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator Bobbi Schickler to see what assistance might be available to support him. He was staying with a relative in North Carolina and needed to go back to Florida to assess the damage to his home. Through our emergency assistance program, we were able to provide a gift card for gas and food, as well as a hotel room during his return to Florida. Robert shared these photos with us as they were cleaning up the debris.



NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITY

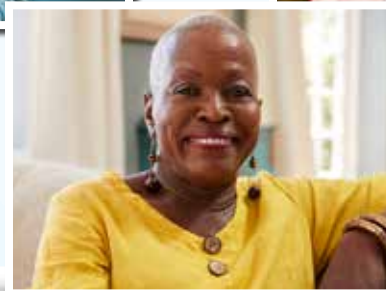
*By Raquel Brown, NW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator
and Masonic Youth Outreach Program Coordinator*



The new year brings new opportunities and a continual change for growth. As the new year approaches after the holidays, many find themselves thinking of the future, family, health, and plans for their lives moving forward. The holidays give many of us the opportunity to visit with family members and sometimes that may mean discovering new changes with a loved one's health, memory, or ability to live on their own and care for themselves. Noticing these changes – especially those related to conditions such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's or dementia, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, or cancer – can be devastating.

If you found yourself in a situation like this after the holidays, there are support options and resources available. At The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center, we are here to discuss your concerns, fears, and the emotions that may accompany the physical and mental changes that impact our loved ones. We have many options for helping you with additional family and individual support, including through our Masonic Youth Outreach Program. There are also dementia support options, such as in-person meetings, in the various regions we serve either on one of The Ohio Masonic Home campuses or through community resources; a coordinator for The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center can connect you to the type of support that your family needs.

Please contact your local Community Outreach Coordinator through your friends at The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center today. We can be reached at 877-881-1623, option '4'.



THE SWEET SMALL VOICE

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Calvin Edgell, but you can call me David. I have been a member of Shawnee Lodge #526 since 2011. I come from a family who isn't tied to the Masons. Actually, this is where this story comes from; I didn't have family tied to the Masons that I knew of until just a few months ago.

A few months ago, I had the privilege to do a funeral for a close friend of mine. A few days later, as my wife and I were heading home, she wanted to drive by to see where we had laid my friend to rest. As we were at that spot, a small voice wanted me to see my grandparents grave which was just a few plots over. That's when I noticed my great uncle. I have been to these sites numerous times, walking and driving by to look at them, but I had never noticed the Masonic Square and Compass until now. I had no idea that he was a Mason. His wife, Mildred Faye Wolfe Elliott, is still living and just celebrated her 100th birthday in July 2022 – she's also an Eastern Star. I spoke with the family and found out that she never received her widow's pin after my great uncle, Donald, passed away.



After some investigation and working alongside Trinity Davidson from The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center, The Grand Lodge, and Bro. Tim Jagers, of Paramuthia #25 (Athens, Ohio), we found that Donald was raised as a Mason in 1957. Together we organized and planned our own pinning ceremony for Mildred to commemorate her 100th birthday. So, on November 12, 2022, her loved ones, Tim Jagers, and Trinity Davidson gathered to hold a very special – and memorable – pinning ceremony at her home in Athens. She attended this ceremony with her Eastern Star ring worn proudly on her finger. What an honor it was as Bro. Tim read *The Widow's Poem* and I placed the widow's pin on her blouse. As I hugged her, and told her that I loved her, in her sweet small voice I heard the words, "I love you, too."



PROVIDING CARE AND SUPPORT ACROSS STATE LINES

Sherry Taylor had contacted Trinity Davidson, Community Outreach Coordinator for The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center, in regards to assisted living facilities and information. After speaking with Mrs. Taylor, the information was for her aunt Patricia "Patty" Taylor, who resided with her in Texas at the time, but was also a member of Easter Star (Medina Chapter #266). Patty moved to Texas after not being able to care for herself, and has recently been diagnosed with severe dementia and bipolar disorder following a hospital stay. Unfortunately, due to her diagnoses she was not able to continue to live with her family. Sherry and her daughter, Olivia, didn't know what else to do, but they were willing to move her to one of The Ohio Masonic Home campuses.

Trinity spoke with Sherry about her own wants and visions for the care for her aunt. If it were a perfect world, she would have liked for her aunt to remain close to home since they are the only family she has. Trinity worked with her family to put together a list of memory care facilities they were willing to consider for Patty, and called each of them for pre-approval admissions. While Patty was in the local hospital, the doctor who was caring for her deemed her incapable of signing or making her own financial decisions. This created a barrier for Patty's family in moving her to the memory care facility they had chosen. While the Resource Center Coordinator was getting an approval for emergency financial assistance, they continued working on alternative solutions.

Trinity was able to work with the facility to get documents signed that would give Sherry the ability to sign Patty's checks and pay for her monthly rent. Patty was quickly moved to the memory care facility and is now settled in and loving the new environment. Sherry stated over the phone, "You are a true blessing! I do not know where we would be without you and the [Resource Center]. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul. This truly means more to us than you could know. This experience has made me want to become an Eastern Star member now more than ever."



A few months ago one of our clients in NE Ohio thought she won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes. This week, she called me very afraid and confused and said that a man was on his way to see her. He wanted her to go to the ATM and withdraw money. Apparently, he has been calling her daily and asking for personal information. He gained her trust and she gave him checking account numbers, believing that he needed them to deposit her winnings. Once he started asking her to go to the ATM, she realized that something had gone very wrong and this was in fact, not the PCH. We are getting many calls from clients stating that they are receiving similar calls. We were able to provide support to this client, and provide resources on senior scams.



Grief Corner

By Bobbi Schickler, Certified Senior Advisor® (CSA), SW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator
and Masonic Bereavement Program Coordinator



There is no timeline for grief, it takes as long as it takes. Don't apologize for crying or tearing up when you remember something about a loved one who recently passed or passed a while ago. You may hear a song or a saying, or smell something, that reminds you of the loved one you lost. It's okay to remember and feel that loss – through laughter, smiling, and tears. I lost my parents 3 years ago and, for some reason that I can't explain, this third year I have shed more tears. Be kind to yourself!

"Grief is the price we pay for love," Queen Elizabeth II.

**We have programs that can help.
If you need help with grief support or counseling, call us at**

877-881-1623

CALL US WHEN...

- You don't know who else to call
- You need help with food, utilities, or housing
- You need financial help with care at home or basic needs
- You need home modifications
- You need medical equipment
- You need connected to benefits including ODJFS, VA, SSI, SSDI, and more
- You need help in your home
- You need medical help in your home
- You need social or emotional support
- You would like to become a volunteer

We will get you connected to the appropriate community resources according to your needs, through your local Community Outreach Coordinator.



The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center offers aid to those in need, as well as information on aging and referral to services. We have Community Outreach Coordinators located across the state!

- Connection to any of the OMH campuses and our trusted partners
- Connection to products that help you maintain your independence
- Connection to benefits
- Coordination with Fraternal organizations
- Emergency Assistance Program
- Financial Assistance Program for those that qualify
- Masonic Volunteer and Ambassador Programs
- Service coordination and referrals
- Masonic Youth Outreach Program
- Bereavement Program

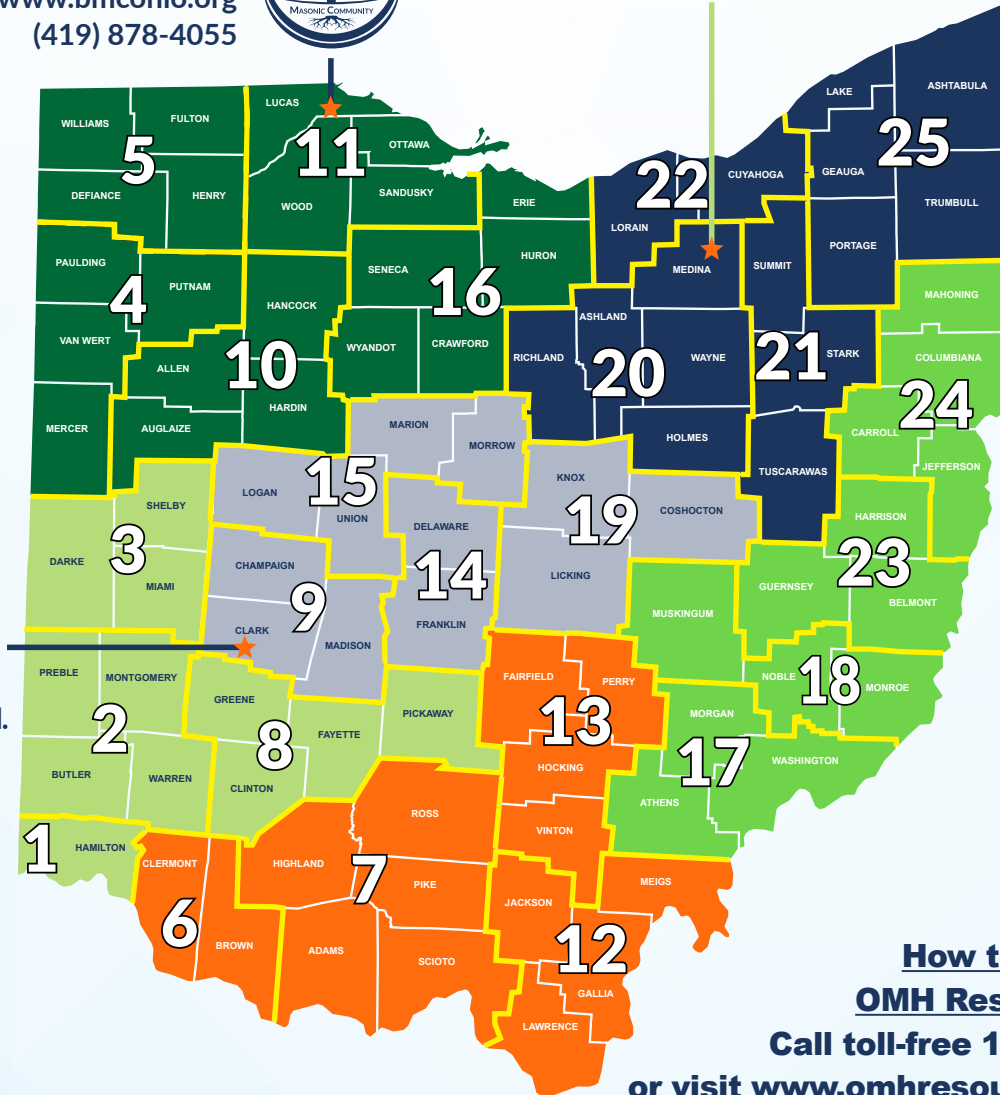
8883 Browning Dr.
Waterville, OH 43566
www.bmcoho.org
(419) 878-4055



4931 Nettleton Rd.
Medina, OH 44256
www.wrmcoho.org
(330) 721-3000



2655 W. National Rd.
Springfield, OH
45504
www.smcoho.org
(937) 525-3067



**How to Contact The
OMH Resource Center:**
Call toll-free 1-877-881-1623
or visit www.omhresourcecenter.org



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calling 937-504-4407.*

THE OMH RESOURCE CENTER IS HERE FOR YOU!

The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center is a free service here to assist Masons, their wives and widows, Ohio Eastern Star members, and the communities we serve, with finding the services they need to live and age where and how they choose. We make referrals and coordinate services with appropriate local agencies and organizations, and can connect you to information and resources like finding home health care, durable medical equipment, products and services that help you stay in your own home, and offer connection to benefits through the Veteran's Administration, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Social Security, and more. We are available to do presentations at Lodge and Chapter meetings and events to discuss our services.

We also offer a bereavement program, volunteer program, a youth program, and, a financial assistance program that can help a qualified Brother, Sister, or widow/widower with financial aid for a health, safety, or aging need.

We are here to help!

Please let us know how we can be of service. You can reach any of our coordinators by calling 877-881-1623 and pressing '4' for the Resource Center.



Like us on Facebook to see more of the support we offer!