



REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHARITY STEWARD FOR THE YEAR ENDING 13 JULY 2021

We are all fully aware of the difficult times we have experienced in recent months due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Although we have been forced to curtail our Masonic Meetings there has been many charitable activities taking place in the background. Here are a few examples.

SERV Herts & Beds Blood Bikes Appeal - I am sure everyone is aware that a Toyota Corolla Hybrid car has now been purchased with the proceeds of the Appeal. This was a tremendous result not only for Hertfordshire Mark Masons but more importantly for SERV Herts & Beds Blood Bikes who are extremely grateful for our efforts. The PGM officially handed over the keys in May and the vehicle is now in full time use. It has proved to be an invaluable asset by providing a larger capacity to deliver blood and breast milk and other urgent medical supplies.

Human Milk Foundation – This Charity has very close links to the Blood Bikes because SERV help to distribute large quantities of breast milk on their behalf. Many of the babies who receive the milk are premature and struggling to survive or the mothers have been diagnosed with cancer and cannot breastfeed because of the treatment they are receiving. The charity was started in August 2020 and they desperately need financial help to continue this vital work. We are hoping to have their Co-Founder, Dr Natalie Shenker, with us at our September meeting to give a brief outline of their work.

Herts Mark Race Event – Following the success of our previous purchase of an Eyegaze Unit and the tremendous benefit it has brought to the recipient Lex and his parents, a decision has been made to try and raise funds to purchase a second Unit for another seriously ill child. A Race Night was arranged in May and a total of £1,720 has been raised so far to help towards the purchase.

Colney Heath Scout Group This organization made an application in March to the Mark Benevolent Fund for a Grant to purchase a lease and build a new Scout Hut. The MBF provided £15,000 and we, Herts Mark Province, topped this up with £3,000 to help cover the full cost.

Mark 200 Club – This lottery has proved to be the backbone of our efforts to raise money for The Hertfordshire Mark Benevolent Fund. In the financial year ending 31 March 2021 the sum of £3,160.00 was raised for the Fund. This makes the grand total raised since the start of the scheme, including monies donated back, at £8,652. This is a marvelous way of raising funds for charitable purposes. The cost of a ticket is £5 and the first prize is £100, with 4 other cash prizes, so please complete a form and join in the fun.

Grant to Hospices - The Mark Benevolent Fund have approved a Major Capital Grant of £1.25 million to support Hospices in England & Wales. To this end every Mark Lodge was invited to nominate a local hospice to receive a £1,000 donation. At the time of writing this report this action was being processed by Mark Grand Lodge.

Finally, I would just like to say a big thank you to all the Lodges and individuals who contribute funds to enable us to make these charitable donations. I can assure you it is very much appreciated by all concerned.

W. Bro David Horne PGStB
Provincial Grand Charity Steward

