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CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

FEBRUARY MARCH 2016

VOL 64 | NO 03

THIS ISSUE'S COVER REMINDS US OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING OUR LAST TRIP AROUND THE SUN. SHOWN HERE IS THE RUNNER-UP COVER, WITH SYMBOLISM RELATED TO CALIFORNIA MASONRY. LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COVER SELECTION AT FREEMASON.ORG/FEB16COVER.

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EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

BUILDING A GREATER CALIFORNIA

Masons are each an important stone in our fraternity. Stone by stone, brother by brother, we are building something greater than any of us could achieve on our own.

In this annual report, we celebrate what we built together this year in California, and the donors who made it possible. Their charitable gifts strengthened this fraternity from the inside, powering important work in our communities, lodges, and families. We also look forward to what we will build next. California Masonry is going to achieve great things in the years ahead, guided by our 2020 Fraternity Plan and the goals of our members. We must give of ourselves to accomplish these goals. We must rise to meet our charitable obligation. Brother by brother, charitable dollar by charitable dollar—this is how we impact the world.

So, use this annual report to take stock of the good you have already done, and feel proud. Use it to reflect on the generosity of others, and feel grateful. But most of all, use it to recommit yourself to charitable giving.

We should be very proud of what we have built already. We should be more excited still about what we can build next.

M. David Perry

M. David Perry, Grand Master

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YOU

WINTER

AUTUMN

SPRING

SUMMER

Advance Our Fraternity

For more than 150 years, California Masons have offered relief to the most vulnerable members of our brotherhood and our communities. This critical support is possible because of one person: You. The culture of giving that you have embraced has a profound and lasting impact. Your charitable gifts enable our fraternity to shine.

YOUR GIFTS

2014–2015

"When we enrich the lives of others, we enrich our own."

2020 FRATERNITY PLAN SURVEY RESPONDENT

$7,816,095 WAS GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED BY MORE THAN **5,000** FRATERNAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

$6,679,016
through trusts and bequests

$200,662
to Firefighters in Safety Education

$91,457
to Raising A Reader

$659,148
to the Annual Fund for fraternal relief and public education

$159,460
to Masons4Mitts

$26,352
to disaster relief in Nepal

Annual Fund Highlights

Total member giving topped **$600,000** for the first time since 2010

4,569 members supported the Annual Fund – *the most since 2010*

The average gift this year was 34% higher than any year since 2000.

Lodge Scholarships

$44,000* in significant scholarships were given by five lodges:

CHOWCHILLA LODGE NO. 485
Chowchilla Masonic Scholarship Fund

CONFIDENCE LODGE NO. 110
Cecil and Bonita Baxter Scholarship Fund and T. Fenton Ham Scholarship Fund

CHULA VISTA LODGE NO. 626
TAS Charitable Remainder Trust

GREENLEAF GARDENS LODGE NO. 670
Arnold Wilmott Scholarship Fund

WELCOME LODGE NO. 255
Coalinga Masonic Scholarship Fund

** If your lodge would like its scholarship program recognized in next year's Annual Report, please contact foundation@freemason.org*

YOUR IMPACT

RELIEF FOR OUR MASONIC FAMILY

700+ MASONS AND MASONIC FAMILY MEMBERS WERE CARED FOR BY THE MASONIC HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

374
Masonic Homes of California Residents

337
Masonic Outreach Services Clients

2,049 CALLS WERE ANSWERED BY OUR INFORMATION AND REFERRAL LINE

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

200,000
California students will receive burn education over the next three years

97
families were supported by the Masonic Center for Youth and Families

285
students received scholarships

7,973
children received baseball mitts
57% more than last year!

93
nurses received oncology scholarships
296 since 2011

ADVANCING MEMBER EDUCATION

808
members attended Masonic education programs

363
brothers accessed the online Candidate Learning Center

STRENGTHENING FRATERNAL LEADERS

1,333
members attended online and in-person leadership trainings

GRAND SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

INTRODUCING THE 2020 FRATERNITY PLAN

For 300 years and counting, Freemasonry has endured. This fact is a point of pride for all of us – and yet, like anything familiar, it is sometimes easy to take for granted. It's important to remember that the fraternity's staying power has never been a foregone conclusion. It represents 300 years of intentionality and effort. It is the work of brothers who sought ways to apply Masonry to their world, even as that world changed around them.

With our 2020 Fraternity Plan, we embrace this same challenge. The plan is a statement of how we wish to advance Freemasonry in the next five years, and a reminder of the specific steps we must take to succeed. More than 6,000 members contributed to the development of this plan, and the opinions they shared represent thousands of others.

Together, we set four priorities: A rewarding member experience; a meaningful ritual experience; strong lodges and hall associations; and the fraternity's impact on society. These priorities are clear, prescient, and heartfelt. They are what our brothers resoundingly identified as most important to them. They define our current era in California Masonry, and point the way forward.

For 300 years and counting, men have come to Freemasonry searching for something that both affirms and alters them; something they can't find anywhere else. With the 2020 Fraternity Plan, we will do our part to see that it endures.

Allan L. Casalou, Grand Secretary

A Plan for Our Fraternity

6,000+
brothers contributed to the development of the 2020 Fraternity Plan

256
brothers attended strategic planning workshops

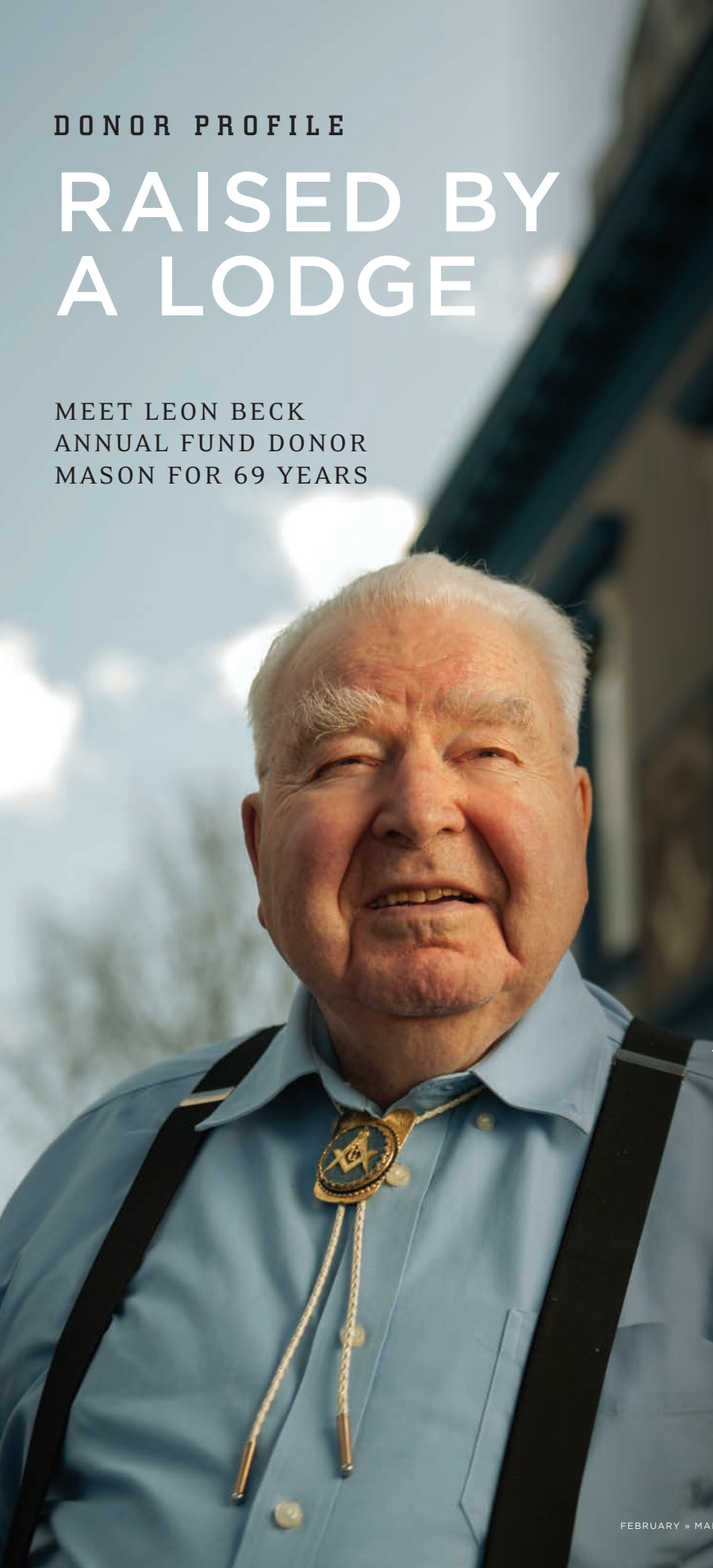
1,051
Masonic leaders shared ideas at leadership retreats

4,792
brothers responded to the online survey, providing
8,739
in-depth comments

DONOR PROFILE

RAISED BY A LODGE

MEET LEON BECK
ANNUAL FUND DONOR
MASON FOR 69 YEARS



Like many boys whose fathers were Masons, Leon Beck grew up thinking of his father's lodge as a second home. On weekends, they gathered with the lodge brothers and their families for outdoor Masonic picnics. He remembers, when he was just five or six, his grandfather walking him around the Decoto farm that is now the Masonic Home at Union City. When he was in junior high, he took dance lessons in what is now the lodge dining room.

"I was raised by a lodge," he says. "It was my family." Leon's father was a single parent, and it was only later in life that Leon realized how much his father must have leaned on his San Francisco lodge, now Phoenix Lodge No. 144, for help. "Every day, I give thanks for those brothers," Leon says.

As soon as he was old enough, Leon became a Mason at Phoenix Lodge, too. He enjoyed the impressive roster of guest speakers and social events. But most of all, he cherished the fellowship. Later in life, when he moved to the countryside of Santa Rosa, he found fellowship again, this time at Vitruvius Lodge No. 145.

Charity is woven throughout Leon's long and active history in the fraternity. Since the 1940s, he has supported the Masonic Service Association's assistance to veterans. He met his wife, Charlotte, driving children to the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento. He supports Masons4Mitts and the Masonic Center for Youth and Families. And every year, he donates to the Annual Fund.

He gives because he believes in the charitable work of the fraternity, and he knows that every little bit helps. More than this, he says, he gives because it is his responsibility. The Masonry he knew as a boy and loved as an adult was built on the contributions of many before him. Now it's his turn.

"We owe so much to the brothers who came before us," Leon says. "I'm trying to give back a portion of what I have received. As long as I'm able, I'll give back."

ADVANCING OUR MEMBERSHIP

A REWARDING MEMBER EXPERIENCE

VIBRANT LODGE CULTURE

Each lodge throughout California has a unique culture that brings brothers together under a shared sense of camaraderie and purpose. From a commitment to philanthropy, dedication to service, or passion for education, current fraternal leaders strengthen members' connections to their lodges, enhancing brotherly bonds and forming true friendships.

"This is exactly what I imagined Masonry to be. Everybody's friendly with each other, and everybody feels wanted. There are no barriers between old and young, new and experienced."

TRAVIS HALSTEAD, CORNERSTONE LODGE NO. 659

LIFELONG LEARNING

Education in Freemasonry furthers our understanding of the craft and its relevance to today's world. Visit **freemason.org/events** for a full listing of current programs. Highlights include:

» On March 5, 2016 the Fifth International Conference at UCLA will offer an in-depth perspective of the Masonic experience in Africa and the Middle East. Register at **freemason.org/UCLA**.

» On June 11, 2016 in Oakland and June 12, 2016 in Pasadena, the 16th Annual California Masonic Symposium will explore the African-American Masonic experience.

» The Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry will continue to advance Masonic research in California and beyond. This year, it will release transcripts of rare archival documents and host educational webinars.

Last year's education highlights included an international conference on Masonic conspiracy theories, live historic ritual demonstrations, Brotherhood Degree Exemplifications, a new look at Freemasonry during the gold rush – and more.

Membership Accomplishments

52,808 Masons statewide last year

3,001 Degrees conferred

1,241	918	842
Entered Apprentices initiated	Fellow Crafts passed	Master Masons raised

582 affiliations

1,385 Masons and guests gathered in San Francisco for the 166th Annual Communication

WE BESTOWED

6	695
Diamond Jubilee Awards (75 years)	Golden Veteran Awards (50 years)

to our brothers who have spent a lifetime within the craft

BRO. GLENN WOODY

was recognized as the

2015 Mason of the Year

for his many years of devoted support to the Masons of California and Order of DeMolay

ADVANCING OUR MEMBERSHIP

CELEBRATING MEANINGFUL DEGREES

> ***"The online journal entries go even deeper, asking for personal reflections about what you've learned."***
>
> **DAVID SIMPSON, MODESTO LODGE NO. 206**

ENGAGING CANDIDATES

California members can now supplement "mouth-to-ear" degree training with interactive tools and resources through the Candidate Learning Center – our online candidate education program. Engaging resources include links to articles, videos, and member perspectives that provide a deeper context for ritual lessons. Plus, through shared journaling exercises, mentors gain a deeper understanding of candidates' viewpoints, fostering more productive conversations. Candidates achieve a thorough understanding of degree lessons – lessons that will guide them in the journey ahead.

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MEANINGFUL RITUAL

Our unique California ritual brings the lessons of Freemasonry alive, capturing the attention and imagination of candidates, and creating deep meaning in their Masonic experience. That's why Grand Lodge is partnering with lodges statewide to develop enhanced resources and training for both candidates and officer coaches. Through workshops, online resources, and Masonic education, candidates will be poised for a consistently meaningful degree experience.

"Everything Masons do in and out of the lodge is based on the degree ritual. It introduces candidates to the fraternity's teachings, and instills lifelong lessons in everyone performing it."

GUILLERMO MUNDA,
ATWATER LARCHMONT TILA PASS LODGE NO. 614

RITUAL EXPERIENCES AT THE MASONIC HOMES

Degree ceremonies on the Masonic Homes' campuses connect the experience of becoming a Mason with our life-long commitment to our brothers.

» The Union City Masonic Home offers rentals of its permanent outdoor degree site for visiting lodges. Tucked into a grove of trees in a natural amphitheater, it provides a unique setting for traveling degree teams. For more details, contact *cvoss@mhcuc.org*.

» Destiny Lodge No. 856 at the Covina Home offers an opportunity for visiting brethren to confer degrees in its hall. For more information, contact *destinymasonic@yahoo.com*.

2015 Ritual Competition Winners

Division II
234th Masonic District Ritual Team

Division III
Francis Drake Lodge No. 376

Division IV
General Douglas MacArthur Lodge No. 853

Division V
Glendale Lodge No. 368

Division VI
Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass Lodge No. 614

Division VII
Temecula Catalina Island Lodge No. 524

Division IX
San Diego Lodge No. 35

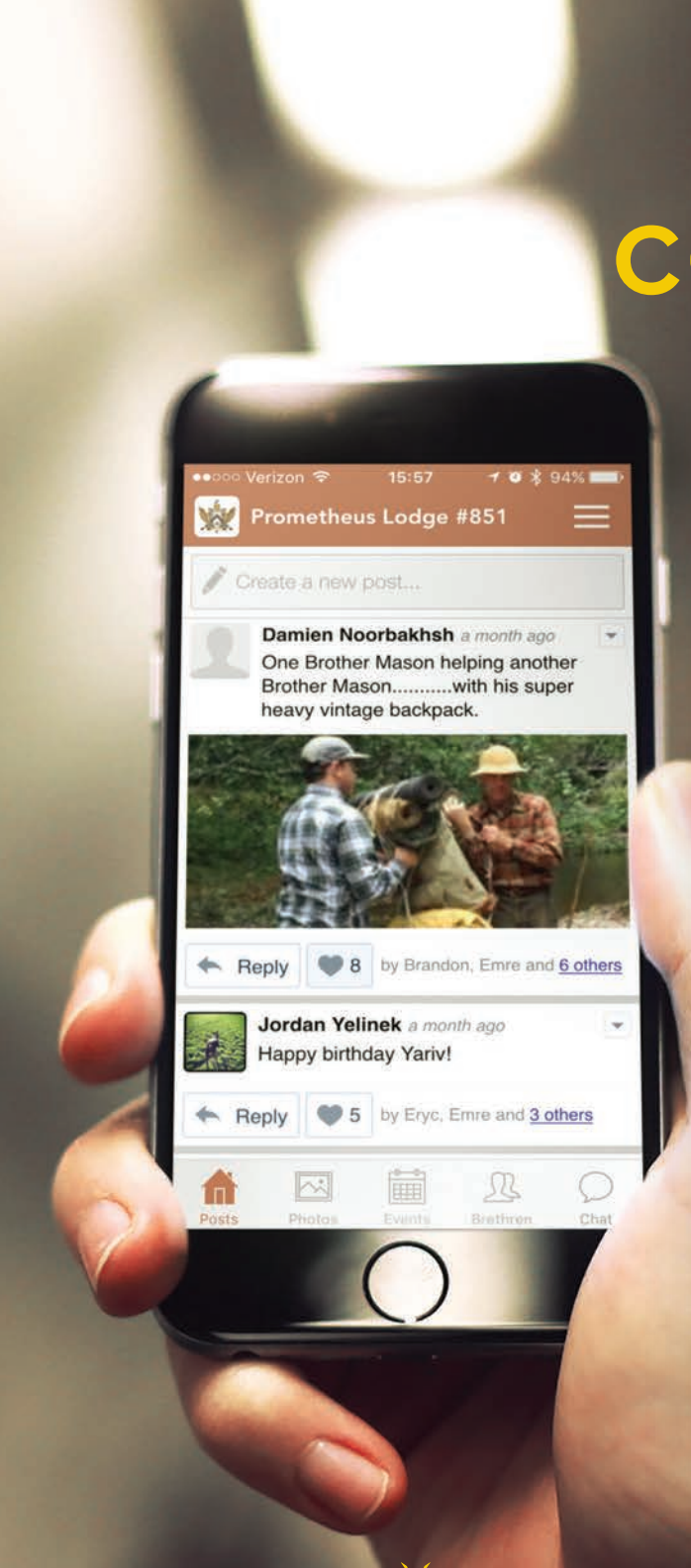
Division X
Orange Grove Lodge No. 293

"We wanted to create something to benefit the whole fraternity: a permanent outdoor degree site, available to every lodge in California. It's been a true labor of love."

JIM LEGGATE AND JACK MCCLELLAN,
SIMINOFF DAYLIGHT LODGE NO. 850

ADVANCING OUR MEMBERSHIP

COMMUNICATING IN A NEW ERA



California leads the country in technical innovation – as do its Masons. New fraternal technologies make it easier than ever to connect with brothers statewide.

NEW LODGE APP

In early 2015, Grand Lodge began rolling out the lodge app. This convenient tool lets lodges connect privately with their members. From scheduling events and setting push notifications, to easily viewing an up-to-date calendar, and even accessing contact information with a quick swipe, the app is an innovative way for lodges to improve member communications.

Grand Lodge officers have their own version and Acacia Creek residents plan to get on board soon, too.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

"The app is bringing our connection to a whole new level. Communicating is now easier than ever!"

EDWIN S. DIMARUCUT,
SAN LEANDRO LODGE NO. 113

2015 Lodge Communication Award Winners

Member Communications
Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672

Public Communications
Montebello Whittier Lodge No. 323

Social Media Strategy
Solomon's Staircase Lodge No. 357

Overall Communications
King David's Lodge No. 209

California Freemason's Worldwide Audience

66,549 subscribers receive the print edition

7,680 new visitors
visited the Web reader, with **182,000** page views

The California Freemason app had **40.6 average users per day** with **72,700 screen views** and **2,270 new subscribers**

CALIFORNIA FREEMASON INSPIRES

Our award-winning magazine brings current fraternal news to California Masons and friends of the fraternity. Last year, California Freemason was recognized with two awards for industry excellence:

» Association Media and Publishing: Bronze Award for Best Single Topic Issue: December/January 2014, "Freemasonry and Civility"

» Folio Ozzie Award: Honorable Mention for Best Overall Design: August/September 2014, "Freemasonry and Academia"

WHAT INSPIRED YOU

Wondering what topics resonated most?

» **Most engaging Facebook content:** Our 2015 officer installation album reached 141,000 viewers with 10,900 likes, comments, and shares

» **Most popular e-newsletter:** January 16, 2015: "Explore Masonic Conspiracies"

» **Most watched YouTube video:** "The Art of Masonic Education" – 4,595 views

Getting Social

3,000,000+
page views were counted on the freemason.org homepage

Our YouTube channel had 36,147 views, a
117.74%
increase from last year

As of Oct. 31, the Masons of California Facebook Page had
96,140
fans, a 40% increase from last year

We reached
2,377
Twitter followers, 577 more than last year

From January to November 2015, our Instagram followers rose by
125%

Our weekly e-newsletter reached
24,799
Masons, applicants, and sweethearts – 46% of whom read it on a mobile device

ADVANCING OUR MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING STRONGER LEADERS AND LODGES

Strong Lodges

214
lodges and halls have utilized Grand Lodge tax-preparation services

188
lodges and halls are using Intacct

164
lodges are using The Vault and Iron Mountain

7
lodges have had their tax-exempt status reinstated

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Mirroring the creation of the 2020 Fraternity Plan, officers who attend the 2016 leadership retreats are gaining the skills and knowledge needed to create strategic plans for lodges. By setting long-term goals and working collaboratively to achieve them, each officer can make a deep impact for his local brothers and community.

WELCOMING NEW LODGES

Last year, Grand Lodge celebrated three new additions: Destiny Lodge No. 856 at the Masonic Home at Covina and Plumas Lodge No. 60 in Quincy were presented with their charters, and Green Dragon Masonic Fellowship Lodge in Bakersfield received its dispensation.

ADVANCING ADMINISTRATION

Over the past five years, we've introduced a variety of plans to ease lodge administration, including Intacct, an accounting and reporting solution; tax preparation assistance; and long- and short-term storage solutions, Iron Mountain and The Vault. And, the Grand Lodge Finance Department has helped several lodges restore their tax-exempt status with the IRS. More advancements are in the works, including real estate services for halls, lodge investment management, online payment systems, and more.

"The most important work that we're doing is focused on several years down the road. In the end, our main goal as leaders is this: To leave our lodge even better than we found it."

MICHAEL HERRON, BEACH CITIES LODGE NO. 753

SUPPORTING LEADERS

Strong leaders are vital to the future of California Masonry. That's why a

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Historic Anniversaries 2014-2015

150 YEARS

Antioch-Brentwood Lodge No. 175

Drytown Lodge No. 174

San Bernardino Lodge No. 178

125 YEARS

Liberty Lodge No. 299

Mount Jackson Lodge No. 295

Redlands Lodge No. 300

Santa Lucia Lodge No. 302

100 YEARS

Carpinteria Lodge No. 444

Rosemead Lodge No. 457

Van Nuys Lodge No. 450

variety of new training resources will soon be available to lodge officers and members interested in leadership positions. By addressing today's cultural realities through innovative strategies, officers can help poise their lodges for success.

REACHING MORE COMMUNITIES

As California's communities evolve, so must its lodges. Grand Lodge is working to help interested brothers create new lodges in convenient locations that are currently underserved by Masonry. The new lodges will be created under a model that focuses on prospecting, initiation, education, strong leadership, and fraternity. To help ease administrative processes, officers will have access to helpful business services. For more information about starting a lodge in your community, contact *jyelinek@freemason.org*.

ADVANCING OUR MEMBERSHIP

EMBRACING GLOBAL BROTHERHOOD

California Masons have made a renewed effort to connect with brothers from other jurisdictions and concordant and appendant bodies – in California and around the globe.

RAMIN BAGHERZADEH, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF IRAN IN EXILE; M. DAVID PERRY, GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA; AND DONALD M. WARE, GRAND MASTER OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA OPEN THE XIV WORLD CONFERENCE OF REGULAR MASONIC GRAND LODGES IN SAN FRANCISCO ON NOV. 18, 2015.

KICKING OFF NEW CONNECTIONS

In late 2014, Past Grand Master Russell E. Charvonia partnered with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California for a historic and widely publicized cornerstone ceremony at the new Sacramento Kings basketball stadium. This historic occasion helped usher in a new era of collaboration between the Masons of California and Prince Hall, and led to a series of joint events:

- Rededication of the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles to recognize the homeless services organization's 100th anniversary
- Cornerstone ceremony for the new Willie L. Brown Middle School in San Francisco – attended by esteemed former mayor and Prince Hall Mason Willie L. Brown
- Dedication of the Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura

LEADING THE WAY

Through a number of events in which our officers and staff have participated, California has emerged as a thought leader in our approaches to Masonic relief, communications, and technology.

WORLD CONFERENCE UNITES OUR BROTHERHOOD

In November, the Grand Lodge of California was thrilled to host the XIV World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges. This was an esteemed honor, as the conference travels to a different continent every 18 months. More than 1,000 Masonic family members from throughout the world gathered at the California Masonic Memorial

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> ***"In what other organization can a man move to another country, walk into a room, and be welcomed as a brother?"***
>
> NICHOLAS MITCHELL, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LODGE NO. 529

Temple to discuss the most pressing issues facing the fraternity today, and to build new connections. Social highlights included a festive banquet hosted by the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile and an elegant closing gala at San Francisco City Hall.

A Global Audience

Our communications stretch far beyond California. Last year:

Readers in **143** countries used the California Freemason app

People in **125** countries read California Freemason online

California Freemason was mailed to readers in **24** countries

The freemason.org homepage was viewed from Brazil, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Philippines.

Global Connections: 2015-2016

Spring 2015
» Past Grand Master Russell Charvonia led a Masonic family tour to Israel

Summer 2015
» Grand Secretary Allan Casalou attended the European Conference of Grand Masters in Belgrade, Serbia

September 2015
» The Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry and Grand Lodge Communications Department participated in The Quarry Project – a Masonic conference on research and preservation in Indianapolis

November 2015
» California hosted the XIV World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges

April 2016
» Grand Master M. David Perry will visit the Grand Lodge of the Philippines
» The Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry will participate in the 51st Masonic Spring Workshop in Alberta

July 2016
» California Masons will host the Conference of Three Californias in San Diego

ADVANCING
FRATERNAL RELIEF

Relief for Brothers in Need

Since 1898, the Masonic Homes have been a respite for brothers in need. Last year, more than 700 vulnerable Masons and their families received critical services thanks to generous donations from brothers statewide. Because of you: A widow has a place to turn in her darkest hour. An elderly brother lives safely in his home. A family has shelter. Thank you for continuing our fraternal legacy of relief.

"I'm very proud to be a member of a fraternity that so seriously considers the welfare of our elderly members and their families."

2020 FRATERNITY PLAN SURVEY RESPONDENT

AN EVOLVING NEED

As our fraternity's membership demographics shift and social perceptions of aging advance, the Masonic Homes is working to meet or exceed today's best practices and prepare for the future. It is developing an even broader range of services to meet member needs – in particular, the growing demand for memory care – and is exploring potential partnerships with recognized health care experts to establish best practices. The new developments are guided by the Masonic Homes' own five-year strategic plan: Roadmap 2020.

Through Roadmap 2020, the Masonic Homes has many exciting goals for the Union City and Covina campuses over the next five years:

» Aging facilities will be replaced with new ones, based on best-practice "neighborhood" models.
» Town centers will give residents a place to gather for a variety of activities.
» New residences will shorten the wait time on both campuses.

STATEWIDE CARE

Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) continues to provide care to members in need throughout California. Targeted services include:

» **Information and Referral Services:** Connects fraternal family members with local services – from veterans benefits to home care and transportation agencies.

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» **Masonic Senior Outreach Services:** Ensures elder Masonic family members stay healthy and safe at home or in a retirement community in their local area.
» **Masonic Family Outreach Services:** Helps Masonic families navigate complex life challenges, including economic difficulties, caring for a special needs child, and divorce.

2015 Joe Jackson Award: Reading Lodge No. 254

Instituted in 2014, the Joe Jackson Lodge Outreach Award recognizes a lodge that has demonstrated excellence in outreach to its members and widows. Reading Lodge was recognized for its strong partnership with MOS staff to connect members – including those in the local veterans' hospital – with fraternal resources and services.

In the coming year, MOS is working to develop plans for a shared housing program on the Covina campus, which will renovate two of the former children's cottages to support the needs of active older adults.

LODGE OUTREACH INITIATIVE GROWS

The MOS lodge outreach initiative, which was piloted in San Diego in 2012 by Division IX, has now expanded to six divisions: I, II, VII, VIII, IX, and X. In the coming year, MOS plans to initiate the program in the remaining four divisions, implementing it statewide in 2017. Through this innovative program, MOS trains volunteer brothers at lodges in each division to serve as points of contact for outreach, informing local lodges about available resources and helping to identify members in need.

"The Masonic Homes is the final legacy of all we do as Masons. It provides an honorable return of all a brother has contributed to Masonry in his lifetime."

2020 FRATERNITY PLAN SURVEY RESPONDENT

NEW HOPE FOR YOUTH

The Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF), continues to provide high quality, integrated therapeutic services to youth and families as they navigate the many challenging transitions experienced during childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. The center addresses an

2014-2015 Masonic Homes Highlights

» The Masonic Homes partnered with Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation; Dr. T.J. McCallum of Case Western University; the East Bay Regional Parks District; the Alameda County Sherriff's Department; PG&E; and other organizations to advance resident care and community relations.
» The skilled nursing facility in Union City continued to maintain its five-star rating from Medicare.
» Union City's Lorber Memory Care Unit was remodeled and instituted new programming to better serve skilled nursing residents experiencing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
» Lorber also recently opened short-term rehab for patients needing transitional care. This facility serves residents recovering from cardiac, orthopedic, and neurosurgical conditions, offering comfortable, state-of-the-art equipment and amenities to ease rehabilitation.
» The Stepping Stones program was created to address the progressive needs of dementia patients with services including brain fitness, interactive daytime programming, assisted living with specialized programming, and skilled nursing care.

array of concerns, including stress, anxiety, depression, trauma, neglect, and abuse. Masonic families statewide may receive services at its San Francisco headquarters. Learn more at **mcyaf.org.**

MASONS TO THE RESCUE

Last fall, brothers throughout the state banded together during California's devastating Butte and Valley fires. Many lodges were affected and hundreds of members, Masonic widows, and members of our greater Masonic family were forced to evacuate their homes. During the disaster, brothers throughout the state offered support, companionship, and shelter.

Additionally, when a catastrophic earthquake hit Nepal, killing more than 9,000 people and injuring tens of thousands more, California Masons stepped in to help. Nearly 90 brothers contributed more than $26,000 through the Masonic Service Association of North America.

Connecting Our Members

MOS staff is available throughout the year to provide in-person presentations about Masonic relief and the Masonic Homes. To arrange a presentation at your lodge, contact (888) 466-3542 or *masonicassistance@mhcuc.org*.

ADVANCING FRATERNAL RELIEF

Here When You Call

When Quynh Tran started working for Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) nine years ago, she was the only full-time care manager for Southern California, and the organization was serving about 60 clients in the region. Now, that number is roughly 166.

This expansion isn't just because there are more fraternal families who need help today, says Tran (now Southern California's Masonic Outreach manager). It's that more are asking for it. Over the past few years, MOS has worked diligently with lodges and leaders to educate the fraternity about its support services. As a result, more Masons, widows, and family members are aware of MOS than ever before. They have seen Masonic Outreach impact the lives of their brethren and loved ones through information and referrals, financial assistance, and care management – and that's a good thing. When Tran visits lodges, she reminds brothers that the MOS number is on the back of their dues card for a reason, and that it's OK to ask for help.

In addition to expanding, MOS is evolving. In recent years, it has seen an increasing number of clients in their 60s and 70s, a shift from the historic demographic of 80- and 90-year-olds. It is adapting to serve them.

"Those in their 60s are facing chronic conditions at an earlier age, like diabetes, heart disease, and mobility impairments. They may benefit from assisted living, but sometimes they're not ready to leave their homes," says Tran.

Two of the newest MOS clients are an elderly husband and wife, both suffering from dementia. For the past five years their daughter was their primary caregiver, struggling to care for them on her own as their needs grew more challenging. But when her health failed too, she called the MOS information and referral line. Just like that, she was no longer alone. MOS staff worked closely with her to transition her parents into a community with the care they needed, and an atmosphere they all loved. A few days later, Tran received a phone call from the daughter.

"She had just visited her parents and said her dad was dancing, and her mom was clapping and laughing to music. When she got into her car, she cried literal tears of joy."

Every brother who gave to the fraternity was a part of that moment – they offered her relief at a time when she had nowhere else to turn. The bottom line is that "this is an organization that genuinely cares for its members," says Tran. "We have the tools, resources, and flexibility to make a difference. Don't hesitate to call us."

ADVANCING
FRATERNAL RELIEF

Coming Home

More brothers and Masonic families than ever before are coming to the Masonic Homes in Union City and Covina to experience the vibrant culture of our Masonic communities for themselves.

COVINA SUMMERFEST

On June 26, 2016, Covina residents and staff look forward to welcoming California brothers and their families to campus for SummerFest: Covina Centennial Celebration. Last June's festivities brought more than 1,000 Masonic family members from throughout Southern California – including members of all three youth orders – to the Covina Home. The family-friendly celebration was complete with dunk tanks, swimming, and a barbecue feast.

UNION CITY HARVESTFEST

Each fall, the Masonic Home at Union City hosts its annual HarvestFest – a lively fall gathering that celebrates the bounty of the autumn harvest and our Masonic family. Last year's HarvestFest – the third annual – gathered more than 800 fraternal family members together for fellowship and fun, including a kids' costume contest, live entertainment, pumpkin decorating, and the dedication of Rainbow Road. This year's HarvestFest will take place Nov. 6, 2016.

"I have seen first hand

THE

EXCELLENT LEVEL OF CARE AND LOVE

THAT

EXISTS HERE.

All who reside at the Masonic Homes are very happy and healthy in body, mind, and spirit."

2020 FRATERNITY PLAN SURVEY RESPONDENT

ADVANCING CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

Support for Future Masonic Leaders

"We are pushing these young people to be role models. We need to remember that we are theirs. These young men and women are carrying on the legacy of Freemasonry."

ALAN BERGSTROM, TEMECULA CATALINA ISLAND LODGE NO. 524

Masonic youth – young adults who participate in DeMolay International, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters International – are the future of Freemasonry. That's why the Masons of California have pledged to ensure they are supported and encouraged over the next year – and for years to come.

» Following the successful dedication of DeMolay Drive and Rainbow Road, Job's Lane will be dedicated at the Union City Masonic Home on May 14, 2016.
» In June 2016, DeMolay International will host its annual International Supreme Council for Adult Leaders/DeMolay Congress for Youth Leaders in San Diego.
» California Masons are partnering with NorCal DeMolay to offer a youth leadership conference – LxWeek 2016 – in July. This exciting new gathering will bring together Masonic leaders and youth for advanced leadership training, fun, and fellowship.
» The fraternity is launching $75,000 in annual scholarships for members of youth orders later this year.
» This year's Annual Communication in October will be focused on Masonic youth and will include a concert and fellowship opportunities.

ADVANCING CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

Sustaining Public Education

Championing public education has long been one of our fraternity's most cherished causes. Today, we support public education through college access and success, elementary school literacy and family engagement, promoting teacher excellence, and other needed programs.

RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE

California Masons are helping disadvantaged students gain access to the education they deserve through an online resource that simplifies the college financial aid process. Learn more at **collegegoldrush.org**.

PRAISE FOR EXEMPLARY EDUCATORS

Each year, we honor the California Teacher of the Year finalists with a $1,000 award each at their annual banquet. In 2015, we were awarded in return: California Masons received a public note of thanks for our efforts in support of public school teachers.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH

In April 2016, the fraternity's eight Public Schools Advisory Councils will once again host celebrations at public schools throughout California for Public Schools Month. Brothers are encouraged to attend these daytime events to see the

results of our philanthropic efforts first hand. Locations and dates will be posted in the Member Center.

LITERACY FOR LIFE

Through our partnership with national literacy leader Raising A Reader, we continue to bring crucial literacy and family engagement resources to families with children at high risk for educational failure. We have already reached 425 kindergarten and first-grade classrooms in 142 schools – more than 15,000 families – and by 2020, we will have touched more than 50,000 families.

"I grew up around a lot of violence. I'd like to make a difference for other children growing up under those circumstances, so they can have it a little better. I'm very grateful to the Masons. Their investment is going to pay off."

BRENDA NAVARRETE
California State University, Chico

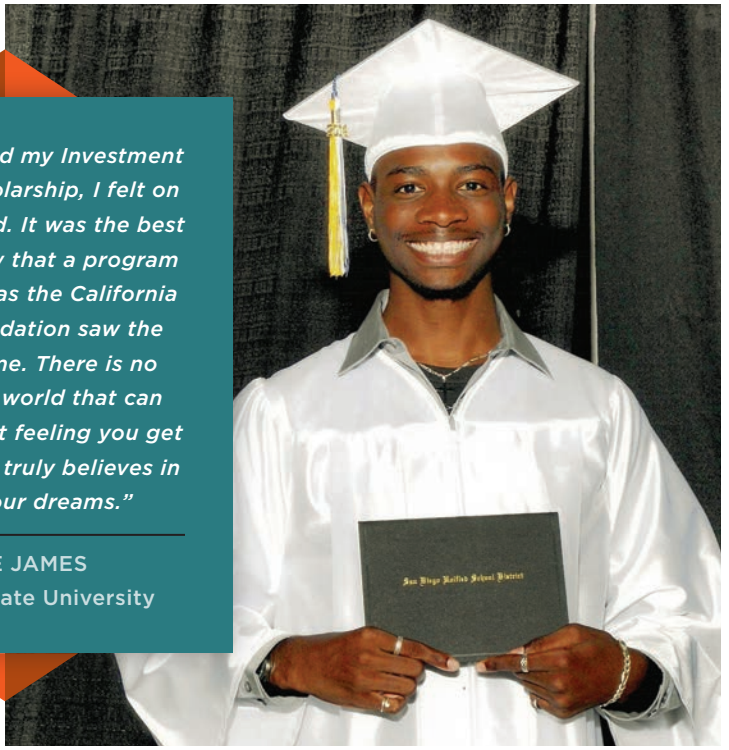
"I feel it is our civic duty as Masons to aid in the education of our country's future."

2020 FRATERNITY PLAN SURVEY RESPONDENT

Current data reveals statistically significant increases in interactive reading strategies by families participating in Raising A Reader; in particular, child comprehension and oral language skills.

INVESTING IN SUCCESS

Investment in Success – the flagship scholarship program of the California Masonic Foundation – provides financial support for students who have demonstrated a passion for learning, but whose economic or social challenges have raised serious obstacles to furthering their education. Read stories from Investment in Success scholars online at **freemason.org/investment-in-success.**



"When I received my Investment in Success scholarship, I felt on top of the world. It was the best feeling to know that a program as prestigious as the California Masonic Foundation saw the potential in me. There is no feeling in the world that can compare to that feeling you get when someone truly believes in you and your dreams."

SHANE JAMES
San Diego State University

ADVANCING CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

Here for Our Communities

Through Masons4Mitts, California Masons provide underserved youth in Northern and Southern California with an opportunity to gain valuable teamwork and leadership skills while building friendships in a safe environment.

MASONS4MITTS' GROWING IMPACT

Masons4Mitts, one of the fraternity's most popular community programs, expanded to Southern California in the 2015 campaign season: The Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres joined our roster alongside the San Francisco Giants.

Through this novel philanthropic program, regional teams of California lodges compete to raise the most mitts for at-risk youth who participate in charitable programs through Major League Baseball teams. Every mitt is embossed with the Masons of California logo and square and compass symbol. It's a gesture that says: California Masons are here for our kids! At the conclusion of each campaign, Masons present a ceremonial check to the teams on home plate at each ballpark.

The past season was our most successful ever, raising more than $159,000 – enough to give mitts to nearly 8,000 children and bringing our seven-year Masons4Mitts contributions to more than half a million dollars. It was truly a testament to California Masons' commitment to supporting local communities and children in need.

The California Masonic Foundation looks forward to another successful campaign season, which will begin in April. To support your team, visit the newly redesigned Masons4Mitts website, **masons4mitts.org**, on opening day and throughout the summer.

ADVANCING NURSE EDUCATION

California Masons are continuing to advance oncology nursing in California through By Your Side. Last year, the program helped 93 nurses gain oncology certification, bringing our total to 296 nurses since 2011. We look forward to supporting even more nurses in the year to come.

KEEPING KIDS FIRE SAFE

In 2014, we partnered with Firefighters in Safety Education (FISE) – a program funded through the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Thanks to a more than $200,000 gift from California Masons, FISE will provide crucial fire-safety lessons to 200,000 California children over the next three years.

We have already seen one major achievement: After our partnership brought FISE training to San Francisco Unified School District, the school board unanimously voted to institute mandatory fire safety education for every elementary school classroom next year.

"We are so proud to partner with the Masons of California in our mission to promote life-saving burn prevention education, and are so grateful for Masons' generous support this past year," says Jennifer Radics-Johnson, executive director of the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.

A BEACON FOR COMMUNITY

The California Masonic Memorial Temple (CMMT) continues to be a sought-after venue for top-notch performers from around the world. Recent events include Morrissey and Anderson Cooper; Loreena McKennitt and Elvis Costello will be performing soon. In the coming year the CMMT will work to implement alternative energy solutions to conserve and generate building power.

A Culture of Service

195

Masonic Homes (Union City and Covina) and Acacia Creek residents volunteered

59,110

hours last year

"I believe part of our obligation as Masons is to not only improve ourselves, but also our communities."

2020 FRATERNITY PLAN RESPONDENT

ADVANCING CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

Acacia Creek Thrives

Acacia Creek, the fraternity's nonprofit retirement community located adjacent to the Masonic Home at Union City, celebrated a successful year.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Acacia Creek was recognized with a "Best in Senior Living Award," due to outstanding feedback from families. This exclusive designation places it in the top 1% of senior care providers nationwide.

To help meet Acacia Creek's commitment to providing a healthy, active lifestyle, it has adopted Masterpiece Living – a national program of physical and mental wellness – and it has applied to be a Certified Center for Successful Aging. A new website (*acaciacreek.org*) provides members of the public with an intimate look into Acacia Creek's lifestyle and services.

Acacia Creek leased 24 apartments in the past fiscal year, reaching 90% occupancy and bringing the number of Masonic family residents to 111.

LOOKING AHEAD

Acacia Creek has a number of exciting plans for the new fraternal year:

- In May, Acacia Creek's annual Walk to Wellness campaign will encourage resident activity through a variety of fun events, including walks with local elementary school students.
- On June 4, the community will host a Mentors' Luncheon, giving Masonic youth from DeMolay International an opportunity to connect with Acacia Creek residents to learn about Masonry, colleges, career options, and more.
- Acacia Creek is developing a Lifelong Learning Center – providing an opportunity for residents, staff, family members, and outside educators to share their knowledge and expertise with one another through on-campus courses.
- Residents and Acacia Creek Dining Services are working together to include new healthy menu options, which will be launched by the community's chef and a dietician.
- Other exciting plans include a summer song fest, aloha days, taiko drumming demonstrations, and a multi-cultural holiday celebration.

Learn more

To find out more about Acacia Creek, or to schedule a tour, visit **acaciacreek.org** or call (877) 902-7555.

GRAND TREASURER'S MESSAGE

OUR MIGHTY EDIFICE

From our roots in operative Masonry, we understand the importance of erecting a structure upon a strong foundation. Since 1898, our brethren who came before us laid a foundation to stand the test of time – the Masonic Homes of California. This mighty edifice, a symbol of our obligation as Master Masons, continues to be a respite for our aging brothers, wives, and widows in their time of need.

Today, we are beginning a new chapter in our Masonic journey under the banner of our 2020 Fraternity Plan. This five-year strategic plan, which was developed by brothers throughout California, reflects our shared belief that when it comes to philanthropy, one of the highest priorities continues to be taking care of our own – just as our brothers before us. As our fraternity continues to age, the timing could not be more critical. We must ensure that aging brothers and their wives or widows in need will be cared for with all the love and respect they deserve.

Let us stand together to preserve and grow this legacy of fraternal love through our generous donations to our fraternity – be they monthly, annually, or as part of an estate. Together we can, and together we will, rise and build the future of California Freemasonry.

Arthur L. Salazar, Jr., Grand Treasurer

Expenses in Support of Masonic Values

$47,321,642
for fraternal support and care

$38,840,061
Masonic Homes in Union City and Covina

$5,484,104
Masonic Senior Outreach Services

$2,744,723
Masonic Center for Youth and Families

$252,754
Masonic Family Outreach Services

$899,847
for leadership development, Masonic education, and public education initiatives

$600,389
for scholarships and youth leadership grants

$210,458
for Masonic education and leadership development

$73,500
in support of nurse education

$15,500
in support of public education

DONOR PROFILE

BELIEVING IN FREEMASONRY

MEET RAY LENAU
MASON FOR 59 YEARS
GRAND MASTER CIRCLE DONOR

"To say what Freemasonry has meant to me – that's almost a physical impossibility," says Ray Lenau. "It's a way of life. It's something I believe in."

Freemasonry has run through Ray's family for generations. He grew up knowing who the Masons were, and knowing he wanted to be one. He was encouraged by his father, whose Army travels delayed his own degrees for a time. Father and son wound up fulfilling their dream together: on the same night in 1957, they were both raised at Washington Lodge No. 20 in Sacramento.

Today, Ray is a past master of that lodge, as well as Bicentennial Daylight Lodge No. 830. He has raised two of his children to Master Mason, and watched his daughter and now granddaughter share their own Masonic experiences in Eastern Star. Several times a year, he makes a trip to the Masonic Homes to visit friends who reside there. He feels a strong connection to the Homes – for keeping his fraternal family safe; for turning his Masonic vows into something tangible and worthy.

And so, for the past 15 years, Ray has contributed to the Masonic Homes endowment through a donation to the Annual Fund. This year, his gift was at the leadership level known as the Grand Master Circle. These special donations of $1,000 and more form the cornerstone of the Annual Fund and make a deep impact on our fraternity's ability to serve the most vulnerable members of our fraternal family.

"[My Grand Master Circle gift is] my way of saying thanks, and making sure our people are taken care of," Ray says. "It's up to each of us to carry on the Masonic Homes. It's up to each of us to believe in what we have learned from Masonry, and to act on it."

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

GIFTS BY INDIVIDUALS

Thank you to the thousands of California Masons, lodges, Masonic organizations, and friends of the fraternity who demonstrated their devotion to Masonic programs and relief by giving to the fraternity this year. While this space does not allow for us to list all donors, every single donation has allowed our fraternity to make a profound difference.

Our members' generous support of Masonic philanthropies ensures our fraternity's continued advancement – tomorrow and for future generations. The success of our efforts on behalf of Masonic family members and California communities relies on each of our members to give generously to those in need.

◆ 1ST-TIME DONOR ✦ 5+ YEAR DONOR ✱ 10+ YEAR DONOR ★ 15+ YEAR DONOR

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$5,000+

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$300 – $499

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21st CENTURY CLUB

This year, we established a new program to recognize the fraternity's most generous donors: The 21st Century Club recognizes fraternal family members who have given $10,000 or more to our Masonic charities since the year 2000. These donors make a lasting impact, helping to advance the fraternity's charitable causes and providing critical support and relief to those in need.

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When all the officers in a lodge pledge to give to the Annual Fund, they send a powerful message: **CHARITABLE GIVING MATTERS TO US.** In the 2014–2015 fiscal year, 1,130 current lodge officers made gifts – more than double the number who gave last year and the most in our history. Thank you to all the lodge officers who helped set an example for charity within our fraternity throughout the past fiscal year.

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THE HIRAM AWARD

The Hiram Award is the highest honor a California Mason can receive. It recognizes a member who has served his lodge and fraternity with extraordinary devotion. Congratulations to the 157 brothers who received a Hiram Award this year.

"As it says in the ritual, our three principal moral virtues are faith, hope, and charity – and the greatest of these is charity."

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