



MCFOK

THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF OKLAHOMA NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE 3



IN THE ISSUE

2021 GRANT PRESENTATIONS

SENIOR ESSAY CONTEST



2021 FFA CONVENTION



A TRIBUTE TO KEITH MADDEN

*"The strength in Masonry is
in its loyalty to each other."*

- Vasilios Karpos



GRANTS AUTHORIZED FOR 2021

4-H Foundation of OK	Masonic Service Association
Arts for Excellence	NewView Oklahoma
Cavett Kids Foundation	NextGen Under 30
Oklahoma Career	Oklahoma School for the Deaf
Tech Nursing Scholarships	Payne Education Center
Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma	Promises Matter
Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation	Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
Dean McGee Eye Institute	Senior Essay Program
FFA Foundation of OK	Teacher of the Year
George Washington	USAO HS Scholastic Program
Masonic National Memorial	Vizavance
Hearts For Hearing	YMCA Military Welcome Center
Junior Achievement	Youth Order Trusts

2021 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's 2021 and we have newly elected officers and board members!

President: William J. Cloud Blanchard #395
 1st VP: Neil A. Stitt Lone Grove #25
 2nd VP: C. Kent Callahan Moore #359
 Secretary: Robert G. Davis Guildhall #553
 Treasurer: R. Keith Madden Pilgrim-Rock #522
 Asst. Secretary: John L. Logan Guildhall #553
 OES: Theda Wise
 Knights Templar: Timothy Israel

Thank you for your service on the board!

Ordo Ab Chao



MENS

1st Place: Evan Boothe
 2nd Place: Mason Andrews
 3rd Place: Michael Milsap
 4th Place: Christian Castro
 5th Place: Nathaniel Bowman
 6th Place: Jaryn Adamek
 7th Place: Cruz Adams
 8th Place: James Huppe
 9th Place: Mason Seigel
 10th Place: Roman Chavez

SENIOR ESSAY WINNERS

Washington High School
 Shawnee High School
 Davis High School
 Owasso High School
 Lawton High School
 Bethel High School
 Geronimo High School
 Owasso High School
 Oklahoma Union High School
 Newcastle High School

WOMENS

1st Place: Emily Holson
 2nd Place: Prairie Kaya
 3rd Place: Olivia Lung
 4th Place: Maren Lahita
 5th Place: Paden Guess
 6th Place: Karly Brown
 7th Place: Kendall Beck
 8th Place: Margaret Cook
 9th Place: Karli Kasterke
 10th Place: Desiree McGriff

Owasso High School
 Kingfisher High School
 Owasso High School
 Tyrone High School
 Bethel High School
 Laverne High School
 Pawnee High School
 Stilwell High School
 Shawnee High School
 Soper Public School

Junior Achievement

"Since the start of our partnership three years ago, 40,013 rural students have been inspired by our efforts teaching the important life lessons of budgeting, financial investments, philanthropy, and being workforce ready. The Masonic Charity Foundation's continued generous support allows Junior Achievement to reach rural students across Oklahoma, which might otherwise be left behind. On behalf of those students, we celebrate and appreciate their patronage." said Brian Jackson of Junior Achievement of Oklahoma. With the addition of virtual programs like JA Inspire Virtual Career Exploration Fair, JA Finance Park Virtual, and JA BizTown Adventures Virtual, they can bring greater learning equity and opportunities to rural Oklahoma students. They are excited to bring JA Inspire Virtual to Oklahoma middle school students and is available throughout high school as it is the capstone of their middle school curriculum and will help students make career-based academic decisions as they prepare to enter high school. This JA Inspire Virtual event offers experiences that will fulfill the Individual Career Academic Plan requirements set by the state. To fit within the ICAP standards, JA will be focusing on recruiting exhibitors from five categories that deal with business and sciences. "The Masonic Fraternity is proud to support financial literacy education programs such as those offered by Junior Achievement.", said Robert Davis, Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma. "The financial knowledge gained in this program will empower students to make good financial decisions as they begin their adult lives."



Oklahoma 4-H Foundation Endowment

A prosperous partnership between the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma continues to benefit 4-H members with the 4-H Foundation's reception of a \$125,000 charitable gift. This donation follows a \$100,000 donation made by MCFOK in spring 2020 to establish the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Endowment Fund within the 4-H Foundation. "These two gifts are transformational for our organization," said Milford H. Jenkins, executive director for the 4-H Foundation. "We express our heartfelt appreciation to the Masonic Charity Foundation for their continued investment in 4-H youth." Of the recent \$125,000 gift, \$100,000 will be added to the MCFOK permanent endowment which supports 4-H science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programming and the annual State 4-H Roundup. The remaining \$25,000 will enhance the 4-H Innovate Leadership Summit, where teen leaders are trained to teach science and agricultural lessons to other youth. The State 4-H Roundup will reach new heights with enhanced assemblies, workshops and activities offered at the event. This charitable gift will allow state 4-H staff and educators to provide an even better experience for 4-H members. The diverse educational component of State 4-H Roundup is a favorite among attendees. "A donation of this size will have a huge impact on 4-H members across the state who will attend Roundup for years to come," Mitchell said. "On behalf of Oklahoma 4-H members, we thank the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma for their support."

Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man.

- General Douglas MacArthur



Payne Education Center

Payne Education Center, an Oklahoma nonprofit teacher training and dyslexia advocacy center, was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Masonic Charity Foundation to create both synchronous and asynchronous classes for teachers utilizing Payne Education Center's Structured Literacy-based reading instruction programs for Oklahoma's teachers. This unprecedented funding increase reflects the Foundation's understanding the need for more online resources and training for teachers as well as more reading instruction using Structured Literacy-based programs. Structured Literacy prepares students to decode words in an explicit and systematic manner and there is substantial evidence that it is the most effective way to teach ALL students how to read, but it is vital for students with dyslexia.

"The Foundation's commitment to education, specifically literacy and those who struggle to attain it, has allowed Payne Education to extend our reach to give teachers the necessary tools to successfully teach children how to read," said Heather Johnson, Executive Director.. "Thanks to their sustained generosity over 30 years, Payne will now be able to extend access to online resources and interactive curricula for teachers and their students and parents of those who struggle with dyslexia."

Dean McGee Eye Institute Distinguished Lecture Series

The Dean McGee Eye Institute (DMEI) received a \$260,000 grant from the Masonic Charity Foundation to endow DMEI's Distinguished Lecture Series. This series bring prominent ophthalmologists to Oklahoma for two days to make formal presentations to clinicians and researchers at DMEI. Students, physicians, and faculty from across campus are invited to attend the lectures, and physicians from around the state and across the country are able to join remotely. The visiting lecturer also spends additional time with DMEI's residents and fellows in the University of Oklahoma Department of Ophthalmology.

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, chief executive officer of DMEI and Edward L. Gaylord professor states, "We are extraordinarily grateful to the Masonic Charity Foundation for this very generous donation. Proceeds from this endowment will enable DMEI to continue to offer the best in educational experiences for our residents and faculty for decades to come, while also providing an opportunity for others to learn from some of the leading experts in the field of ophthalmology."

"The Masons are making this gift to support the continuing education process at this prestigious institution," said Grand Master, Robert G. Davis. The first distinguished lecture at DMEI sponsored by the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma is planned for August of 2021 depending on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidelines in place at that time.



2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS

2021 FFA Convention

Thousands of high school students representing 365 FFA chapters are expected to attend the 95th Oklahoma FFA State Convention and Expo on April 27 and 28 at the Chesapeake Energy Arena and OKC Convention Center. State FFA convention is the culmination of an FFA member's year, and includes individual award and degree recognition, chapter award recognition, official delegate business and state officer elections. The Oklahoma FFA Foundation raised more than \$300,000 from 241 sponsors providing cash awards, scholarships and plaques to various award-winning members. The Foundation is a title sponsor of the 95th Oklahoma FFA State Convention. During the sixth session, 747 senior members will receive the State FFA Degree - the highest degree the Oklahoma FFA can bestow upon its members. This award is presented to members who have achieved exceptional success in their respective supervised agricultural experience programs. Oklahoma FFA will also honor 92 of its outstanding supporters by conferring the Honorary State FFA Degree upon them. Other awards to be presented include 42 agricultural proficiency awards, 18 leadership development events and 29 career development events. FFA is an integral part of the Agricultural Education division in the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education system. With more than 25,000 members and 365 chapters, the Oklahoma FFA Association is the fifth-largest state FFA association. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it.

- William Howard Taft



CareerTech Nursing Scholarships

Nurses who want to return to work through Oklahoma's nurse refresher course can now get assistance, thanks to a donation from the Masonic Charity Foundation. The foundation has donated \$200,000, which translates into 100 scholarships of \$2,000 each; the cost of the revised nurse refresher program. "We thought it was a great opportunity to do something we all desperately need," said John Logan, MCFOK Executive Director. "We thought it sounded like a wonderful program."

"We are very thankful and grateful for the Masonic Charity Foundation donation," said Marcie Mack, Oklahoma CareerTech state director. "The \$200,000 donation will make a great difference in the lives of nurses wanting to return to work and in the lives of the patients they will be caring for." The statewide nurse refresher course is part of a partnership between the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing, and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. Ten Oklahoma CareerTech technology centers offer the course for nurses who do not have an active license but want to return to practice. The program includes a self-paced, online nursing theoretical course, a nursing skills lab provided by Oklahoma CareerTech technology centers and a clinical experience that will show students' clinical competency. The revisions have lowered the number of hours required for students who achieve baseline competency. "We are specifically doing this in response to the COVID surge and the need for more nurses to be used at the bedside and for replacing nurses who have moved to hospitals from clinics and other nursing positions," said Lara Morris, Oklahoma CareerTech health careers education state program manager.

