



MCFOK

THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION
OF OKLAHOMA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021

ISSUE 4



IN THE ISSUE

2021 GRANT PRESENTATIONS

NEW BOARD MEMBERS 2022



MAJOR AWARDS & GRANTS



MASONRY IN ACTION

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

- Vasilios Karpos

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT MCFOK

We are inspired by our grantees' steadfast commitment to serving vulnerable communities and appreciate all the ongoing efforts to strengthen families, educate children and provide critical services to Oklahomans. We thank our supporters for their generous donations. Please remember MCFOK in your charitable giving and help us continue our mission to improve the lives of Oklahomans through hard work and good deeds.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Follow us on social media!

www.facebook.com/MasonicCharityOK

www.twitter.com/MCFOK

www.linkedin.com/company/MCFOK

DATES TO REMEMBER

MASONRY IN ACTION applications will be available for submission starting on January 1, 2022 and will run through March 31, 2022. This is an amazing opportunity to highlight your Lodge's commitment to the community and fraternity. Visit our website at www.MCFOK.org

YOUTH ORDER SCHOLARSHIPS applications will open January 1, 2022 with deadline May 1, 2022.

STUDENT AND TEACHER OF TODAY nominations will begin March 1, 2022.

\$1 MILLION DOLLAR ENDOWMENT

MCFOK has gifted the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation an additional \$800,000 to bolster support for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project work within the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program, as well as funding to enhance the annual State 4-H Roundup. This generous gift follows two previous gifts of \$100,000 in 2020 and \$100,000 earlier this year that established the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Endowment Fund within the 4-H Foundation. Earlier in 2021 the Charity Foundation also donated \$25,000 to enhance the 4-H Innovate Leadership Summit, which is an avenue to introduce 4-H members to STEM-related fields. Their total contribution to the endowment fund is \$1 million.

CONGRATULATIONS TO US

NONPROFITS HELPING NONPROFITS

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma won its fourth Journal Record's Beacon Award for Nonprofits Helping Nonprofits.

THE JOURNAL RECORD 2021
**BEACON
AWARDS**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly Elected Board Members TO MCFOK

Preston L. Doerflinger

A Mason for twenty-five years, he is a member Oologah #343 and Owasso #545, Guildhall #553, and Vitruvian #557, and Will Roger #53 where he served as a past master. He is a member of the Tulsa, McAlester, and Guthrie Scottish Rite Valleys, and is currently serving as Vice Chairmen of The Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation.

L. Clay Stuart

Clay Stuart is a lifetime native of Shattuck, OK. Clay is currently the President and CEO of SNB Bank NA.

Clay has been a Mason for nine years. He is the past Master of Joppa Lodge #262, and member of St. Alban Lodge #192 and Woodward Lodge #189, with perpetual members in those three lodges. He is also a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite and where he serves on the investment committee.

Most Worshipful Bobby L. Laws

MW Bobby L. Laws has been re-elected for an additional term on the board. This will be his third term on the board.



MASONRY IN ACTION AWARDS

MARLOW LODGE #103 has a diligent and humble history of caring for members not only of their fraternal family but the community as well. Marlow Lodge consistently participates in every charitable program offered by the Masonic Charity Foundation in an honorable manner. The lodge chose to award their \$5,000 in Masonry in Action Award funds to the Marlow Samaritans. This local organization is committed to helping citizens who need a helping hand up. The Samaritans helped 2,281 in their local community with necessities such as small food pantry, help with utility bills or prescriptions in emergency situations, or clothing. The

Samaritans were founded in 1981 by four Marlow couples who saw a need in the community. In 1991 they became a 501(c)3 organization and a partner with the Stephens County United Way. The \$5,000 check will cover the utilities for their frozen food storage and the necessary cleaning supplies to provide a safe and sanitary space. 1 in 4 in the Marlow community utilize their services, with the Samaritans providing about 43 meals a month.



OWASSO LODGE #545 is continuing their tradition of winning Masonry in Action for their dedicated commitment to their community. "It's a great honor, it's very rewarding," said lodge secretary, Jim Reynolds. "Without our community involved with this, we wouldn't be able to do the things that make this happen." The Masonry in Action Award, created in 2013, honors lodges across the state that make outstanding strides to care for their members, impact their regions and bring positive recognition to the fraternity. Over the years, the Owasso Lodge has committed to serving the city of Owasso and surrounding areas through its active involvement and

charitable fundraising work. For the last several years, Owasso Lodge has been partnering with Owasso Cops for Kids, a program put on by the Owasso Fraternal Order of Police. The Lodge requested that its \$5,000 Masonry in Action Award grant funds be presented to Owasso Cops for Kids, which provides programs such as Shop with a Cop and Trunk or Treat. "Our goal is to build good relationships with kids in the community," says Travis Sellers, president of both the Fraternal Order of Police and Owasso Cops for Kids, "With the funds provided by Owasso Lodge we can continue programs to build strong foundations in our community." Cops for Kids hosted their annual Trunk or Treat event this year, with a record breaking 4500 children participating. The Owasso FOP actively works to ensure a safe and fun environment for kids during the 2020 year. While their Christmas Shop with a Cop looked different during Covid, officers still played Santa for local families, even turning up themselves to deliver gifts.

Each year, Oklahoma Masonic Lodges contribute hours of volunteer labor and with the assistance of the Masonic Charity Foundation invests over \$3 million to their local communities, regardless of size, across Oklahoma.

Greenwood Cultural Center

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge have joined forces to provide a grant to **The Greenwood Cultural Center**, a non-profit organization that preserves the history of the Greenwood neighborhood and Tulsa Race Massacre while promoting positive images of the African American community by providing educational and cultural experiences; encouraging intercultural exchanges; and facilitating cultural tourism, and serves the community through a variety of programs that support our mission of providing educational and cultural experiences. In October the two Grand Masters, Most Worshipful Robert G. Davis and Most Worshipful Ronald W. Davie visited the Greenwood community in Tulsa to make this wonderful **\$20,000** presentation. Funds will be used for after school programming for students. This is the first time the two Masonic bodies have come together to provide a joint grant for the community. "It was an exciting and gratifying day. It was also an historic moment for Freemasonry in Oklahoma. For the first time, Masonic charity was dispensed jointly through the foundations of both of our Grand Lodges to serve a worthy nonprofit. In this case, it was an after-school program for students in north Tulsa," said Robert Davis, Grand Master of the Oklahoma Grand Lodge. "Both Grand Master Ronald Davie and myself saw it as a joint statement by both our Grand Lodges that Freemasons exist to heal humanity by love; and not divide humanity by hatred. These kinds of joint ventures in the name of Freemasonry are good for everyone."



Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates

In October, the Masonic Charity Foundation found itself in a unique position to provide some additional year end funding. The **Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates** received a **\$40,000** grant to continue scholarships for lactation, maternal, and child health professionals who are seeking to further their education, specifically toward obtaining the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant designation. Grant funds will also provide expanded programming for COBA's Working Moms Work resource guide and toolkit, a partnership between with Oklahoma Education Association and American Federation of Teachers Oklahoma. The kit contains resource materials, educational information and tools for public school districts as they implement the changes resulting from Senate Bill 121, which passed this year and provides a paid break for teachers and school employees to breastfeed or express milk. COBA executive director Heidi Russell says, "This grant is a game changer for our organization. There is a great need for lactation consultants in Oklahoma, especially in rural and disadvantaged communities. More scholarship dollars will allow us to strategically serve those who do not have access to breastfeeding resources." She further states, "Women with infants and toddlers are the fastest growing segment of the United States workforce with more than 50% of mothers returning to work within four months of giving birth. We are incredibly grateful to the trustees of Masonic Charity Foundation for investing in the health and wellness of Oklahoma's tiniest citizens as we work with schools across Oklahoma to give them the tools needed to support their teachers when they return to the classroom."

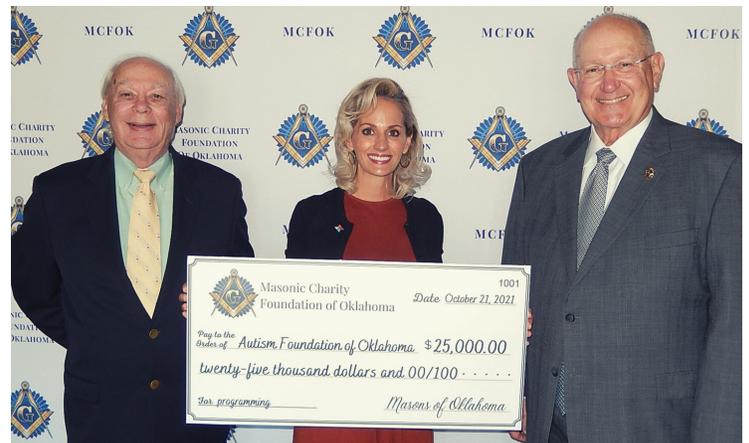


Smart Start Oklahoma

Smart Start Central Oklahoma received a \$100,000 grant from the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma to expand its Early Birds program to rural Oklahoma. The gift will allow Smart Start to engage with and support 300 families living in rural areas of Oklahoma. "The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma has strong ties to rural Oklahoma," said Sandy Cotton, Smart Start's Executive Director. Early Birds is a series of parenting classes that equips parents and caregivers to serve as a child's first and most influential teacher. Parents may start with a prenatal class and then take additional classes as their child grows and develops from birth to age 5. Classes are free to participants and offered in both English and Spanish. Additionally, families receive a kit full of educational materials including toys, books, games and community resource information so they may replicate what they learn in each class at home with their child. Early Birds classes are offered both in-person and through a virtual format allowing parents to attend sessions that best fit their needs. Initially, classes for rural areas will be offered virtually with plans to provide in-person classes as interest builds. "A virtual format gives us the opportunity to deliver Early Birds with safety and flexibility for families and caregivers in mind," explained Programs Director Shannon Dennis. "We are excited to strengthen our relationships with communities across Oklahoma. Long term, we will work towards training instructors living in these communities to teach Early Birds, so that families may build connections with both Smart Start and others living and working nearby."

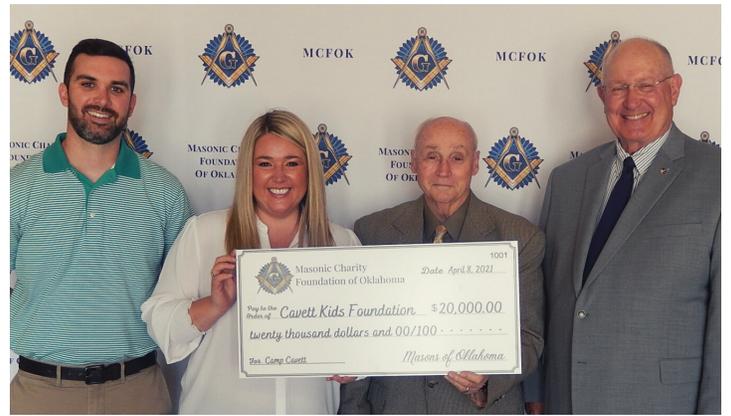
Autism Foundation of Oklahoma

The Autism Foundation of Oklahoma (AFO) was recently awarded \$25,000 to help educate and provide autism resources to law enforcement professionals. This significant gift will help AFO provide professional development opportunities, interactive community events, and sensory kits for first responders. A recent study published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders found that 1 in 5 young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will be stopped and questioned by police before the age 21. Young people with autism and a serious psychiatric condition are nine times more likely to have an encounter with law enforcement. Other common contact scenarios may involve elopement, abuse or neglect, and accusations of suspicious behavior. "We are incredibly grateful to MCFOK for supporting our efforts to keep autistic Oklahomans safe in their communities," said Ed Long, Board Chair of AFO. "This gift will provide law enforcement agencies with critical information and resources to improve outcomes at the scene of an emergency or mental health crisis." Through their project, Safe Stop, community events will be held that teaches drivers and passengers with autism how to safely interact with police during a traffic stop or event. These are also designed to educate local law enforcement about autism and give officers the opportunity to meet the autism citizens that live and work in the areas they serve. John Logan, Executive Director of MCFOK said, "Not all persons in the autism spectrum can effectively communicate with first responders," said John Logan, Executive Director. "We hope this grant will provide first responders with additional tools to assist them communicating with and responding to the needs of the autistic community."



KOSU Radio

KOSU, Oklahoma's flagship NPR station, has received a \$156,000 grant from Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma to build on its current engagement work and launch the KOSU Civic Information Project. In 2020, KOSU received more than 12,000 questions from Oklahomans ranging from water quality to local honey. When KOSU responded to a Hinton man's question about finding a COVID-19 test in April, he responded by saying, "I am so surprised and honored that you responded. I didn't think anyone listened anymore." Rural Oklahoma surprisingly has very little access, either to internet or cable and in some areas, radio is their only means of information. "The demand for information is high, and it is more than our existing staff can meet," said KOSU executive director Rachel Hubbard. "The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma's investment in KOSU will help us to treat people with respect and provide them with information that helps them become engaged in what is happening in their community and our state." The project aims to fill a knowledge gap in Oklahoma, whether it's with voting information or the roads we drive on. Through this project, KOSU hopes to connect the dots with common issues in Oklahoma communities. Their radio station was born out of one of the earliest attempts at establishing college radio (KAMC) and has been serving Oklahoma communities ever since. KAMC, changed to KOSU in 1959. "Our society needs to have informed citizens making informed choices regarding those we elect to serve in our government," said John Logan, Executive Director. "It is our sincere hope this program will provide factual information which will enable our citizens to make informed choices for the good of our communities."



Cavett Kids Foundation

After a year of no camps due to Covid-19, the Cavett Kids Foundation is enacting additional health and safety action plans in order to move forward with its summer programming and the commitment to their mission. Since 1997, Cavett Kids has provided FREE camps, programs and events for youth battling chronic and life-threatening illnesses. In every aspect of the organization, they strive to develop character, coping and connection while also impacting the lives of over 15,000 youth each year. Cavett Kids is able to provide these life-changing programs thanks to the generosity of its donors and volunteers. Despite the financial challenges for many businesses and organizations during this time, the support of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma has not wavered. The Masonic Charity Foundation recently granted Cavett Kids with \$20,000 in support of their annual summer camp, Camp Cavett. Thanks to the commitment and generosity of the Masons, Cavett Kids' campers will enjoy five days of freedom and joy at no cost. Campers will experience fishing, tubing, swimming, horseback riding, go-karts, crafts, jewelry making and more. Best of all, they will meet other kids with similar battles and learn that they are not alone in their fight! Over the past four years, the Masonic Charity Foundation has been a dedicated annual donor of the Cavett Kids Foundation and continues to provide grant funding in support of its programming. Long time Cavett Kids camper, Jacob, describes the life-changing camps best: "For 10 years I have come and every year it's filled with love and acceptance; where bullying is null and the daily worries and struggles are escaped. Honestly, Camp Cavett saved my life and the support from the foundation is by biggest reason for my drive to thrive."