

The Grand Lodge
of Michigan

THE
BEACON
PROJECT



A GIFT
OF 200,000
VOLUNTEER
HOURS
TO THE
SCHOOLS IN
MICHIGAN



Here's a gift that will help all children

375 Michigan Lodges will make this gift possible.

For years now, Masons in Michigan have been looking for an effort they can support that helps all children. Already, Masons offered financial assistance through the Juvenile Diabetes Program and the Student Assistance Program and both have been very successful.

For the most part, however, this support from Michigan Masons has been financial in nature with little or no direct contact between the members volunteering at the local lodge level and the charities they were supporting.

A big time gift

Now, all that will change, starting with the announcement that Michigan Masons would pledge at least 200,000 volunteer hours to elementary schools.

Now Masons at the lodge level will have a perfect reason to be involved in person with the children in their community schools where they will give the gift of time.

Benefits for the school

- An elementary school near your lodge could receive many hours of volunteer services from Masons in your lodge.
- Children will meet and get to know you as a man and as a Mason.
- Schools will be able to do more and accomplish more.
- Students who do not have fathers living at home will meet a man they can look up to.
- Schools can teach more, do more and achieve more.
- Existing HOST program provides perfect structure.

Benefits to the volunteer

- ***You will be where the real action is***
- ***You will see kids in a whole new light***
- ***You will learn and have fun too***
- ***You will really make a difference***

Benefits to your lodge and to Freemasonry

- Professionally organized publicity about the gift.
- Support for the gift from the schools and the public.
- Credit for hours to the local lodge.
- A gift of time that will make a difference.

How we will make this gift possible

A gift of this size and this scope is unprecedented in this state and perhaps in all of the United States.

We can make this gift, most others can not.

In order to make the gift a reality, we need the help of every current and future Mason. Your lodge may be small and this may be just the spark you need to jumpstart a renewal effort.

We know we can count on the Acacia and Acacia+ Lodges. They've been hearing about this for a year or more and we want them to know we are counting upon them and their members for more than one half of the gift. That's 150,000 hours over three years or about 2 hours a month for 20 of their members.

The remainder of the gift needs to come from the following sources:

We believe 30,000 hours will be pledged from 275 other Michigan Lodges over three years.

Your Grand Lodge officers and staff have pledged 20 hours each for three years for a total of 1,200 hours.

We are going to ask the Scottish and York Rite, Shrine and other appendant Masonic organizations to become partners with us in The Beacon Project.

Our Masonic youth will be asked to add The Beacon Project to their volunteer initiatives.

Your Masonic Home will be asked to help Michigan's elementary schools through The Beacon Project.

All together, Michigan Mason's will contribute more than 200,000 volunteer hours to the children of Michigan.



What help do we plan to give the lodge?

Every lodge in Michigan will be asked to appoint a Beacon Coordinator.

Each lodge will receive a Beacon kit that contains

- Instruction on how the lodge will proceed.
- Letters and communications samples from the lodge to the schools in your areas.
- A list of elementary schools, the name of the principal and the address and phone number.
- Forms for the membership to complete to be considered as volunteers.
- News and press releases for the school and the lodge to use.
- Progress reports in *From Pointe to Point*.
- Guides from the schools on how to be an excellent volunteer.

Beacon coordinators will receive

1. Detailed instructions on how to proceed.
2. How to tie into existing volunteer programs.
3. Answers to the most typical questions.
4. Help in getting volunteers on board.
5. A guide to solving problems that they may encounter.
6. Ways to get credit for the lodge.

Without your help, this is an impossible dream.

There is nothing more exciting than giving a gift that counts, and nothing more important than delivering on your promise. Actually, we believe Masons in Michigan can meet the 200,000 volunteer hour benchmark with no problem. Can we do more? Let's see.

Can we count on you and your lodge? For the sake of Masons and Masonry in Michigan, we hope so.

Thank You.