

THE PILLARS

MINNESOTA MASONIC CHARITIES



**INSIDE:
BOYD HUPPERT SHARES THE NEXT
CHAPTER IN HIS CANCER BATTLE**

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Sign up for **Philanthropy Matters**, Minnesota Masonic Charities' monthly e-newsletter. You'll learn about participating in local events, watch Masonic Charities in the news, get up-to-date scholarship information and more!



A Message From Your Chairman

As Chairman of the Board of Minnesota Masonic Charities, it is both an honor and a privilege to witness the incredible work being done within our Masonic community. One of the most profound examples of this is the groundbreaking research happening at the Masonic Cancer Research Center, University of Minnesota.

Our partnership with the University of Minnesota and the work of the Masonic Cancer Research Center, University of Minnesota represent more than just a commitment to medical advancement; they embody our Masonic values of charity, hope, and relief. This center is not just about helping people survive cancer—it's about giving them the opportunity to truly thrive, to spend more meaningful time with loved ones, and to embrace life with renewed strength.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending our annual gala in Duluth, which was a wonderful event. The venue was delightful, and it was heartening to see so many people come together in support of our Clinic. A huge thank you to the Duluth team—your efforts do not go unnoticed. I am already looking forward to next year's event and the new milestones we will achieve together.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize our CFO, Sue Mork, who has decided it's time to embark on new adventures with her husband after many years of dedicated service. Her work has been instrumental in keeping our organization on track, and on behalf of the Board, I want to say, "Thank you, Sue. You will be greatly missed."

Finally, to everyone who contributes to making Minnesota Masonic Charities the outstanding organization it is, the Board extends our heartfelt thanks. Your dedication and hard work make all the difference.

Fraternally,

John Cook
 Chairman, Minnesota Masonic Charities



A Message From Your CEO

It's a privilege to lead Minnesota Masonic Charities, and I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the past year. Being part of this organization allows me to witness firsthand the incredible generosity and commitment of many who share a passion for making a difference in our communities.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of working with individuals who truly are the driving force behind MMC's success. Their contributions—both in time and resources—make our work impactful, and I'm constantly inspired by their dedication.

In this edition of Pillars, we're excited to share some of our latest endeavors, including our Civility School program. This initiative aims to strengthen the bonds between our lodges and the broader community, providing new opportunities for connection and growth. As we look toward the new year, we're also preparing for the upcoming scholarship season, which opens on January 1st. We welcome applications from all students and are particularly eager to support those pursuing law enforcement, nursing, and agriculture careers.

Our partnership with the University of Minnesota continues to grow, and I'm excited about the possibilities this collaboration brings. Together, we're paving the way for a future filled with promise. Thank you to everyone who has supported Minnesota Masonic Charities this past year. Your generosity and commitment make all the difference, and I look forward to what we'll achieve together in the coming year.

Regards,

John Schwietz
 CEO, Minnesota Masonic Charities

Civility School

Introducing Civility School, a new program from Minnesota Masonic Charities in partnership with the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, launching this fall. This initiative aims to engage the younger generation, teaching them the significance of decorum, kindness, and civility in today's society. Rooted in the timeless principles of the Masonic Fraternity, Civility School emphasizes values that are more important now than ever—putting down our phones, making genuine eye contact, and learning to walk alongside those who may see the world differently.



While there are fun elements like etiquette tips and the do's and don'ts of social interactions that we can all laugh about, the program's core message is serious. It's about fostering meaningful connections and offering lodges across Minnesota a deeper way to connect with their communities. Stay tuned for more information about Civility School and how you can get involved!



BOYD HUPPERT SHARES THE NEXT CHAPTER IN HIS CANCER BATTLE



Boyd Huppert shares the setback in his battle with multiple myeloma, but a brand new treatment is giving him — and many others — hope.

Author: Rena Sarigianopoulos KARE 11

MINNEAPOLIS — He's told thousands of your stories over the years, and now Boyd Huppert is sharing an update on his own story as he battles multiple myeloma.

While he has suffered a serious setback, there is also reason for hope.

A newly approved, cutting-edge treatment could help Boyd, and many others as well. We sat down with him, and his wife Sheri, to find out how they are processing it all.

It was early in the morning on Thursday, June 13. We met Boyd in the lobby of M Health Fairview to talk about his latest news and to join him as he started the first step of this new treatment. It would be an all-day process.

"I've got my lunch, some work, Sheri's loaded up with books," Boyd laughs.

Admittedly, this isn't the update Boyd was hoping to share. And it certainly isn't the update any of us wanted to hear.

"You could almost see it on my doctor's face when he came in the room that it wasn't going to be great news," he says.

Boyd's multiple myeloma is on the move. After his bone marrow transplant two and a half years ago, Boyd knew, with no cure, he was living on borrowed time. But still, he thought he'd have a little more of it.

"I don't know, I was thinking five years, you know, some people get 10, some people get more, but did not expect to be back here in two years, yeah, that was disappointing," he says.



"I think we were both pretty stunned because he's been active and working and not slowing down," says his wife, Sheri.

OK, so it's a setback, but it's not all bad. Boyd's sense of humor is still fully intact.

"You'll want to turn your sound down when I scream," he jokes as the nurses get ready to put needles in both his arms.

And in the last two years, Boyd and Sheri's faith has grown, along with their sense of peace and acceptance.

"Maybe I can let myself be hopeful that this is going to be a solution for me," he says.

With the cancer gaining ground, Boyd's doctors decided a new treatment was necessary. Something completely different. Boyd is going through CAR T-cell therapy. A treatment so new, it wasn't even FDA approved for multiple myeloma when he was diagnosed less than three years ago. And up until April of this year, patients had to relapse four times before it was offered.

"He's the very first patient that we enrolled as second line therapy, I mean hot off the press," says Boyd's doctor, Aimee Merino, MD, PhD, at M Health Fairview.

Dr. Merino says CAR T-cell therapy uses your own immune system to fight the cancer. They are taking Boyd's healthy T-cells and sending them off to a lab to be re-engineered. That's where a protein will be added — a chimeric antigen receptor or CAR — it's how CAR T-cell therapy gets its name. The CAR is trained specifically to fight multiple myeloma, then the T-cells will be returned and put back into his body.

"So basically it becomes its own living drug, replicating itself in the body, and that continues on as it continues engaging multiple myeloma, killing it, and continuing to proliferate," explains Dr. Merino.

While not a cure, it is promising. And not just for Boyd or other multiple myeloma patients. CAR T-cell therapy is already being used on other cancers, and Dr. Merino says they are studying it in solid tumors as well.

The fact is the bone marrow transplant gave Boyd two more years. He didn't waste them.

He's been working at the job he still desperately loves, traveling the world with his wife of 40 years, and the new love of his life, granddaughter Tess, was born.

"Somebody asked me if you knew it was only going to last two years would you do it again? In a heartbeat. Sign me up. I'd go through anything to get two more years. I would do that a 100 times over again," he says.

And here he goes again. But this time, the hope is that there will be many more years on the other side of this new treatment.

"If I want more time, and I do, this is what I have to do. And that's OK," he says.

Adding, "That in the hopes of when this stops working, they will have developed something else that they can try on me."

And that's the thing, Dr. Merino says the oncology field is moving so fast right now. Two years ago this procedure wasn't available. Who knows what the next two years might bring. Maybe a cure?

"That's really an exciting time, when the people in the field are very convinced that we are getting close to that, and I think we are. I think we'll see that in Boyd's lifetime," says Dr. Merino.

I ask again almost in disbelief, "You do? A cure?"

"Yes," she says, with what feels like certainty in her voice.

A cure. Two words have never delivered more hope.

"I'm hoping that he does die a very old man, because I need him, but I feel like the world needs him too. He's such a bright light and there's so few people that are like that," says Sheri.

Amen to that.

The next steps? Boyd will get three days of chemo to prep his body for the T-Cells to do their job. He'll spend seven to 10 days in the hospital, then will need to isolate at home for a month.

He hopes to be back to work in six weeks but has worked ahead so far that he thinks people won't even notice he's gone. Not a chance, friend. And at home, you'll still see brand new Land of 10,000 stories while he is gone.



WOW WHAT A NIGHT!

We are thrilled to share that so far, we've raised over \$180,000 for the Minnesota Masonic Children's Clinic for Communication Disorders!

A special thank you to the incredible supporters who came together at the Greysolon Ballroom in Duluth, where over \$160,000 was raised in just one night. Your generosity is truly making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. The funds will be used for books for the storytime program, educational field trips, specialty programs such as the autism parent education and support groups, therapy materials, and most importantly the hiring of a new SLP to help eliminate the wait list.

We are forever grateful for your belief in our mission.

A special shoutout to our sponsors who made this possible:

- Wells Fargo
- RBC Duluth
- Tufco
- Adolfson & Peterson
- Standard Mechanical Insulation
- MNSWCA
- Duluth Scottish Heritage Association
- Greysolon
- Duluth AV Logistics
- Keyport Liquor

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS AMAZING JOURNEY WITH US!



CAROL FITZGERALD, ERIN O'KEEFE, & MARRY LEACH



BROOKE PFARR, DAVE CARTWRIGHT, & KEVIN ACKER



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SEAN WALSH & SHANNON DRYSDALE-WALSH



MINNESOTA
**MASONIC
CHILDREN'S CLINIC**
FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



PROFILE IN PHILANTHROPY

The Minnesota Masonic Charities (MMC) Pillars Society is a distinguished group of individuals who have made a lasting impact by including MMC in their long-term financial plans. By making planned gifts, bequests, or outright gifts of \$1,000 or more to the MMC Endowment Fund, you can become a member of this society and help ensure our charitable work continues for future generations.

Getting started with a bequest or planned gift is easier than it sounds. A bequest is simply a gift you designate in your will or trust. To set one up, you can talk to your financial advisor or attorney about including a sentence in your will that specifies a portion of your estate to go to Minnesota Masonic Charities. You can also explore other ways to give, such as donating appreciated stock, making a charitable distribution from your IRA, or considering other tax-efficient giving strategies.

If you're unsure where to begin, Our team at MMC is happy to help guide you through the process. Additionally, connecting with a professional such as your financial advisor, estate planning attorney, or tax advisor can provide personalized advice and ensure your gift aligns with your overall financial goals.

Becoming a Pillars Society member is a meaningful way to support the causes you care about, and with the right guidance, it's not as intimidating as it might seem. Your thoughtful planning can create a lasting legacy that will benefit Minnesota Masonic Charities for years to come.

Regards,

John Schwietz
CEO Minnesota Masonic Charities
651-210-5240



An Evening of Promise

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

EVENT PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT VARIOUS IMPACTFUL YOUTH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS, WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE AT THE MASONIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE MASONIC INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPING BRAIN, AND FREE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES ACROSS MINNESOTA.

MASONIC CIVILITY SCHOOL

MASONIC CHARITIES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MASONIC CHILDREN'S CLINIC FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

MASONIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

MASONIC INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

BY PARTICIPATING IN OUR GALA, YOU ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THESE ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND INVEST IN OUR YOUTH'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS, AND BRIGHT FUTURE.



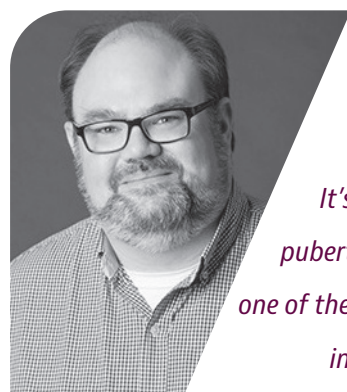
Check out our online silent auction and explore exclusive items that directly support Minnesota's youth! Even if you can't attend the 2024 Gala in person, you can still make a meaningful impact. Visit mnmasoniccharities.org/gala and click ONLINE AUCTION ITEMS to explore the available great opportunities.

This event is not just about supporting essential programs like the Masonic Children's Hospital, the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, and our free speech and language clinic in Duluth. It's about being part of a community that cares for children in need. Your participation, whether in person or online, makes a significant difference!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

New school, new classmates, and increasing independence occurs at the same time as intense brain growth and changing hormones. It can be a lot for a pre-teen to manage. The transition to middle school can be challenging – not just for adolescents but also for the people who love them.



"The transition to middle school is happening at a very interesting time in kids' lives. It's happening at the same time puberty is starting or in process. It's one of the most intense growth periods in terms of brain development."

DAN LANDAUER, PHD, LP.

"The transition to middle school is happening at a very interesting time in kids' lives," said Dan Landauer, PhD, LP, a child psychologist at M Health Fairview and an assistant professor at the **University of Minnesota Medical School**. "It's happening at the same time puberty is starting or in process. It's one of the most intense growth periods in terms of brain development." In adolescence, kids' decisions are mostly driven by emotions. The ability to plan, organize, and think abstractly comes as the brain matures. So kids are making emotional decisions, going through hormonal changes, and, for some, transitioning to a different type of school. Middle school could mean a new school building with more kids – which comes with new social opportunities and challenges. They also take on more responsibility for managing their own homework and knowing where they need to go and when. All of these things could make the transition to middle school a stressful experience. "They're expected to keep track of their assignments and understand their schedules,"

Landauer said. "That can be challenging because it's something that they may not have had to do before. It's a challenge to their emotional and cognitive abilities."

HOW GROWN-UPS CAN HELP

Parents can help set kids up for success by talking about it, Landauer said. Tell your kids what they can expect at their new school – and what's expected of them. You can talk through strategies for keeping track of their class schedule, homework assignments, and what they need to bring to school.

Kids are all different. Some can take on the transition easily with just the help of a new planner. Others might need some reminders or would benefit from going over their assignments for the week with you. "At the beginning of the school year, you might be checking in a little bit more," Landauer said. "Ask how they're doing with that math homework, for example. Try to reinforce the schedule you created together until they get into the routine."

Dr. Landauer suggests also talking to your pre-teen about:

- When would be a good time each day to do homework
- Family rules for electronic device use
- Bedtime

"I always try to include the adolescent in this kind of planning. You want to act as their wisdom, but they know about themselves."

"I always try to include the adolescent in this kind of planning," Landauer said. "You want to act as their wisdom, but they know about themselves. Parents also have to recognize that what is actually healthy for them isn't going to be what's practical for them." For example,

parents might not want their teens to use social media at all, but that might not be realistic for a child who is going through a period of social comparison and wants to fit in. Instead, it might be helpful to discuss rules and boundaries, such as no screens in bedrooms since they can affect sleep.

Bedtime with adolescents can be a struggle, Landauer said. In adolescence, the brain wants to go to sleep later and wake up later, Landauer said. But school schedules don't usually accommodate sleeping in.

"The amount of sleep that kids get can impact their emotional, cognitive, and academic functioning. So try to help your child develop good sleep habits."

"The amount of sleep that kids get can impact their emotional, cognitive, and academic functioning," Landauer said. "So try to help your child develop good sleep habits. Sticking with it is going to be important for their overall health." Helping your child maintain a healthy diet and get some physical activity can also help set them up to do well in school and make them more resilient when things go wrong, Landauer said.

TALK ABOUT BULLYING

Bullying is common in middle schools – and it can look different than it did in elementary school. Often, it's more exclusion-based in middle school, Landauer said. Kids notice differences more and might make comments about how someone looks or what they do or don't have. Other forms of bullying include creating fake social media profiles and spreading rumors. "Even though you may not see any overt signs of bullying, there might be things like that happening," Landauer said. "Talk to your child to see if they feel excluded or if people are bothering them online. Sometimes they'll keep it to themselves because

they're embarrassed by it, or they feel like they can handle it themselves. They're not always equipped to do that." Landauer recommends showing a genuine interest in what your kids are doing online. Ask about what videos they're watching, games they're playing, and who they're talking to. As they get older, they might want to share less with you, but if you show genuine interest and understanding, they're going to be more open with you, Landauer said. "Kids tend not to like long lectures, but they want to feel understood and that if they tell you things you're not going to react in a big way, but that you're going to be there as a support," Landauer said.

SIGNS A CHILD NEEDS HELP

Among this pre-teen age group, kids might seem moody or not act like themselves while they are developing their own identities. They might also struggle with the expectations and responsibilities. Parents can watch out for signs of anxiety and depression that would indicate they could use professional help. Some signs include:

- Crying more than usual
- Isolating themselves in their room. Some need for alone time is expected. It might be a sign of depression if it seems to be getting in the way of activities they enjoy or daily tasks like eating or hygiene.
- Refusal to go to school or saying they frequently feel sick.

If you have concerns about your child's mental health, mention it to their primary care provider who may be able to rule out medical reasons for the changes or refer them to a mental health care provider. Learn more about pediatric mental health services available at M Health Fairview locations.

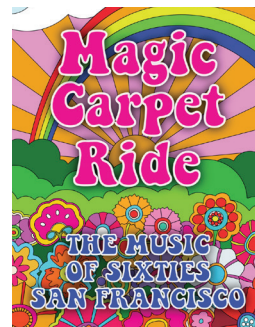


MASONIC
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

At the Ives

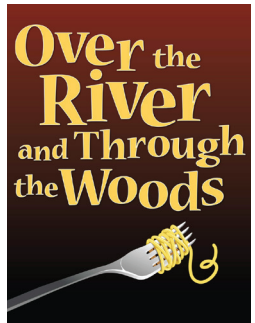


MAGIC CARPET RIDE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH @ 7:30 PM

Take a trip back to the Summer of '67 with Magic Carpet Ride, a musical journey through the electrifying era of San Francisco's Sixties sound. Relive the cultural revolution sparked by legends like The Mamas and the Papas, The Doors, Jefferson Airplane, The Byrds, and The Beatles. This dynamic band brings the spirit of the times to life with powerful vocals and exceptional musicianship, featuring hits like "California Dreamin'", "Dear Mr. Fantasy," "Hello, I Love You," "Nights in White Satin," "All Along the Watchtower," and the iconic "Magic Carpet Ride!"

Don't miss this unforgettable evening of music!



OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS

OCTOBER 9TH – NOVEMBER 3RD, 2024

A hilarious and heartwarming comedy by Joe DiPietro about Nick, who has to navigate his loving but meddling Italian-American grandparents when he decides to move across the country for a job. Expect laughs, shenanigans, and a reminder of the zaniness of family!

Showtimes:

- Wednesday & Thursday Matinees: 1 pm
- Saturdays: 7:30 pm
- Sunday Matinees: 1 pm

Meal options available with reservation.

"A hilarious family comedy loaded with laughs every step of the way." - *Star-Ledger!*



BLOOMINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – SOARING WITH TCHAIKOVSKY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, @ 2:00 PM

Join the BSO for a captivating start to its 62nd season under Music Director Manny Laureano. Enjoy Charles Ives' witty Variations on America, Ralph Vaughan Williams' enchanting The Lark Ascending featuring Michael Sutton on violin, and Tchaikovsky's powerful Symphony No. 5.

Tickets: Premium \$25, Adult \$19, Senior \$16, Students Free.

Experience a rollercoaster of emotions with these iconic pieces!



204TH ARMY BAND – SOUNDS OF FREEDOM!

NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024

Celebrate Veterans Day weekend with an unforgettable evening of music! The 204th Army Band and their performance teams will inspire you with a powerful tribute to the heroes who have served our country.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Show starts at 7:00 pm.

Admission is free, but tickets are required.

Freedom never sounded so good!

Minnesota Masonic Charities Announces Scholarship Opportunities for 2025

Applications for Minnesota Masonic Charities (MMC) 2025 scholarships open on January 1, 2025. MMC supports Minnesota students' educational goals and has awarded over \$13 million in scholarships to date. Scholarships are available for various academic achievements and career paths.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SIGNATURE SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$6,000/year (up to \$24,000)
- Awards Available: 6
- Renewability: Renewable for 3 additional years
- Eligibility:
 - Unweighted GPA of 3.9 or higher
 - ACT Composite score of 29 or higher
 - Must enroll in a four-year college/university

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$4,000/year (up to \$16,000)
- Awards Available: 11
- Renewability: Renewable for 3 additional years
- Eligibility:
 - Unweighted GPA of 3.6–3.89
 - ACT Composite score of 25 or higher
 - Must enroll in a four-year college/university

HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$3,000/year (up to \$12,000)
- Awards Available: 20
- Renewability: Renewable for 3 additional years
- Eligibility:
 - Unweighted GPA of 3.00–3.59
 - Must enroll in a four-year college/university

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$3,000/year (renewable)
- Awards Available: 30
- Renewability: May be renewable for additional years
- Eligibility:
 - Unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - Available to college freshmen, sophomores, or juniors
 - Must be a full-time student in a four-year college/university

CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$2,500/year (up to \$5,000)
- Awards Available: 40
- Renewability: Renewable for one additional year
- Eligibility:
 - Must enroll in an accredited vocational, technical, or trades school/program, or a two-year community college seeking an associate degree
 - Focus on agriculture, public safety, or healthcare

SELFLESS SCHOLARSHIP

- Award: \$5,000 (shared between nominee and winner)
- Awards Available: 1
- Eligibility:
 - Nominated by peers for outstanding character and community impact
 - Highlights the pillars of Masonry by recognizing selflessness and community service

KEY INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

- ACT Score Requirements: Only required for Signature and Legacy Scholarships. SAT scores can be converted to ACT equivalents.
- Eligibility Based on GPA and ACT: Both GPA and ACT scores must meet specific criteria for Signature or Legacy Scholarships. If GPA is too high for the Heritage Scholarship, consider applying for the Undergraduate Scholarship after completing the first college semester.
- One Scholarship Per Applicant: Students may apply for only one scholarship, based on eligibility criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

For more details, including application forms and deadlines, visit: mnmasoniccharities.org/scholarships. We are excited to help the next generation of Minnesota leaders achieve their dreams.



LEVELS of SUPPORT

All individuals who make planned gifts, bequests and unrestricted outright gifts of \$1,000 or more to the MMC Endowment fund are invited into the Pillars Society. For more information, contact John Schwietz, Chief Operating Officer, at 651.210.5240 or john.schwietz@mnmasonic.org.

PLANNED GIFTS & BEQUESTS

- ▶ **CRAFTSMAN LEVEL**
No minimum plan
- ▶ **BRONZE LEVEL**
\$50,000 minimum plan
- ▶ **SILVER LEVEL**
\$100,000 minimum plan
- ▶ **GOLD LEVEL**
\$500,000 minimum plan

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

- ▶ **CRAFTSMAN LEVEL**
\$1,000 minimum
- ▶ **BRONZE LEVEL**
\$25,000 minimum
- ▶ **SILVER LEVEL**
\$100,000 minimum
- ▶ **GOLD LEVEL**
\$250,000 minimum
- ▶ **PLATINUM LEVEL**
\$500,000 minimum

“Try to think of new ways to solve the old problems. Very often, we look at something we have and say, “I could make it better.” That’s innovation.”

STEVE WOZNAK

Charity Lodge No. 362, Campbell, CA

▶ PLATINUM MEMBERS

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William Bryan
Kevin & Susan Connor
Mark & Leila Campbell#
W.H. Deubener
Charlton & Dottie Dietz#*
Edelstein Family Foundation
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Arthur H. Anderson Trust
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Ervin Barth
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Virginia Innes
Bruce & Georgianne Johnson#
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Wallace W. & Mary Ann Nelson#
Jay J. Phiffner Trust*
James Pomush
James & Kathy Proctor+#
Joseph & Dorothy Seltzer
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Dr. Robert and Emma Willard#

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Norm Aune

Edna R. Bailey
Frank & Jenny Benkoski
Dennis & Elaine Boom
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Roselyn Brawn
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Paul Jenks
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Minnesota Historical Society
Eric & Ann Neetenbeek#
Northland Foundation+#
North Star Foundation+#
Lottie Olberg Trust
Ethelda Seaman
Robert & Jean Sederberg+#
Dale & Joyce Seubert#
George Shabatara
Donald St. Angelo
Brian Stone#
Roger J. Taylor & Nancy Fischer#
Robert & Alta Van Tries
Betty J. Walden
Donald & Irene Wallin
John P. Walsh
Wells Fargo#
Western MN Masonic Foundation

▶ BRONZE MEMBERS

Adolfson & Peterson Construction #
Andy & Eileen Anderson
Jack Andresen
Robert Barnard
Charles M. Bell+
Bonita Benson#
Jack & Carol Benson#
Howard Bogart
Jean Breuer#
Gary Bubalo+
Joe Bullyan+
Hannah Callister#
Cateract Lodge No. 2
Clinton and Emilie Christensen#
Lillian Dahlen
Dwight Day#
Mark Davis*#
William Demmers, Jr.
Timothy R. Dixon#
Sharon Donnelly
Duluth-Superior Community Foundation+
Peter & Elizabeth Ekholm #
Eddy Foundation+
Maynerd Eng+
Donald D. Erickson#
Rob & Lori Fendler#
Darcy Flora & David Neiman
Jerry & Carol Fryberger+
Anthony A. Gasser
Howard Gobart
David & Lisa Goldberg+
Steve Grindy+
Harry Habata
Edward Haberle Trust
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NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM

DULUTH MASONIC TEMPLE UPDATE

Exciting developments are underway at the historic Duluth Masonic Temple (DMT)! In 2022 and 2023, Minnesota Masonic Historic Buildings (MMHB)



collaborated with LHB

Architects of Minneapolis and Advanced Masonry Restoration of St. Paul to restore the parapet on the temple's east facade. Recently, MMHB secured an Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant from the State of Minnesota to complete the restoration of the north facade. This year, LHB Architects and Advanced Masonry Restoration have resumed work, which began in the spring. The north facade restoration includes parapet replacement, repointing of the entire north elevation, and stone repair. Although currently covered in scaffolding, we look forward to revealing the completed work this fall!

In addition, new exhibits are being prepared for the DMT. In June, five new exhibit panels detailing the temple's history were installed in the library, accompanied by portraits of three prominent Past Grand Masters of Duluth, a Masonic lithograph titled "From Darkness to Light," and a lithograph of Gerhard Schott's model of King Solomon's Temple.



Plans are also underway

for an exhibit in the DMT lounge, featuring panels and display cases that will showcase the histories of Duluth's nine Blue Lodges (Palestine Lodge, Ionic Lodge, Euclid Lodge, Lakeside Lodge, Trinity Lodge, Glen Avon Lodge, T. W. Hugo Lodge, and Lake Superior Lodge) as well as the growth of Order of the Eastern Star Chapters, Order of DeMolay Chapters, and Order of Job's Daughters Bethels in the city. The mockups for this exhibit have been approved, with installation scheduled for this fall.

If you're in the Duluth area, be sure to visit the DMT and experience these exciting updates firsthand!



Minnesota Masonic CEO Charities' John Schwietz and Grand Lodge Membership Director Reed Endersbe explore the origins, important figures, and philanthropy of Minnesota Masonry. Find out more about what Freemasonry is all about, how the longest-running fraternal organization contributed to the development of the State of Minnesota, and what practicing Freemasons are doing in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Episodes are also available on **Spotify** and **Apple Podcasts**.

Poverty's Impact on Stem Cell Transplants: A Startling Discovery

POVERTY'S IMPACT ON HUMAN BIOLOGY HAS "UNANTICIPATED PERSISTENCE," DAMAGING CELLS IN A WAY THAT ENDURES EVEN AFTER THEY ARE TRANSPLANTED INTO OTHERS.

By Jeremy Olson Star Tribune

A surprising University of Minnesota study of stem cell transplants found that cancer patients were more likely to die if the cells they received came from donors who lived in poverty or low socioeconomic neighborhoods.

The findings could one day influence how donors and recipients are matched, if other studies verify the link between donor poverty and transplant mortality, said Dr. Lucie Turcotte, a U assistant professor who researches cancer treatment outcomes. But the findings already show the dramatic impact that socioeconomic status has on personal health. If poverty can degrade stem cells enough to undermine the success of transplants, then imagine its impact on the everyday health of the donors, she said. "It's much more than just a transplant analysis," Turcotte said. "It's sort of this whole idea that poverty is impacting people down to the level of their stem cells, and that's a pretty profound way to think about it."

The study <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2404108121> analyzed outcomes over three years for 2,005 people who received transplants for blood cancers such as leukemia. It found 6.6% more deaths among recipients whose stem cell donors lived in low-income areas than among recipients whose donors lived in wealthy areas. Whether the transplant recipients themselves were rich or poor didn't change the results. The disparity existed even after factoring out differences such as race and health insurance status that already are known to affect transplant outcomes. Prior research has linked poverty to poorer diets, increased exposure to pollutants and higher stress, which can overactivate the immune system and cause unhealthy levels of inflammation in the body.

"When your mental energy and your physical energy needs to go to constantly playing Whac-a-Mole — which crisis needs addressing, which child needs what, which bill do I pay first? — that is a different kind of stress," said Marna Canterbury, vice president of community health and partnerships for HealthPartners. The Bloomington-based clinic and hospital provider has responded by routinely asking patients about poverty-related issues such as food access, housing and safety in order to connect them with charitable programs that can offer relief. This latest study takes the understanding of poverty's influence to another level, beyond causing more episodic or chronic illnesses. Low socioeconomic status



was associated with a reprogramming of cells in a way that endured, even if they were infused in other people.

"This study suggests that there is a biological effect of poverty," said Dr. Jeff Auletta, a senior vice president of health equity for the National Marrow Donor Program. Also known as NMDP, the Minneapolis-based agency <https://bethematch.org/> matches patients worldwide to the most suitable donor bone marrow and stem cells for transplants.

NMDP maintains a research database <https://cibmtr.org/> of transplant patients in partnership with the University of Wisconsin, and both participated in the U-led study. Turcotte said it was a challenge to get the findings published until they were accepted by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, an influential scientific journal. Reviewers worried about whether the findings could fuel discrimination, she said, or discourage minorities who are disproportionately affected by poverty from serving as much-needed donors.

Transplants are key steps in the treatment of blood cancers, allowing regenerative stem cells to rebuild patients' immune systems after they have been wiped out along with cancer cells by chemotherapy or radiation. Odds of success improve substantially when recipients are closely matched by key biological and demographic markers to their donors. Otherwise, the transplanted stem cells can view the patient's unfamiliar body like it would a virus and attack it — a risk known as graft-versus-host disease. But even with NMDP's global pool of 41 million potential adult donors, including 9 million American donors, it can be hard to find suitable matches, especially for patients of certain racial and ethnic minority groups. White recipients have a 79% chance of finding an ideal match, but Black recipients have only a 29% chance, according to NMDP.

New medications and transplant protocols are improving outcomes from less-than-perfect matches, but Auletta said the priority right now is finding the best donor stem cells as quickly as possible. So while the U finding is significant, he said it shouldn't deter cancer patients from pursuing transplants when needed, regardless of donors' socioeconomic status.

"The risk from delaying a transplant is going to far exceed anything revealed in this paper," he said. One limitation of the study is that it analyzed transplants that occurred on or before 2013, so it didn't account for recent improvements in transplant safety. U researchers also didn't have detailed enough data on donors to know for sure if they were rich or poor. Instead, they separated out donors in the analysis by the ZIP codes in which they lived and their local levels of unemployment, housing stability, education and household income.

Auletta said the takeaway message for now is that communities need to confront poverty, because it is changing people who endure it at a cellular level. If the link with transplant survival is further verified, he said, then tackling poverty will improve the donor pool and transplant outcomes as well.



Masonic Cancer Center
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ACKNOWLEDGING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Sue Mork



(Scan for more info)

RENT SPACE AT THE MASONIC HERITAGE CENTER



What sets the **Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center (MMHC)** apart from other event venues is the variety of meeting spaces available at our beautiful 80-acre campus in Bloomington. The MMHC is a 50,000-square-foot community space that includes the Ives Auditorium, Evergreen Hall, Dan Patch Hall, Lobby, and Executive Board Room.

- Two open floor plan events halls for up to 200
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On-Site Catering Options Available

Ask about our other catering options!

As we approach the end of September, Minnesota Masonic Charities bids a fond farewell to Sue Mork, who is retiring after an impressive 23 years of dedicated service. Over the years, Sue has played an integral role in shaping our organization, leaving a lasting impact on many aspects of our work. Her tenure with us has been marked by a commitment to the mission and a deep understanding of our values.

While transitions can be bittersweet, we acknowledge the unique contributions Sue has made and the legacy she leaves behind. We wish her all the best as she embarks on this next chapter of her life. Thank you, Sue, for your many years of service to Minnesota Masonic Charities.

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To enhance the ability of the Fraternity to deliver services and support to its members, their families and others.