

A BIT OF T.L.C

No, not tender loving care, but Teddy Loving Care. The aim of T.L.C. is to provide comfort to children in distress whilst in hospital by staff giving them a small teddy bear to cuddle. This was an initiative started by Essex Freemasons some time ago, which has now been taken up by Cyprus Freemasons.



'TEDDY CARE'

The project was launched in the Paphos area on 3rd November 2006 by W. Bro Maurice Stephenson, the co-ordinator, and volunteers from Agapinor Lodge who met with Dr Constantinides, Chief of Paphos General Hospital and members of staff to provide an initial batch of teddy bears. Additionally W. Bro Maurice arranged extensive media coverage for the project on TV, radio and in the press.

The teddy bears themselves are not expensive, being quite small, but the cost of shipping them to Cyprus is quite high. In order to cover these costs teddy bear lapel badges are being sold in Lodges and a number of retail outlets. The Matron of the Paphos General Hospital has said the children are delighted to receive the teddies and they have certainly helped to ease their suffering and distress. The children are allowed to keep the teddy bears once they leave hospital. Sales of the teddy bear badges have been very encouraging and under W. Bro Maurice's guidance it is now planned to extend the project island wide with local co-ordinators being recruited from the various Lodges.

Already an approach has been made to the general hospitals in Limassol, and it is hoped to get the hospital on the Western Sovereign Base involved in the project.

AN EXCELLENT EFFORT FROM
CYPRUS FREEMASONS

During the past 12 months the following local charitable organisations and other worthy causes have benefited from the generosity of Cyprus Freemasons.

- Toys for Underprivileged Children
- St George's Children's Home
- Cyprus War Veterans Association
- Royal British Legion
- Larnaca & Famagusta Kidney Association
- Friends of Paphos Hospice
- St John the Baptist Old Peoples Home
- Friends for Life
- Children's Ward, Paphos Hospital
- Akionides Charity, Nicosia
- Teddy Loving Care for Distressed Children
- Cyprus Association for Autistic Persons
- Disabled Blind Students
- Margarita Liasidou Home
- Arodaphnousa Palliative Care Centre, Nicosia
- The Samaritans
- Cyprus Autism Association
- Paphos Brownies
- Cyprus Alzheimer's Society

In all a total in excess of £40,000 was raised to assist these organisations.

INTERNATIONAL HELP

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD

In October the District Board of Benevolence presented a cheque for Cyp £3,500 to 'Doctors of the World' President, Dr Elias Papadopoulos at the Four Seasons Hotel in Limassol. This was in recognition of their excellent work helping those in need on both sides, at the time of the recent conflict between Israel and the Lebanon. The presentation appeared on Sigma TV, with reports in the English and Greek Cypriot press.

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Charity around the District

The Newsletter of the
District Board of Benevolence

Welcome to this Second Edition of the Newsletter in which we highlight the three major charity projects that the District is supporting during 2007/8. It is a formidable task, but we are confident that the target of over £25,000 can be met with the help of Freemasons on the island together with the support of the public. Read about these worthy causes inside.

Also, in addition to the other causes being supported by individual Lodges and Chapters, a Teddy Loving Care initiative was successfully launched in the Paphos area last year and it is planned to extend this island wide during this year. Details of the initiative are listed inside.

As I stand down I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Brethren of the District, as well as the Members of the Board of Benevolence for their continued enthusiasm and encouragement - the support I have received whilst serving as President has proved invaluable. I wish my successor, W.Bro Trevor Lace well for the future - I am sure he will continue to receive the help and support of you all.

John James,
President of the District Board of Benevolence

LODGES IN THE WEST OF THE ISLAND RAISE A RECORD AMOUNT

AN EXCELLENT YEAR FOR AGAPINOR LODGE

At a well-attended lunch held at the Coral Breeze Restaurant in December, a cheque for a very large amount of money was presented to the Alzheimer's Association of Cyprus, the main charity cause for the year. The money had been raised by holding a number of successful charity events throughout the year at which members, their families and friends worked hard in making them a success.

Other charities to benefit from the generosity of Agapinor members were the Margarita Liasidou Home, the UK New Samaritan Fund, the Paphos Brownies, and Riding and Driving for the Disabled in Paphos. W. Bro David Spink, the Master for 2006, was assisted by his wife, Georgina, in organizing many of the events, and he can be justly proud of the generous contributions made by all those involved.

PRACTICAL HELP FROM DIONYSOS LODGE

The main charity to benefit from Dionysos Lodge efforts was the Limassol Centre of the Cyprus Association for Autistic Persons. No money was actually donated to the Centre as it is equivalent to a day centre and is in constant need of everyday items. Therefore, throughout the year the Lodge has supplied window blinds, air conditioning units, a used printer supplied by the UKCA and many more items for use in the classrooms, kitchen and admin office, mostly contributed by members of the Lodge.

Additionally a substantial amount of money was presented to the Alheimers Society, raised by holding a number of successful social events, which included a Poppy Promenade Dinner and a successful Ladies Festival.

ST PAUL'S LODGE

This year St Paul's is one of the major sponsors of the supply of a Philips Zymed Holter System to the Nicosia Hospital - one of the three major projects that the District is supporting. So far the Lodge has made a considerable donation towards the project. This did not come from the Lodge Benevolence Account, but was provided by personal donations from Brethren.

The Lodge also provided financial assistance to a Brother in need. Other fund raising events are being planned for the rest of the year, the proceeds of which will go, as always, towards worthy causes in the area.

MANY WORTHY CAUSES HELPED BY LODGES IN THE EAST OF THE ISLAND

LORD KITCHENER LODGE CONTINUES TO ASSIST KIDNEY ASSOCIATION

The Lodge has continued to offer support to a number of worthy causes in their area. In particular, following on from the donation of Dialysis Machines to the Larnaca and Famagusta Kidney Association the Lodge has now supplied a much-needed Diffusion Pump for use with the machines. This is a cause close to their hearts and one which they have supported for some time.

On a more personal level the Lodge maintains a close working relationship with Mrs Demetra Tembriou of the Larnaca Welfare Office, identifying individual needs. The Lodge were able to assist two worthy causes this year - the supply of childrens beds and bedding for a family in need in Larnaca, and the donation of additional equipment for the St George's Home for local children with learning difficulties.

These individual offers of help are always much appreciated by the Welfare Department in general and Mrs Tembriou in particular.

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR OTHELLO LODGE

Once again Othello Lodge has been busy helping local people in need. They have made a contribution to the Larnaca Childrens Home, have bought four beds and mattresses for the children of a family in need, and have helped a girl with cancer to pay her medical fees. In addition they joined with Lord Kitchener Lodge in taking a number of under-privileged children on a day out to the Donkey Sanctuary at Vouni, where the children were provided with snacks and fruit drinks. They have also contributed to a headstone for a dear departed Brother.

The Lodge is planning a number of events in the near future. Among these are a main fund raising event in June and a piano recital in St Barnabas Church, Dhekelia later in the year. This will be performed by Yannis Georgiou, the son of a well known Freemason on the island, W.Bro 'Lefty' Georgiou.

Thought for the day

*"You have not lived until you have done
something for someone who can never repay you"*
John Bunyan

APOLLO LODGE TAKES TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Two very successful charity events were held during the summer in the gardens of the Lodge. In July a barn dance, complete with 'caller' was very well attended with everyone participating in the dancing. In September a quiz night was held at which over 120 people attended and a great deal of money was raised. The questions, which were set by their devoted Charity Steward, W.Bro Russ Molen, certainly caused many to scratch their heads in frustration.

These events, together with the usual Ladies Festival and the Christmas function, enabled the Master, W.Bro Bob Humphries, to present a cheque for a substantial amount of money to the Alzheimer's Association of Cyprus. The Lodge has also helped some brethren in need, assisted in the purchase of headstones for departed brethren and made contributions to the District Charity.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE PROJECTS FOR 2007/8

Of the many worthy projects put forward by Lodges the three that have been chosen by the Board of Benevolence as Projects for 2007/8 are:

1. A Zymed Holter System for Nicosia Hospital, whereby patients with heart problems are monitored on a 24 hour basis:



Think small—Realize Grand

2. The replacement of industrial washing machines and air conditioning at St Georges Home, Larnaca, for children with special needs.
3. The provision of essential equipment for the Arodaphnousa Palliative Care Centre, Nicosia.

To help raise funds the Board held a Dinner/Dance in March at which a successful raffle raised a considerable amount of money. Another Dinner/Dance, organised by Chris Cowin, the wife of our Deputy DGM, will be held later in the year where the emphasis will be on 'Dance'. On July 2nd a band concert will be held at Paphos Harbour where the Central Band of the Royal Air Force will be making a return visit.