

# Happy Holidays!

# Cornerstone

A newsletter for The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford • Volume 3 • Issue 4 • Fall 2004



## MHCO TO START MASONIC LODGE ON CAMPUS

“Orphans Lodge” or “The Children’s Lodge” ...

Whatever the name, throughout the history of The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford supporters have asked, “Why not a lodge on campus?” With the introduction of dual membership and the creation of ceremonial lodges, the time at MHCO is now. We are asking Master Masons across North Carolina and around the world to join the first-ever lodge on the campus of MHCO. After securing 150 interested Master Masons, our Home will petition the Grand Lodge of North Carolina to charter our lodge and record the first 150 Master Masons who have signed and paid dues as charter members.

Conceptually, the lodge will meet two times a year at Oxford, possibly a Saturday morning, open, conduct business, discuss future plans of the lodge, the Home, and the fraternity, and close. The lodge will also convene during special days such as St. John’s Day and Homecoming. The lodge will be built around the care and support of our Masonic Home for Children.

By chartering this lodge, Masons will have another way to take part in the growth and support of the Home. We will even be investigating the possibility of using an existing cottage on campus as a lodge building, for our use, as well as for any lodge in North Carolina to use for special

degree work or other dispensations.

To become a part of this historic lodge, simply call 1-888-505-4357 or email MHCO at crichards@mhc-oxford.org, forwarding your name, address, phone number and the current lodge(s) of which you are a member. When MHCO reaches its 150 potential member plateau, we will conduct an organizational meeting one Saturday in April or May, 2005. Every Mason in North Carolina is invited to join and become a charter member of this lodge, which will hopefully become North Carolina’s largest lodge. ♦



MHCO plans to utilize one of the existing cottages on campus to house the new Lodge. Once chartered, the lodge will assume its first project, to outfit and furnish North Carolina’s newest Masonic Center.

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## ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE RIDES BENEFIT CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY

Fall means motorcycle charity rides to and away from The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. What do these rides have in common — they generate a tremendous amount of financial support for our Home and our children.

The annual Calvin Taylor Charity Ride celebrates the life and generosity of Brother Calvin Taylor, who organized the ride prior to his tragic death while working as a North Carolina Highway Patrolman. The ride starts in multiple locations and ends at the Stompin' Grounds in Maggie Valley. The ride is organized by the Masons of District 40 and proceeds from the ride benefit our children's home. Toys collected on the ride go to area hospitals, fire departments, and police departments.

The Eureka Charity Ride is held the second Saturday of each September, and for the past five years, chairman Jerry Edwards of Eureka Lodge No. 283 and his friends and supporters have come from all points north, east, south, and west to meet and travel from Raleigh to Oxford. The ride includes

NASCAR Show Cars from Hendrick Motorsports and Dale Earnhardt, Inc. The ride also included a drag bike from our Brothers in Bessemer City, NC. The 13th Masonic District hosts a cookout on the same day for the children and the riders. In its five-year history, the ride has generated over \$50,000. ♦



The girls of Cottage Six were treated to a wonderful weekend during their visit to the Calvin Taylor Charity Ride. Not only did Brother Gary Todt of Dillsborough secure accommodations at the Daniel Boone Outpost and Camp, they were recognized at the Stompin' Grounds and at Sunday morning's church service with Tiny Hooper and Past Grand Master Charles Cathey.

## LITTLE MISS CHOOSES MHCO FOR ANOTHER YEAR



The Queens of the 2004-2005 Little Miss North Carolina Court, spending a Sunday at MHCO. The Queens attended church service with their families, had lunch, and toured the campus for the first time since they were crowned in July.

The newly crowned Little Miss North Carolina Queens and their parents have generously chosen MHCO as their annual charity for the year 2004-2005. This is the sixth year in a row that the pageant winners have chosen the Home as their charity.

The dedication and hard work of previous pageant queens has contributed more than \$50,000 in donations for our Home. The queens hold fundraisers throughout the state, including raffles, bake sales,

golf tournaments, charity auctions, and various corporate giving programs. The queens and their families visit the Home throughout the year and on holidays and participate in the St. John's Day parade.

The Little Miss North Carolina State Pageant, now in its eighteenth year, is a scholarship pageant for contestants ages 15 months to 18 years, promoting excellence in personal development, scholastic achievement and the performing arts. Contestants compete for more than \$20,000 for scholarships and awards. For more information on Little Miss NC, visit their website [www.littlemissnc.com](http://www.littlemissnc.com). Our special thanks to the queens and their parents for their hard work, dedication, and support, throughout the year. ♦

## FELLOWSHIP LODGE CONTINUES LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF GOLF TOURNAMENT AND GIVING

The brethren of Fellowship Lodge No. 687 of Durham, North Carolina have held their long-standing golf tournament for so many years, we've lost count! The tremendous tournament has had one thing in common over the 15 plus years — it generates a tremendous amount of money for our Home. Another special touch of this gift is that it is hand-delivered. It was delivered this year by Secretary Horace Lane (left) and this year's master, Cecil Goodwin. They are pictured here, presenting the check to Brother Doug McConnell, administrator. ♦



## ROUND PEAK DELIVERS ANNUAL FALL FRUIT DONATION

Fall wouldn't be fall without a generous donation of fresh apples from Brother Dale Hanks on behalf of Round Peak Lodge No. 616 of Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Brother Hanks (left) and Ms. Rhonda Easter delivered this year's donation straight to the lockers of the cafeteria. Brother Hanks travels to the Home throughout the year to make fruit and vegetable donations, which are enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Brother Hanks, Ms. Easter, and the members and families of Round Peak Lodge No. 616. ♦



## YEAR-END GIVING, GIFTS TO BE DELIVERED OR MAILED BY DECEMBER 31

As the end of the year draws near, many pause to review, reflect, and plan for the future. Remembering our Home and all charities close to your heart are part of this process. It is important to discuss and plan, especially with the many choices one has today, about what to give and, just as important, when to give it. Remember, no matter how carefully you plan, your gifts must be completed by December 31, 2004, to go towards your 2004 income taxes as a deduction.

Remember to consult your financial planner, accountant, or legal counsel and contact our Home if you have any questions regarding gifts in 2004.

If you haven't already, make 2005 the year you make your will and start thinking about how changes in federal estate and gift taxes can benefit your family in the future or how they can benefit our Home or other charities who will need your support in the future. ♦

## CHRISTMAS 2004 — A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**Cornerstone** is a quarterly publication produced by The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford for our friends and supporters.

**Editor:** Chris Richardson

**Writers:** Chris Richardson

**Graphics/Layout:** Sharon Autrey,  
Faye Edwards

Please direct questions or comments to Chris Richardson at 1-888-505-4357 or [crichards@mhc-oxford.org](mailto:crichards@mhc-oxford.org).

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As hard as it is to believe, Christmas and the Holidays are upon us again, and the Children and staff are busy getting ready for celebrations and parties and special events.

Christmas is a very special time at a children's home and emotions can run very high, both for those who get to go home with families and for those who remain here with us.

This year, I would ask that you try to put some time aside to remember our children and their families, and for our dedicated staff who work hard at trying to keep spirits high and emotions in check. Your prayers and support during this time of the year truly represent the very best of what the Holiday season is all about.

From all of your Masonic Family in Oxford, here's wishing you and yours a wonderful

Christmas, a Happy New Year and a joyful Chanukah. ♦

## ANNUAL BUDGET CALENDAR CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

The MHCO annual budget Calendar Campaign began October 22, 2004. This year's calendar is themed "The Eyes of A Child" and contains photos of children. Proceeds from the calendar will go towards the operating budget for 2005. The campaign's goal is \$250,000, one gift at a time. If you haven't done so already, please consider a gift of \$35, \$55 or \$100 for the daily operation of our Home. This gift will allow us to continue to serve and meet the needs of our children, every day, for their lives and their futures. And thanks to those who have already made a difference through their gift. ♦

## WAKE FOREST LODGE USES "ROYAL" GIFT TO HELP CHILDREN

The Masons of Wake Forest Lodge No. 282 of Wake Forest, North Carolina, knew exactly what to do when they received a limited edition Richard Petty autographed Grand Prix, which was generously donated by Mrs. Faye Helms, whose departed husband, Bill, was a member of Wake Forest Lodge.

The members of the lodge decided to raffle "the King of stock car racing's" mint condition vehicle, which was numbered and came with the original purchase sticker. Thanks to the generosity of the DDGM of the 14th Masonic District, Al Bonner, Jr., who loaned the lodge members a car hauler, the car was shown at race tracks, town fairs, car shows, and other public events throughout North Carolina and Virginia. The drawing for the vehicle was held at the conclusion of St. John's

Day 2004.

Mr. Pat Thompson, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was the winner of the red, white, and Petty blue machine. After presenting the keys to the winner, Wake Forest announced that over \$21,000 had been raised. The tremendous gift could not have been made possible without the generosity of Mrs. Faye Helms, the hard work, time, and commitment of the Masons of Wake Forest Lodge, and DDGM Al Bonner. Also, we give special thanks to all those who purchased raffle tickets.

Wake Forest Lodge No. 282 is a special supporter of the Home throughout the year, conducting cookouts and lending its members to the annual fireworks display during Homecoming in October. On behalf of the staff, Board of Directors, and children, a very spe-

cial thanks to Mrs. Helms, Mr. Bonner, and the Masons of Wake Forest Lodge No. 282 for their continued gracious and strong support of our Home and the lives of our children. ♦



Members of Wake Forest Lodge join Mrs. Faye Helms in presenting raffle winner Pat Thompson the keys to his new limited edition Richard Petty Grand Prix. Pictured are (L to R front) Jerry Warren, Dewarner Duke, and Chris Yarleets; (L to R back) Henry Lowery, David Davis, Pat Thompson, Faye Helms, Ameila Helms, Bill Brendle, Chris Richardson, and Horace Macon.