

## **PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER'S REPORT**

As can be seen from the first set of figures, Brethren and their dependants have continued to receive much needed assistance in the past year from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, a total of £747,622, but overall the amount distributed was down by £170,555 on the previous year. This has been mainly due to the trend of increased benefits, employment opportunities or the death of the beneficiary. There has also been a reduction in the number of applications made.

### **Financial Support.**

A reduction once again on the amount, down by £4,146, and the number of beneficiaries receiving assistance (55 the previous year). I might add that although the number of enquiries has increased, either to myself or the MCF direct, the number of actual applications processed has come down. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, only six have been made for financial support. The figure shown of £123.024 includes £14k donated to local Hospices.

### **Family – Education.**

The total number of beneficiaries remains virtually unchanged, but the amount distributed has fallen, once again, by £14,796 during the past year. There has not been any funding for Talent Aid.

### **Health.**

With the current situation within the N.H.S. in Wales, with long waiting lists for O.P.D. appointments and for surgery, this Province keeps the M.C.F. busy. Despite this, there has been a reduction of 26 applications during the past year, leading on to a reduction of over £127k in grants.

### **Family – Residential Care.**

We are all familiar with the A.E.P.O.W.C. providing residential and nursing care which includes a unit for residents with dementia. There has been a reduction of six residents that are related to our Province being supported, corresponding with a reduction of just over £24k.

### **Summary.**

Not a 'smiley face' as we are witnessing a reduction year on year for the past few years, and not a sad face as there are still a significant number of people being supported. However, I feel that there are still a number of Brethren and dependents in need, but are totally unaware of the support available. I would urge all Lodge Almoners to keep their eyes and ears open when on pastoral visits, and if necessary contact myself or the M.C.F. if they find anyone in distress. I would say that I am still willing to visit any Lodge that would like an update on the changes in the process and the help available.

**The overall figure of £747,622 distributed equates to approximately £130 per Brother.** I have no doubt that with a covenant for the Festival, and other contributions within the Lodges over the year, this amount is being paid back by the majority of Brethren. If you are not one of them, please give further thought on this issue.