

a family for the future



for our...

children and alumni

another family to count on with which to grow

donors

the opportunity to grow our Home's family on a solid foundation

history

continuing to build memories & share experiences with family & community

Annual
Achievement
Report

2015



board of directors

chairman's message

Dan C. Rice, Chairman

a family for the future

It seems that our world is constantly at war or civil strife is tearing people, religions and even nations apart. I love a quote from the late Mother Theresa, "What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." This seems like such a simple statement but it is very profound when looked at closer.

The great comic George Burns said that "If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you might as well make it dance." As we closely examine history of family at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (MHCO), we will readily admit to many mistakes during our 143 history. It is always easy to look with hindsight at history and point out what could or should have been done in a particular circumstance. Things have changed so much since 1873 when the first children arrived at our home. Back then it was about providing food and shelter. Now it is about so much more: education, vocation, religious training, medical care, emotional stability, love, etc. Today, our model of care is built around good family models. The late Princess Diana said "Family is the most important thing in the world," and I agree with her.

Many of you may ask how does family apply to children living in a children's home? Desmond Tuto says "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them." The children and staff at Oxford find themselves living together as a big family. The dictionary defines family as "The basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing the children; also: any various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family." The Urban Dictionary gives what I believe to be a more fitting definition; "Family – People you love and who love you back."

Family is also "All the descendants of a common ancestor." Having spent almost ten years as a student at Oxford, I can tell you that the children and staff become a real family over time. The Alumni of our Home consider themselves to be one big family. They do not always agree, but if any one of them needs help the Alumni will respond immediately. We must take care of our family wherever and however necessary. It does not matter if the person that needs help is from the class of 1930 or the class of 2015 because we are all common ancestors of the MHCO. There are approximately 10,000 of us that have lived at the children's home over the last 143 years. I calculated how many alumni and their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren have lived in NC. If you add this up you have 10,000 original children who lived at the home and conservatively 390,000 to 490,000 descendants born of the original group for a minimum total of 400,000 to 500,000 direct descendants of the MHCO. This 143 year old big family gets bigger every year.

Family is not about the past.....it is about the future. It is about what and who comes next and how we can make it better for them. "Each day of our lives we make deposits in the

memory banks of our children," says Charles R. Swindoll. The Masonic Home for Children is about children.....how to make their lives better, safer, healthier, more productive and more enjoyable. The children we serve come to us with many issues, but we work diligently to help them overcome those issues. This is expensive but it is what family does! Family sacrifices whatever it takes to help one another. Our goal is that every child that leaves our care has been given the things necessary for them to succeed in the future. The future of our family depends on what is done for the children in our care today. We want the children to be disciplined with love and yet pushed, pulled and prodded to do their very best so that their positive memory banks will help them with their own children someday and the future family will just keep on growing.

Our MHCO family also includes the wonderful people that give of their resources to help us fund our small part of God's work at Oxford. The Masons of NC have continued to help children at the MHCO for more than 143 years. They do this every year through personal donations, fund raisers and legacy gifts. The people of NC continue to help in so many different ways. The Alumni also continues to support the programs at the MHCO. All of these wonderful people are part of the present and future family at MHCO. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support.

The MHCO family future looks bright going into 2016. Our finances are in good order and have been fully audited for 2015. We have a very qualified staff with great leadership. Our Board of Directors is extremely well rounded with qualified professionals in many specific areas related to our home and they serve with enthusiasm and integrity.

The greater family at the MHCO, which includes the children, staff, alumni, Masons and the people of NC, can be assured that great things are happening at the MHCO. The Board Vision Committee continues to look into the future for the best ways we can collaborate with other groups to benefit our children or expand our mission for the future. Our mission is to help children in the best way possible with the assets that God has on loan with us. We continue to look at different ways to utilize what we have to best serve children.

Please join the wonderful family of the MHCO and help us continue with God's work. We need your support and your prayers as we move into the future. We may not be able to achieve World Peace as Mother Theresa alluded to in my first paragraph but we can make the world a better place for a few children at a time and they can use those memories to make the world a better place for their children, grandchildren and then those grandchildren can do the same. In just a few generations we have made a huge difference for a large number of children.....I can say this definitely works because I am one of those children that grew up at Oxford and now has grandchildren.

administration

administrator's message

Kevin Otis, Administrator



Everywhere I go I encounter someone whose life has been impacted by North Carolina's first Children's Home. Over the 143 year history approximately 10,000 children have walked life on these sacred grounds and continued their travels equipped with the lessons and love they learned. The historical impact of the family created over generations is evident through the amazing achievements by the Alumni and less evident, but equally important, in personal growth and the development of individual family systems. We are a family; with all the wonders, joys, stresses, tears, and resilience that families have to offer. With all due respect of the storied history, the concept of family should always focus on the present and future.

Today the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford continues to provide children a safe and caring home, resources, and guidance so that they may experience a rewarding childhood, learn how to be a responsible adult, and appreciate all that life has to offer. 2015 was a very good year in several aspects. MHCO was honored to celebrate the graduation of seven High School seniors and one VGCC Business Administration Associate Graduate. Summer Academy, a new program service, was developed for residents entering high school. Summer Academy provides the youth with an understanding of various business and educational opportunities. Additionally, twenty-one kindergarten through eighth grade residents, along with seven staff's children, attended Summer Enrichment. The theme was "Summer Learning Fun" and eight of our high school students helped run the program. For most of 2015 all of the Independent Living residents were employed within the community. These experiences along with the daily guidance, processing, and activities provided supports to help our children of all ages grow and develop.

Additionally the census increased overall by 11.8%, with Direct Care increasing by 16% and many of the children coming into care under the age of six. Feedback from the Resident Advisory Council sparked initiatives such as the Lighting Capital Campaign and Security Patrol. The need to feel safe is a basic need and these two program developments have helped significantly to improve the safety on campus in a world so rife with serious issues. Financially, 2015 was also a good year as revenues were above the fifteen year average and the fifth highest total in the last ten years. Staff continued to be good stewards as operating expenses were 4% below budget.

While the atmosphere on campus is of a large family or small neighborhood, the family of support extends far beyond these grounds. The achievements listed above and so many

others not shared are only possible with the involvement of our "extended" family of Alumni, Masons, and Friends of the Home. MHCO was privileged to host the Masonic Eastern Star Gathering; Wilkerson College; Masonic Communities and Services Association; and the District Officers' Conference. These opportunities for others to experience the family at MHCO are important for many reasons and contribute to the successes we realized in 2015. Many strive to visit campus, but are distanced by space, time, and commitments. They often connect to the Home, by providing supports in their local communities. Your impact is seen on the smiles of the children's faces as they celebrate birthdays, holidays, and all of life's milestones.

We recognize the past year by considering the impact on the family for the future. Role modeling by the staff and others provide the opportunity for children to learn better ways to manage, cope, and develop. The children take the lessons you provide and put them into action in their own lives. In 2015 the children helped package meals for local families; washed vehicles to honor our public service providers and support the Great Human Race; and went caroling at WhiteStone. Individually our older youth volunteer at the animal shelter and Oxford Fire Department. In response to seeing distraught families on the streets asking for help, our older ladies prepared care packages including; bottled water, snacks, hygiene items, some change, and a note of encouragement to hand out when they travel. Our children are learning from you that through the practice of giving, we in turn receive so much more.

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is a family, with a storied history and far reach. The Home also represents a family of today learning life's lessons and building upon the foundations of success emphasized through good works for 143 years; education; vocation; spirituality; recreation; respect; and a sense of personal responsibility. Today we are collectively the family building on the future, for everything you do for the Home you do for your children. Every fish fry, BBQ, and chicken dinner is literally feeding your children at the Home. Every charity ride mile, t-shirt, and raffle ticket spreads the word of God's work being accomplished and helps guide families in need to your Home. Every donation toward the lighting project shares your light with our children and helps comfort them.

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is a family for the future.....these children's future, their children's future, and the future of our society. Thank you for being our family's future.

Kevin Otis
Administrator

The Masonic Home for
Children at Oxford is
a family, with a storied
history and far reach.

residential direct care and independent living programs

residential direct care

The Direct Care residential program provides a safe, nurturing, family-like environment for children from infancy through 18 years of age. Staff assists youth with their daily needs, teaching independent living skills, building positive relationships and memories, and providing an environment that allows for the constant development of the residents' social, spiritual, physical, emotional, and academic growth and goals. Daily family living activities in our ten Direct Care cottages includes helping children and youth manage their behavior, learning how to make better life choices; improving self-esteem, completing chores; learning personal care of room and hygiene; attending and completing cottage family meetings, recreation, homework and tutoring; and utilizing school, employment, and counseling resources. Daily life and activities allows for many teachable moments with the children and provides opportunities to practice these new skills and strengths in a variety of settings – in the cottage engaging with other youth, working out problems, with a visiting donor group, at a new job, in a club at school, or taking a trip to a new place.

CLIENTS SERVED	2015	2014	2013
Admissions	28	14	29
Discharges	17	16	23
Clients Served	65	56	68
Days in Care	14,362	15,025	17,395
Average Served/Day	39.35	41.16	47.66

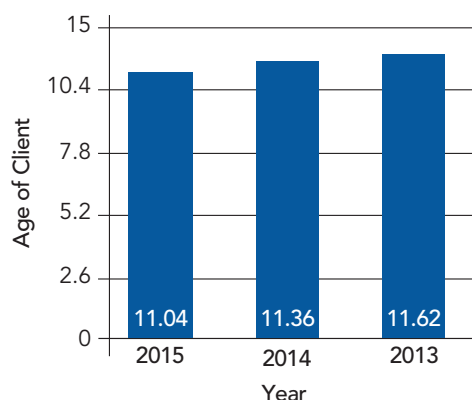
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CLIENTS	In Care at Beginning of Period	In Care at End of Period
0 - 5	5	12
6 - 12	11	13
13 - 17	18	16
18 - Above	3	2
TOTAL	37	43

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY (IN MONTHS)	In Care at Beginning of Period	In Care at End of Period
0 - 1	4	0
2 - 3	2	7
4 - 6	1	9
7 - 9	1	2
10 - 12	5	3
13 - 18	1	1
19 - 24	3	2
25 - 36	3	3
37 - 60	10	4
61 - 120	7	12
Over 121	0	0
TOTAL	37	43

GENDER	Male	Female	TOTAL
In Care at Beginning of Period	21	16	37
Admitted	12	16	28
Discharged	5	12	17
In Care at End of Period	25	18	43
Total Served During Period	33	32	65
Total Served Transferred to ILP	3	2	5

ETHNICITY	In Care at Beginning of Period	Admitted	Discharged	In Care at End of Period	Total Served During Period
African-American	15	18	7	23	33
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
Caucasian	16	9	10	15	25
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Racial	6	1	0	5	7
Native American	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	37	28	17	43	65

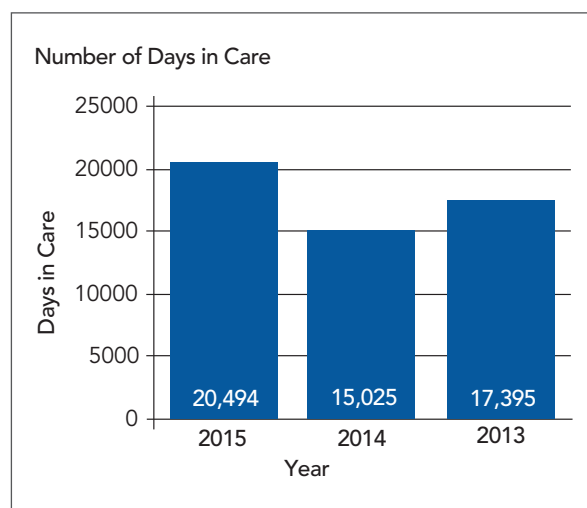
Average Age of Clients Served



Here are a few highlights of resident activities in 2015:

- Campus Family Science Night – to encourage interest in the sciences,
- Public Service Appreciation Day – local public service personnel join us for lunch, a car wash, and some treats,
- Dog Therapy Groups – to provide animal interaction for those that miss their pets,
- Horsepower Harvest Day – to build self-esteem,
- Talent Showcase – where our youth had an opportunity to show their hidden abilities,
- Christmas caroling at Whitestone Masonic and Eastern Star Retirement Community, to interact with our “sister” agency, and
- One female teen resident went to Costa Rica as part of the Applesseed Expedition with an education and community service focus.

The residents and Child Care Workers are supported by a network of staff that assists with spiritual development, recreation, education, medical needs, development of skills, and case management. In addition, support is provided for the children and their families to help resolve issues which led to their out-of-home placement, provide counseling and goal management, and encourage continuous relationship building with the goal of reuniting children with their families or transition into an independent living situation.



DISCHARGE REASON	2015	2014	2013
Higher Level of Care	4	5	6
According to Plan of Care	4	0	0
MHCO Request	1	2	4
Custodian's Request with Agency Agreement	5	7	5
Custodian's Request without Agency Agreement	1	1	4
Client's Request	2	1	4
TOTALS	17	16	23

DISCHARGE TO	2015	2014	2013
Parent(s)	4	7	11
Adoptive Parent(s)	1	1	1
Other Relatives	3	2	4
Non Relatives	0	0	0
Department of Social Services	7	4	5
This Agency	0	0	0
Self	2	2	2
Undetermined	0	0	0
Other Institutional Program	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	16	23

COUNTY OF REFERRAL 2015 (ALL COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA UNLESS SPECIFIED)	NO. OF CLIENTS REFERRED
Alamance	1
Craven	1
Cumberland	1
Davidson	4
Durham	7
Edgecombe	3
Franklin	19
Granville	6
Halifax	1
Nash	1
Northampton	2
Pasquotank	1
Perquimans	1
Person	4
Union	1
Vance	7
Wake	3
Wayne	1
Wilson	1
TOTAL CLIENTS REFERRED	65



Independent Living

Many of our youth decide upon graduation from high school to transition into our Independent Living Program. This program focuses on youth, 18 years of age through 21, who have graduated from high school or those who have not been in high school for some time and wish to complete their GED. It is the goal of the program to assist these young adults with

completing a college degree, become successfully employed, and have productive daily lives through services that include:

- Individual assessments to determine independent living needs and case management goals, apartment style living supported by a Resident Advisor, training, support, guidance in education planning, adult living skills, career planning, employment, social/support networks, and transitions.

Program participants begin their GED completion or degree work at Vance Granville Community College with the original goal of completing a two year degree. However, individuals who want to obtain a four year degree can stay with the program, if they are still within the appropriate age range.

In 2015, MHCO had one resident complete his Associates in Applied Science in Business Administration at Vance Granville Community College and complete the Independent Living program. He has transitioned to his new home and job with a local business in Oxford.

SUMMARY	
In Program at Beginning of Period	14
Admissions During Period	5
Transferred from Direct Care	5
Discharges During Period	10
Clients Served During Period	19
In Program, End of Period	14
Days of Care During Period	6132
Percent of Total Days	100.00%
Avg. Number of Residents Per Day	16.80
Avg. Age of Clients Served	20.39

DISCHARGE WHY	
According to Agency Recommendations – Completed Program	1
At Agency's Request	4
At Client's Request	5
TOTAL	10

ETHNICITY	In Care at Beginning of Period	Admitted	Transferred	Discharged	In Care at End of Period	Total Served During Period
African-American	5	4	3	7	4	9
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caucasian	8	0	0	2	6	8
Hispanic	1	0	0	1	0	1
Multi-Racial	0	1	2	0	4	1
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	14	5	5	10	14	19

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE AT MHCO	In Care at Beginning of Period	In Care at End of Period
0 – 1 Month	1	0
2 – 3 Months	1	2
4 – 6 Months	1	1
7 – 9 Months	0	1
10 – 12 Months	0	1
13 – 18 Months	3	2
19 – 24 Months	2	0
25 – 36 Months	2	2
37 – 60 Months	2	2
61 – 120 Months	0	1
Over 120 Months	2	2
TOTAL	14	14

COUNTY OF ORIGINAL REFERRAL	
Durham	1
Franklin	1
Granville	5
Macon	1
Orange	1
Perquimans	1
Person	1
Rockingham	1
Wake	3
Vance	4
TOTAL CLIENTS REFERRED	19

(continued from page 6)

GENDER	In Care at Beginning of Period	Admitted	Transferred from Direct Care	Discharged	In Care at End of Period	Total Served During Period
Males	6	2	3	3	8	8
Females	8	3	2	7	6	11
TOTAL	14	5	5	10	14	19

wheels 4 hope — a community partner agency

One of the most important resources that a young adult needs to succeed is access to transportation for work and school. This is not an easy acquisition for most young adults without support. Our partnership with Wheels 4 Hope continued throughout 2015. Four of our Independent Living residents received Wheels 4 Hope vehicles. Getting one of these cars instills a new level and feeling of independence for our young adults and empowers them to keep moving forward toward their ultimate goal – independence in the community. This agency has several locations throughout North Carolina – Raleigh, Greensboro, and Asheville. MHCO developed a partnership with Wheels 4 Hope located in Raleigh. Wheels 4 Hope repairs donated vehicles and helps other human service support agencies match these vehicles to individuals and families in need of transportation.

To get more information on Wheels 4 Hope, please visit their website at www.wheels4hope.org.



An excited recipient of a new vehicle thanks to Wheels 4 Hope.



Referral Information

Referrals to The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford are made by families, schools, childcare agencies, state agencies, members of Masonic Lodges, and other private sources. Starting an admission to the Home can be as simple as calling 1-888-505-4357. After each call a pre-placement meeting is scheduled, if appropriate, with the parent, guardian, legal custodian or young adult (if 18 years or older and making a self-referral). A determination of the appropriateness of the child's admission and MHCO's ability to meet the child's needs is made through coordination among a team of program and administration staff.

MHCO does not take legal custody of any child, allowing parents and other guardians to retain custody while in our care. MHCO expects the parents or guardians to participate in the plan of care and counseling with the children, enhancing prospects of reunification.

The Masonic Home for Children currently has 74 staff members. Within the Administration, Direct Care Program, and Independent Living Program there are 62 full and part-time employees which are 84% of our workforce. The School of Graphic Arts has 7 full time and 2 part time employees. The Maintenance Department has 3 full time staff.

The Home is blessed to have full time and part time personnel who strive each day to uphold the mission through their everyday job duties. All staff receives annual in-service training which covers a range of topics to include MHCO Policies, CPR & First aid, cultural diversity, and North Carolina Interventions (NCI) techniques. In 2015 the staff logged over 2,000 hours in training that included in-service, job specific, and personal enhancement opportunities. A major focus in training during 2015 (and carrying through 2016) has centered on increasing staff's knowledge of trauma-informed practices and the effects of poverty on children in the child welfare system. The goal being to ensure that staff understands the effects that trauma (abuse, neglect, separation from family, etc.) and poverty have on residents, both physically and emotionally, and how to implement strategies to help residents cope and carry on with their daily development. Beyond these required trainings and daily job duties, MHCO staff gives through the donation of their time, services, and money to other charitable organizations. Through encouraging residents to participate in these charitable acts, the staff teaches about being a part of a community and helping those around you. Residents exemplified these teachings by participating in a Public Service Appreciation day, an ACIM food drive, and helping the Oxford Rotary Club

with a Food Pack-a-Thon where over 200 food boxes were packed with non-perishable items. The food boxes stayed in our community and MHCO even received some to help our families.

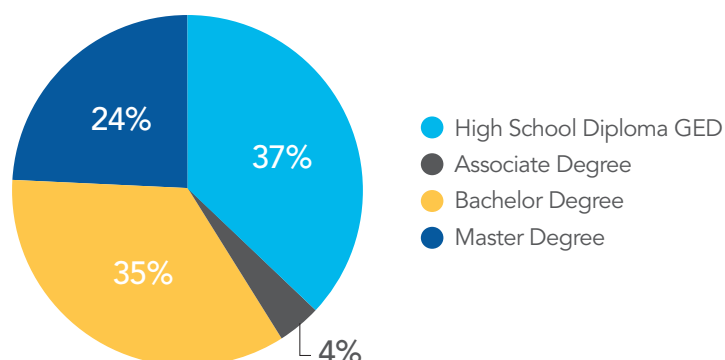
Our staff members provide for the needs of the youth through their role in the program model. Each component of the program model, to include direct supervision and leadership, spiritual development, medical services, recreation, clothing, and nutrition needs are met by our dedicated staff.

Child Care Worker (CCW) couples make up the largest percentage of program staff. These dedicated couples provide for the daily care and needs of the residents. All CCW couples must be married, have a high school diploma or GED, be at least 21 years of age, and complete a background check, annual physical and Tuberculosis screening. In 2015, the average length of employment for Child Care Worker couples was 7 years 3 months. Currently, our longest employed Child Care Worker couple has served the children of our Home for almost 8 years and the newest couple having been with us for only 5 months. CCW couples,

Resident Advisors, and Program Supervisory Staff are required to complete the University of Oklahoma's Residential Child & Youth Care Professional Certificate Program (RCYCP). Our goal is to have 80% of the required staff certified at all times. This goal was met, with 88% of the staff certified, even with adding 5 new staff during the second half of 2015. In addition to RCYCP certification, some program staff continues their formal education through pursuit of an Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's degree, or a professional license.

The Home is blessed to have full time and part time personnel who strive each day to uphold the mission through their everyday job duties.

Educational Degrees Held by Program Staff*



*Program staff includes Direct Care and Independent Living.

school of graphic arts

2015 annual report

The year 2015 proved to be a year of transition for the School of Graphic Arts. With staff changes and the promise of new equipment and procedures the year proved to be both challenging and promising for what lay ahead. We had not experienced any staff turnover in many years, being very blessed to have qualified veterans to fill every position within the department. Also, we had been fortunate in recent years to have acquired new equipment in many areas of the facility, having purchased or leased new equipment for the pressroom, bindery, mailroom, and copy center.

Our mailroom supervisor Steve Bowman, who had 24 years work experience at the Masonic Home for Children, retired in 2015. He leaves behind a void with his extensive knowledge of Postal Regulations that were necessary in keeping our facility up to date with important rules and requirements. Mr. Bowman became a friend to everyone who grew to know him and respected the way in which he presented himself to staff and students alike. The moral compass he provided was an inspiration to everyone with whom he came in contact.



The staff of the School of Graphic Arts.

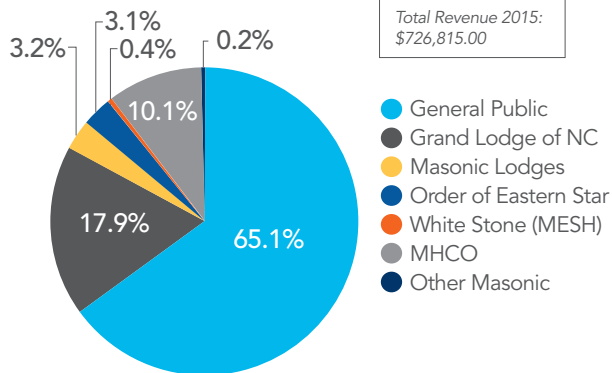
The year also presented a bold new direction for the School of Graphic Arts as we were afforded the opportunity to acquire new equipment and technologies. During the year we purchased and began the initial stage of implementation of Printers Plan. Once installed on everyone's computer we will have a system that records, tracks, and monitors print jobs on a real time

basis. Once it is completely utilized it will be a significant part of every task we perform daily, from job entry to delivery and invoicing. We were also notified by a Mason in Virginia that he was closing his print operation and would be donating all of his equipment to our facility. Most of the equipment offered will actually be upgrades allowing us to move forward in many areas of the shop without having to purchase new equipment. We had

also expressed interest to the Board of Directors of our desire to obtain a 3-D Printer to enhance our student experience as well as offering a potentially new revenue stream as we present this new technology to our customers. Our largest customer, Altec Industries, has already shown some real interest in utilizing this technology going forward.

Revenue for the year held steady with the Masonic Grand Lodge of North Carolina being our top source of income, overtaking Altec Industries who had held that position for last few years. We understand this is primarily due to the timing in which the Grand Lodge has a need for certain publications which provides us with substantial income. We feel like the economy has recovered from a recent downturn and most print operations are experiencing an increase in their revenue. We continue to reach out to the Masonic Lodges in the state to increase their support of our facility.

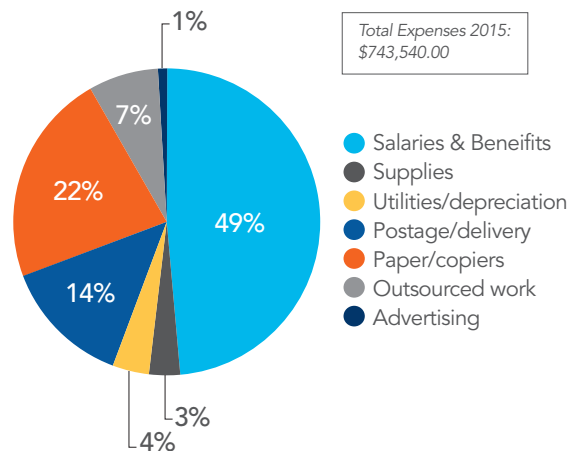
SGA Revenue 2015



top ten customers in 2015

- Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- Altec Industries
- Revlon
- Masonic Home for Children
- Order of the Easter Star
- Union Bank & Trust
- Merritt, Webb, Wilson & Caruso
- Bandag-Bridgestone, Inc
- American Plott Association
- NC Genealogical Society

SGA Expenses 2015



those who made a difference...

2015 annual report

21st District

DDGM Frank Wanko (L) is joined by members of various Lodges from the 21st Masonic District in presenting three different donations, designated for three different needs to be fulfilled at MHCO. Their gifts provided for a trip to Busch Gardens for our ILP residents, a tool shed for our Children's Community Garden, and a trip to the Imax Theater for a Summer Day Trip. The specific needs were taken by Brother Wanko to the Lodges throughout the District, allowing brethren to contribute as a district, while providing funds that made these individual items and events (and the memories made by them) happen!



"The importance of their gifts provided for a trip to Busch Gardens for our ILP residents, a tool shed for our Children's Community Garden, and a trip to the Imax Theater for a Summer Day Trip"

Cobb Visitors

Seeing is believing as the Home hosted a number of different groups on campus in 2015. One of the greatest gifts can come as visitors schedule trips for tours, meetings, or organizational visits revealing the Home to new visitors and possibly new supporters. This includes families, children, civic organizations, and other groups, who without a visit or schedule event, were not aware of the mission that continues for children apart from their families at North Carolina's first home for children.



Diversity Day

For the 5 year anniversary the Home had a wonderful celebration of Native American culture with a themed lunch featuring traditional Native American dishes and foods prepared by the children of the Home. Following lunch the residents from each cottage provided educational presentations featuring various aspects of Native American heritage. The highlight of the day came as the dancers and drummers of the local Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of Indians performed and Mrs. Sharon Berrun, Youth Services Director of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe who helped organize the event, provided a presentation on the history of the tribe and its importance to the state. The day included displays of artifacts donated by the tribe.



...for our kids in 2015!

2015 annual report

41st District

Masons From the 41st Masonic District Travel to Oxford with a special Monument and Message. Seeing an article in the NC Mason, regarding recent improvements to the Children's Home Cemetery, "God's Half-Acre", Past Master, Worshipful Brother Ronnie Smith of Clay Lodge No. 301 had an idea. In reading of the recent contribution of a new fence, courtesy of Past Grand Master Dewey Preslar, Jr. and his wife Terrie, Brother Smith was moved by the generosity given to the Home and to such a sacred place. He knew the brethren of the 41st district could join Brother Preslar in his efforts to honor this place and those young lives buried there. With the generous support of his District and after several meetings it was decided that a "part of the land" of this group of Lodges would be delivered to the cemetery, there to honor those unnamed graves of children. Over 80 years ago, the cemetery's markers had to be engraved with "Records Lost" after a fire destroyed the only accounts listing those lost to flu or other illness in the care of the home from 1873 to 1920. Learning of this special group of "unnamed" children, Brother Smith found his way to give back to those whose final resting place as a child was the Masonic Home for Children. Brethren from Clay, Cherokee, Marble Springs, Montgomery, and Andrews Lodges accompanied a beautiful piece of blue marble, which was unearthed from the mountains of Marble, NC.



With the generous support of his District and after several meetings it was decided that a "part of the land" of this group of Lodges would be delivered to the cemetery, there to honor those unnamed graves of children.

Campus "Thunder" Means Friends and Fundraising

For several years, the roar of motorcycles has been accompanied by those riders, here to deliver charity and goodwill. For the fall, our friends at Eureka Lodge No. 283 traveled to campus for the 18th time, raising over \$24,000 adding to their incredible six-figure total during those eighteen years. Across the state, the brethren of Western NC held their 15th ride, honoring the late Mason and State Trooper, Calvin Taylor, who lost his life in the line of duty all while he prepared the first ever "Calvin E. Taylor Memorial Masonic Toy Ride for Kid's". New in 2015, members of the Raleigh Harley Owner's Group (H.O.G.) made their first ever "Spring Easter Ride" to MHCO, delivering Easter fun for the residents of the Home. Supported by the management and staff of Ray Price Harley-Davidson of Raleigh, the group made their initial ride to MHCO, adding to an incredible history of giving courtesy of our "Throttle Jockeys" from across NC. We look forward to welcoming them back to campus in 2016!



Delicious Gifts Fill Bellies and Hearts

While he is known more frequently as "Lumpy" of Lumpy's Ice Cream of Wake Forest, Brother Buck Buchanan is also known as a friend and supporter of MHCO, with what he brings and for his belief in the work of the Home. In sharing his passion for giving, Brother "Lumpy" comes during the year to deliver some of his incredible homemade ice cream and with it, brings happiness, smiles, and a truly special treat. He is also one of hundreds of friends who come with the gift of food, fulfilling a need, while sharing a special gift, all personally and at the Home of the children (or sometimes in their restaurants – as in the case of Brothers Jerry and Ben Hart of Ole Time BBQ in Raleigh, NC). The gifts include the cookouts of Lodges, a fancy steak dinner courtesy of Wake Forest Fire Department, the snack deliveries of GSK and Ashton Woods, or the summertime socials of the Eastern Star No. 94 of Oxford. For every bowl of chili, hot dog, nacho, shrimp, steak, BBQ plate, or cookie or cake, not only is a meal provided, but friends are gathered at MHCO, here to help our children, visably and positively. We thank the over 40 groups and individuals who share their gift of food, cooking, and celebrating, making it a part of the work of our Home and their giving as friends and supporters of MHCO.

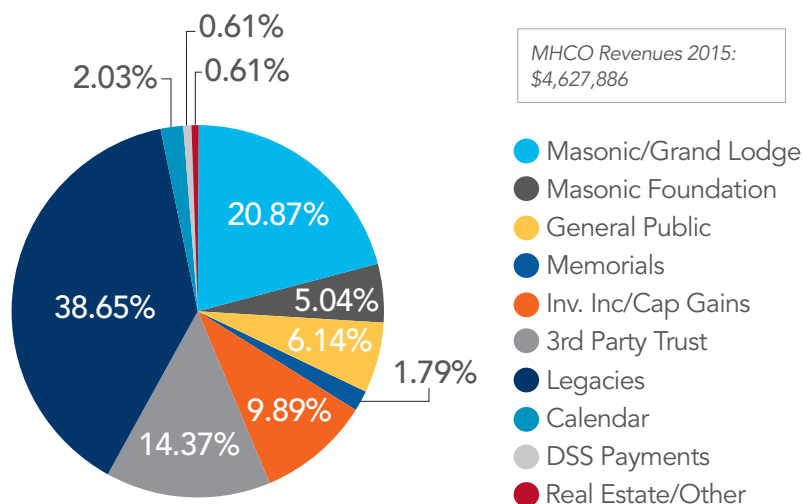
2015 was a great year for The Masonic Home for Children in regards to financial operations with the Home continuing to operate without incurring any debt. The year ended with income above budget projections by 46.9% and operating expenses below budget projections by 5.7%.

Planned giving – wills, trusts, investment income, and capital gains received from the bequests – accounted for 62.9% of the total revenue received in 2015. Once again, planned giving accounted for the largest portion of The Home's annual revenue. Masonic Donations were the second largest source of revenue totaling 20.9% of the total for 2015. The amount of revenue received through Masonic giving continues to increase each year. Another important source of revenue is donations received from the General Public and from Memorial donations. These two sources accounted for 7.9% of the total revenue received in 2015.

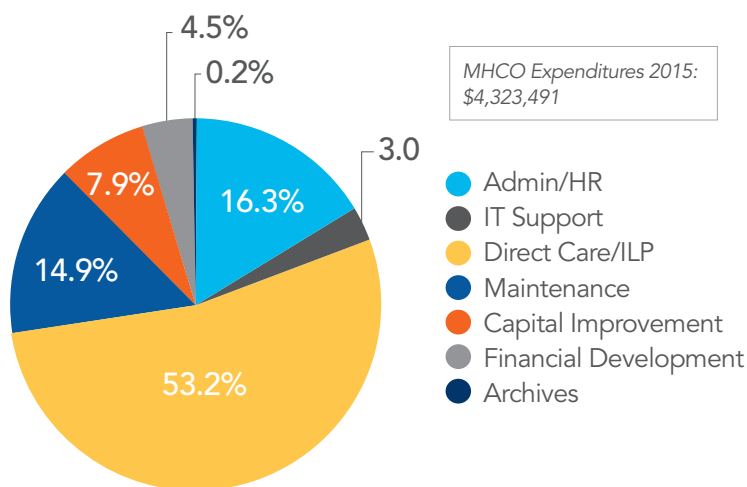
Operating expenses for 2015 were slightly higher than the previous year but were held to 5.7% below budget projections for the year. Excluding contingent salaries/benefits and capital improvements, 2015 expenses were 4.0% below budget projections. Expenses directly related to the care of the children at The Home accounted for 53.2% of the total expenses in 2015. The cost of caring for a child at The Masonic Home for Children in 2015 was \$113.05 per day. Costs included in this care are as follows: food, clothing, medical needs, recreation, spirituality, education, utilities, and the salaries/benefits of the Child Care Workers in the homes.

Capital improvements in 2015 totaled \$341,399. These improvements accounted for approximately 7.9% of the total expenses in 2015. Improvements for 2015 included furniture for offices and cottages, several new computers and a new tape backup for the computer system, carpeting and flooring for offices and cottages, two new heating and cooling units to replace two that failed, a car for staff to utilize for residents and their families, repairs to the staff residences on campus, and new outdoor lighting. The outdoor lighting project accounted for 58% of the total capital improvement expenses in 2015. This project added additional lighting to the campus that beautified our campus, but more importantly, added safety and security for our children. The lighting project included new LED street lights where needed and retrofitted the existing lighting with LED fixtures, as well. The lighting project has been entirely funded by the generosity of our donors.

MHCO Revenue 2015



MHCO Expenditures 2015



This is a very short synopsis of the great financial year The Masonic Home for Children had in 2015. Most important is the fact that we appreciate each and every gift that is given to care for the children of the Home. We could not do what we do for children if it was not for the generosity of our donors. We strive to make the most of every donation to accomplish our mission of caring for children and their families. Thank you for your gift to The Home and our children.

masonic lodge contributions

the averages per mason, per their lodge for 2015

Highlighted Lodges indicate those with soft-credited in-kind gifts, designated gifts, matching gifts, and gifts postmarked between 1/1/16 and 1/10/16.

NO.	LODGE NAME	DISTRICT	GIFT PER MEMBER	NO.	LODGE NAME	DISTRICT	GIFT PER MEMBER	NO.	LODGE NAME	DISTRICT	GIFT PER MEMBER	NO.	LODGE NAME	DISTRICT	GIFT PER MEMBER
1	St. John's	12	\$31.61	244	Monroe	29	\$9.83	459	Dillsboro	40	\$9.44	670	Lovelady	34	\$2.11
2	Royal White Hart	8	\$14.54	248	Catawba	34	\$46.71	460	Cliffside	38	\$8.10	672	Robbinsville	41	\$3.44
3	St. John's	7	\$22.33	249	Pythagoras	12	\$28.28	461	Matthews	32	\$9.18	674	Acacia	23	\$14.47
4	St. John's	10	\$28.04	253	Lee	30	\$5.87	462	South Fork	36	\$2.48	675	Washington	3	\$105.11
5	Charity	5	\$13.78	257	Kenly	16	\$20.87	463	Currituck	1	\$16.51	676	Temple	32	\$46.99
7	Unanimity	1	\$13.89	258	Fuquay	15	\$5.20	471	Grassy Knob	30	\$27.56	678	Providence	3	\$9.82
8	Phoenix	17	\$5.41	259	Waynesville	40	\$9.11	472	Sonoma	40	\$11.06	679	Creasy Proctor	17	\$18.14
10	Johnston-Caswell	8	\$16.70	261	Excelsior	32	\$9.78	473	Lexington-Memorial	27	\$12.37	680	Semper Fidelis	4	\$10.36
11	Caswell Brotherhood	22	\$18.43	262	Hibriten	34	\$13.31	474	St. Pauls	18	\$21.27	683	Rolesville	14	\$39.52
13	St. John's	11	\$35.42	263	Gaston	36	\$33.99	475	Grimesland	6	\$18.85	685	Piedmont-Pioneer	26	\$2.48
17	American George	5	\$12.38	265	Farmington	27	\$1.12	479	Rainbow	7	\$2.94	686	Angier	20	\$14.35
19	Eagle	19	\$56.68	267	Dunn's Rock	38	\$19.61	482	Polk County Unity	38	\$6.06	687	Fellowship	19	\$164.30
27	Statesville	30	\$40.51	271	Tabasco	23	\$16.31	483	Traphill	33	\$55.56	688	Cherry Point	7	\$18.07
31	Phalanx	32	\$51.24	272	Bingham	22	\$42.89	484	Southern Pines	21	\$71.80	689	Scotland Neck	8	\$23.00
32	Stokes	28	\$19.19	276	Beaver Dam	29	\$3.61	486	Lawndale	35	\$11.11	690	Mount Moriah	30	\$9.39
39	Davie	5	\$10.13	277	Green Level	15	\$9.19	489	Linville	37	\$-	691	Renfro	25	\$12.76
40	Hiram	15	\$72.21	279	Wallace	11	\$2.25	491	Hornby	39	\$8.48	692	East Gate	31	\$3.72
45	Liberty	33	\$18.15	282	Wake Forest	14	\$33.51	492	Thomas M. Holt	22	\$27.80	693	Charles M. Setzer	32	\$43.91
53	Hall	1	\$21.07	283	Eureka	28	\$424.82	493	Pilot	25	\$35.96	694	Gate City	23	\$6.36
58	Concord	9	\$3.37	284	Greenville	6	\$9.34	495	Rockingham	21	\$36.28	695	Allen Graham	28	\$50.47
59	Perseverance	3	\$69.56	289	Salem	26	\$11.63	496	Mooresville	30	\$37.85	697	Butner	13	\$35.38
64	Kilwinning	29	\$31.93	292	French Broad	39	\$12.45	497	Royal Hart	8	\$38.80	698	Cape Hatteras	2	\$3.56
75	Widow's Son	1	\$3.84	293	Vance	39	\$8.42	498	Ayden	6	\$27.25	699	Asheboro	24	\$14.29
76	Grimesboro	23	\$193.72	294	Atlantic	3	\$6.20	499	Creedmoor	13	\$52.31	701	Garner	15	\$22.81
81	Zion	7	\$24.29	296	Stonewall	5	\$3.68	500	Raleigh	14	\$7.74	702	St. Andrew	31	\$5.31
83	Lafayette	4	\$11.31	299	Harmony	30	\$48.86	501	Red Springs	18	\$10.34	703	Albemarle	29	\$14.41
84	Fellowship	16	\$21.47	300	Aurora	7	\$56.06	502	Cookville	34	\$10.82	705	Richard Caswell	10	\$6.40
85	Morning Star	9	\$12.51	301	Clay	41	\$12.28	505	Cherryville	36	\$16.65	706	Newport	4	\$25.48
90	Skewarkee	5	\$1.00	302	Lillington	20	\$29.59	509	Belhaven	3	\$22.13	707	Forsyth	26	\$12.44
91	Western Star	38	\$13.52	304	Pleasant Hill	10	\$18.52	515	Whetstone	36	\$21.32	708	Crown Point	6	\$25.27
92	Joseph Warren	16	\$-	305	Laurinburg	21	\$60.63	517	Farmville	6	\$15.75	709	Conover	34	\$25.48
95	Jerusalem	6	\$19.68	306	Raeford	21	\$39.82	519	Widow's Son	8	\$2.51	710	Advance	27	\$1.38
97	Millbrook	14	\$33.62	314	New Lebanon	1	\$31.85	521	Manteo	2	\$14.51	712	Wilson	16	\$12.58
98	Hiram	11	\$785.04	317	Eureka	1	\$37.43	525	Rodgers	9	\$0.60	713	Stanley	36	\$22.18
99	Fulton	28	\$3,998.56	319	Wilmington	12	\$30.81	527	Lucama	16	\$22.08	714	Liberty	24	\$15.55
102	Columbus	20	\$113.12	320	Selma	16	\$98.99	528	Fairmont	18	\$104.19	715	Derita	31	\$46.60
104	Orr	3	\$15.57	322	Granite	25	\$18.53	529	Andrews	41	\$8.45	717	Burnsville	37	\$10.71
106	Perquimans	1	\$29.98	331	Bayboro	7	\$30.85	532	Hamlet	21	\$43.26	718	Troy	24	\$30.74
109	Franklin	4	\$4.37	339	Fairview	35	\$108.21	534	Camp Call	35	\$23.78	720	Cabarrus	28	\$32.33
112	Wayne	10	\$27.12	340	Harmony	10	\$12.83	535	Hollis	38	\$5.52	722	King	26	\$9.19
113	Person	19	\$66.57	343	Hickory	34	\$18.95	542	Corinthian	23	\$23.12	723	Winton	5	\$5.00
114	St. Alban's	18	\$5.66	344	Numa F. Reid	23	\$11.21	543	Spencer	28	\$80.04	724	Berne	7	\$1.65
115	Holly Springs	15	\$25.13	348	Stanly	29	\$25.85	544	Mount Holly	36	\$69.81	725	Grantham	7	\$16.29
117	Mt. Lebanon	16	\$10.66	352	Durham	19	\$20.06	550	Roman Eagle	21	\$12.17	727	Shallotte	12	\$8.72
118	Mount Hermon	39	\$5.09	356	Fallston	35	\$0.24	551	Glennville	40	\$3.51	730	Stedman	17	\$40.55
122	Oxford	13	\$92.61	357	Bakersville	37	\$2.11	552	Revolution	23	\$14.00	732	Bush Hill	24	\$-
123	Franklinton	13	\$23.62	358	East LaPorte	40	\$6.61	554	Vesper	37	\$26.10	733	Stump Sound	4	\$10.08
125	Mill Creek	11	\$76.51	359	Mt. Vernon	7	\$81.67	555	Elise	21	\$7.60	734	William Pitt	6	\$39.40
126	Gatesville	1	\$17.63	363	Snow	33	\$23.54	556	Neill S. Stewart	20	\$7.45	735	James B. Green	14	\$20.60
127	Blackmer	24	\$24.75	369	Gastonia	36	\$23.81	558	Ararat	25	\$2.38	736	New River	4	\$22.42
128	Hanks	24	\$24.18	373	Ashler	33	\$13.62	561	Swannanoa	39	\$12.92	737	Steele Creek	32	\$13.00
129	Dan River	22	\$10.14	374	Campbell	30	\$17.98	562	Waxhaw	29	\$37.54	738	West Gate	31	\$36.27
132	Radiance	6	\$17.86	375	State Line	35	\$19.18	563	Tabor	18	\$5.77	739	Newell	31	\$121.48
134	Mocksville	27	\$30.70	377	Youngsville	13	\$79.05	564	Richlands	4	\$31.74	740	Charles B. Newcomb	15	\$151.84
136	Leaksville	22	\$13.11	378	Seaboard	5	\$33.48	565	Wendell	14	\$41.50	741	Crisie Wright	4	\$19.14
137	Lincoln	34	\$19.38	379	Coharie	11	\$17.60	568	Doric	7	\$5.37	742	Mint Hill	32	\$9.85
138	King Solomon	12	\$14.43	380	Granville	13	\$76.86	571	Snow Creek	30	\$18.90	743	J. J. Crowder	14	\$12.14
143	Mt. Vernon	20	\$0.89	381	Forest City	38	\$12.92	573	Mt. Pleasant	33	\$29.24	744	Shelby	35	\$39.59
145	Junaluskee	41	\$8.54	384	Jefferson Penn	22	\$124.12	576	Andrew Jackson	28	\$51.01	745	Vandora	15	\$88.21
146	Cherokee	41	\$6.02	386	Pigeon River	40	\$6.26	578	Meadow Branch	29	\$19.62	746	P. P. Turner	23	\$0.78
147	Palmyra	20	\$9.03	387	Kedron	38	\$58.91	579	Casar	35	\$50.21	747	Ocracoke	2	\$-
149	Adoniram	13	\$56.47	388	Friendship	35	\$37.71	583	Ionic	7	\$30.50	749	Truth	29	\$14.15
150	Pee Dee	29	\$44.91	390	Copeland	25	\$11.95	584	Apex	15	\$13.15	750	Oak Grove	19	\$16.49
151	Sanford	20	\$22.11	391	Lebanon	17	\$54.13	585	Roseboro	11	\$6.23	751	Old Town	26	\$22.38
154	Scotch Ireland	28	\$39.78	395	Orient	12	\$9.93	589	Bethel	6	\$16.60	752	Enterprise	27	\$7.22
155	White Stone	14	\$8.38	397	Bald Creek	37	\$14.73	590	Lowell	36	\$9.76	753	Federal Point	12	\$17.57
158	Knap of Reeds	19	\$9.10	401	Joppa	34	\$15.00	592	Maiden	34	\$152.90	755	Clemmons	26	\$84.02
162	Yadkin	25	\$10.71	403	Siler City	20	\$96.85	593	Stony Point	30	\$14.87	756	Clifford Duell	17	\$32.03
165	Archer	14	\$7.60	404	Denton	27	\$2.50	594	Ashe	33	\$13.78	757	Denver	34	\$19.34
167	Winston	26	\$4.82	405	Ocean	4	\$30.00	596	Waccamaw	12	\$24.99	758	Oak Island	12	\$2.40
170	Blackmer	39	\$36.90	407	North Wilkesboro	33	\$9.29	598	Cranberry	37	\$1.89	759	James K. Polk	32	\$28.68
172	Buffalo	20	\$15.82	408	University	19	\$6.12	602	Queen City	9	\$1.44	760	Wilkinson College	23	\$2.72
176	Williams	31	\$20.61	409	Bula	22	\$4.75	606	Riverside	34	\$41.08	761	Orphans	13	\$91.29
181	Carthage	21	\$70.45	411	Bailey	9	\$18.57	609	Zebulon	14	\$42.24	762	Mosaic	19	\$19.43
187	Central Cross	9	\$14.77	412	Henry F. Grainger	13	\$33.26	612	Atkinson	12	\$24.41	763	Friendship	20	\$1.73
188	Balfour	24	\$28.57	413	James A. Johnson	13	\$47.70	613	Home	10	\$45.39	764	Knights of Solomon	32	\$238.78
190	Chadbourne (previously Fair Bluff)	18	\$34.30	417	Maxton	18	\$9.15	616	Round Peak	25	\$39.04	765	Ashler	12	\$25.47
191	Granite	16	\$9.70	418	Pendleton	5	\$5.00	617	St. Patrick's	16	\$21.91	766	Knights of Solomon-East4	28	\$146.23
198	Cary	15	\$49.07	420	Harmony	25	\$12.15	618	Union	28	\$27.63	767	Sophia	28	\$2.56
202	Cleveland	35	\$4.51	423	Sparta	33	\$13.38	624	John H. Mills	13	\$47.19				
205	Long Creek	31	\$23.24	426	Montgomery	41	\$23.54	626	Cannon Memorial	28	\$23.24				
206	Mingo	11	\$104.29	427	Oconee	40	\$21.93	627	Belmont	36	\$6.32				
207	Lebanon	18	\$11.10	428	Stokesdale	23	\$25.20	629	Walnut Cove	26	\$297.46				
208	Mount Olive	10	\$17.46	429	Seaside	4	\$15.42	634	Goldsboro	10	\$29.57				
210	Eno	19	\$48.16	431	Relief	16	\$33.61	637	Yadkin Falls	29	\$25.11				
214	Thomasville	27	\$21.24	432	Piney Creek	33	\$-	643	Proctorville	18	\$6.14				
217	Catawba Valley	34	\$34.07	433	Vanceboro	7	\$2.21	646	Bladen	17	\$2.78				
218	William G. Hill	14	\$21.75	434	West Bend	26	\$32.74	650	Nichols-West Asheville	39	\$18.46				
226	Olin	30	\$73.06	435	Blue Ridge	41	\$25.66	654	Elberta	21	\$50.38				
229	Henderson	13	\$26.60	437	Biscoe	24	\$34.00	656	Guilford	23	\$34.58				
230	Corinthian	9	\$13.05	439	Marble Springs	41	\$5.43	657	Keller Memorial	28	\$18.09				
231	William T. Bain	15	\$86.52	444	Marietta	24	\$15.48	658	Beulaville	11	\$14.38				
237	Mystic Tie	34	\$2.22	446	Biltmore	39	\$297.82	663	Black Mountain	39	\$3.53</				

Gifts, Giving, and Those Who Gave in 2015

Fundraising or Financial Development by definition “is the art of collecting or producing money for a certain cause or purpose, usually a charity.” Our Home’s definition is more fitting as fundraising in 2015 was once again realized as the blessing of those who believe in the purpose of this Home so much as to give personally with their charity, their faith, and their hope, helping lives today and sustaining this Home and its mission in a way that it can be continued for years to come. There is much more that can be said for those who gives so that our children can have a better life and future. 2015 was a year of fundraising defined by incredible generosity, impactful planned gifts, a successful capital campaign, innovative giving through matching gifts and deferred IRAs and other giving options, and, most importantly, a consistent base

of donors, both previous and new, looking to the future of this Home and how they can perpetuate a calling dependent on charity and the random and deliberate acts of kindness and generosity that change young lives forever. We hope to define 2016 with even more exciting opportunities for our children, our Home, and those who wish to donate to the care of a child.

Summary of Giving

Regarding total donation revenue, which includes wills, estates, annuities, trusts, our NC Masonic Endowment quarterly distributions, stocks, and designated gifts, the Home was given and received \$3.8 million, the highest total since 2012 and the third highest in the past seven years. Donation revenue in the funds of Masonic Giving, General Public Giving, Memorial Gifts,

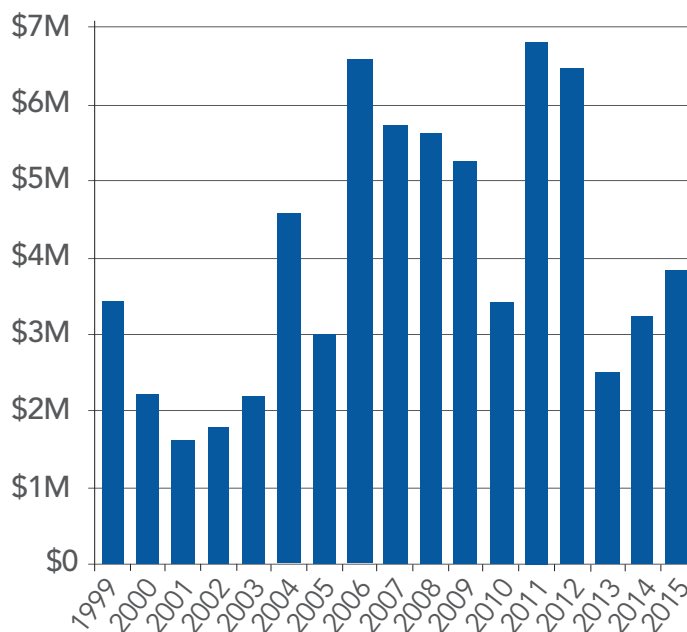
Legacies (wills and estates), and the NCMF distributions all were higher in total than in 2014. The highest increases from the previous year were seen in our Alumni Endowment distribution (24% increase), Wills and Estates (21% increase), and General Public gifts (18% increase). When removing Planned Gifts and Designated Gifts, like those associated with the MHCO Lighting Project from 2015, the total annual donation revenue finished at \$1.5 million, the largest return in general donation revenue since 2004.

More important than any donation are those that make

the donation possible – our donors. These stakeholders in the lives and futures of children at our Home and patrons for the Home, its mission, and its sound financial future are as diverse and dedicated as any in the history of our charity. Their methods of giving range from the modesty of a simple one time gift to those who research the benefits of deferred IRAs, Charitable Remainder Trusts, or the transfer of property for sale (SEE ARTICLE p. 15). They

involve their employers through Matching Gifts, and utilize outlets such as Amazon and H&R Block who have incentive programs founded on providing a service while donating to MHCO through their use. Their wealth of generosity comes not only in the form of cash donations, but in those gifts-in-kind. The number of donors and the number of donations that now encompass “In-Kind Gifts” equals over 300 donors and donations a year, providing daily needs, special gifts, requested items, and even opportunities and events for trips, services, and ultimately, lasting memories. Donors can visit the Home’s website and specifically the “Current Needs List” to see those items that are in highest requisite, providing for the children, while saving valuable and limited funding. For more information read the following information on regarding the acceptance and rules associated with In-Kind Gifts at MHCO in the future. (SEE ARTICLE ON P. 17).

Total Donation Revenue 1999 – 2015
(M = Million)



financial development

annual achievement report for 2015

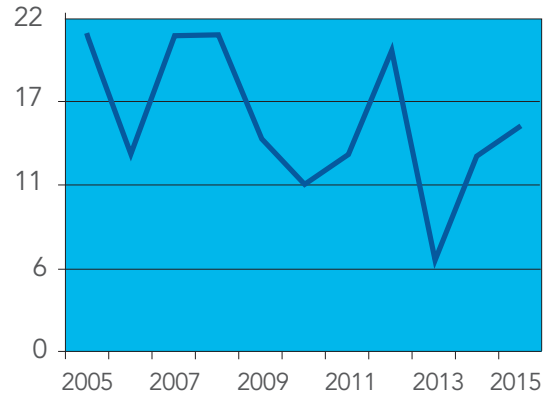
Masonic Giving in 2015

Throughout its history MHCO has recognized a designated group of founding patrons. This group has given in various, generous, and compelling ways and have been faithful in the commitment to the ministry they started from the remains of a failed college following the civil war. The Masons of North Carolina and in a growing number of cases, Masons from around the country and world continue to serve as a leading sponsor, supporter, advocate, and promoter for this Home, its funding, governance, and cause for the future. Members of the fraternity give through their Lodge fundraisers, individual annual gifts, with in-kind gifts, memorials, honorariums, and through a host of vehicles all developed to generate a sound financial foundation for operation and planning. Exciting for the future is the work Masons are doing beyond their Lodges generating support from their neighbors, their communities, their employers, civic groups, and most importantly, in sharing their passion for support with their spouses and other family members. In communicating their charity at Oxford with those closest, our Masons are building a new audience of friends and supporters, which will be vital to the success and survival of MHCO in the years to come.

Masonic giving in 2015 was incredibly generous averaging \$25.71 per member, per Lodge for the 367 Lodges that are a part of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. When adding planned gifts and designated gifts, in-kind gifts, and those donations "soft credited" to

Masons, the fraternity's average exceeds over \$40 per member. A donation of any amount was given by 361 of the 367 total Lodges in North Carolina in 2015. A full list of all Lodges, listed by their Lodge Number and District, and their per member giving to MHCO in 2015 are located on p. 13.

Total Number of Planned Gifts Received
2005 – 2015

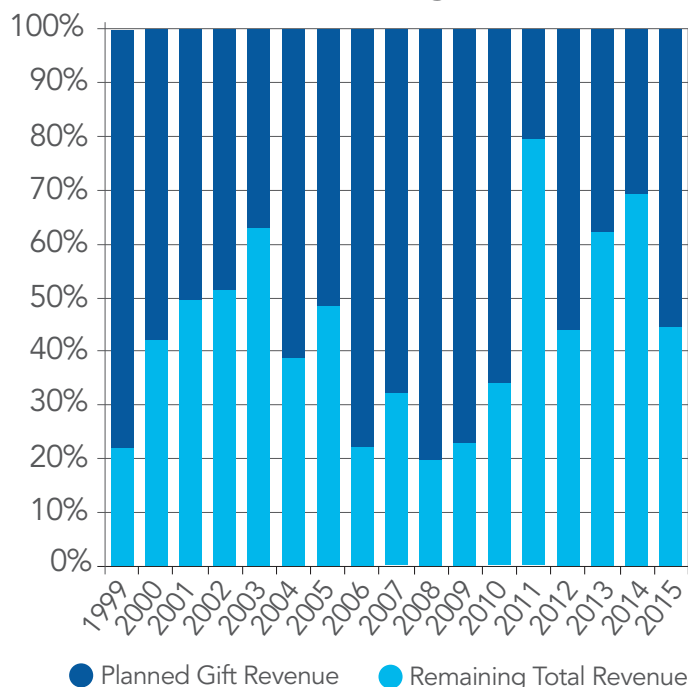


Planned Giving in 2015 – Gifts for the Future of Children and MHCO

Planned Giving, including wills, estates, trusts, gifts of property, annuities, IRAs, Life Insurance, and other major gifts endure as the single-most important contribution protecting the outlook and existence of MHCO and its ability to serve children in the future. They are also a sound way for our donors to make a desirable gift to the children, while protecting their need to meet personal, family, and financial obligations in the future. A donor does not have to be a "millionaire" to leave a planned gift, but to simply have the desire to continue to support a charity as well as their family, even in their passing, in a way that will assure MHCO's ability to care for more children apart from their families and in need of its protection, provisions, and hope for years and years to come.

Wills and estate and various elements of planned gifts at MHCO accounted for 56% of the total amount of donation revenue given to MHCO in 2015. Including stocks and funding for designated scholarships and other accounts, planned giving donated \$2.1 million in donation revenue for various operations at MHCO. The accompanying graph shows the percentage of planned gifts and their impact as compared to the total number of gifts given over the past ten years at MHCO (see graph).

Planned Giving Statistics



(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 15)

The Future of Fundraising at MHCO

Even with all the ways that have been outlined and celebrated from a truly wonderful year of giving at MHCO, courtesy of over 4,500 donors, companies, groups, and Lodges a steady increase in giving and givers will be needed for the Home to continue its mission in the years ahead, one that is valuable and needed. Primary to donating to MHCO is not necessarily an emphasis on the amount, but on those that are key to the entire fundraising process – people and their relationships with MHCO. Whether for the convenience of giving, such as those that give on-line or with automatic withdrawals, which totaled over \$25,000 in gifts in 2015 or those that give through Memorials and Matching gifts, which equaled over \$100,000, or those that gave to a cause such as the 2015 Lighting Campaign (SEE ARTICLE P. 16) which involved the sponsorship of banners to fund the desperately needed project, there are so many ways to support MHCO, while fulfilling the obligations of family and future. Regardless of the method, a relationship can create a donation and a donation can relate a relationship. The recognition of this vital element to the future of fundraising at MHCO cannot be understated nor can it be focused on enough as primary to funding and philanthropy, whether a frequent donor or new to giving at MHCO.

Home's Outdoor Lighting Celebrated Honor Donors, New Light and "Vision" for MHCO

EARL WELLS AND FAMILY, JOIN DONORS IN BRINGING LIGHT TO CAMPUS AND THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

In August and November of 2015, "Light" was delivered to MHCO. Both figuratively and literally the project celebrating a new and much needed security, safety, and quality component for the care of the children brought a vital element to the Home. Even more, the project was funded entirely through the efforts of donors, supporters, and friends of MHCO, giving in a variety of ways, all making life and light better for the children of MHCO.

On August 13, 2015, the Home celebrated the major gift of Brother E. Earl Wells, his wife Peggy, and the entire family with a luau-style picnic and the announcement as the single largest contribution to Home's lighting project. Surrounded by their children and grandchildren, MHCO Board Members, close friends, and the staff and children

Hayes-Neal Society Members 2014

The Hayes Society was created in 2005 to honor and recognize individuals and families who have made lifetime gifts to The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. This society stands as a testament to those who have permanently contributed to the history of this Home and the lives of its children while securing its future through a will, trust or other planned giving opportunity. The following are those honored in 2015, for their planned gifts from the previous year, given to MHCO and recognized permanently in the Cobb Center at Dunn Cottage on the campus of MHCO as members of the Hayes-Neal Planned Giving Society at MHCO.

Nona D. Perry Trust | Roy H. Snider

Lucille M. Memory – Jack Allen Memory Scholarship Fund

Elbert D. Calhoun, Jr. | Eula G. Pugh Charitable Fund | Era P. Courtney

James D. Phillips | Roanna L. Wilson | Carrie P. Arnold

Joseph A. Hathaway - *In memory of my beloved wife, Helen Ross Hathaway*

Bertha O. Ballard | Richard G. Willis

that will benefit directly for their gift, Brother and Mrs. Wells made the announcement of their \$100,000 gift towards the total cost of \$200,000 that brought new energy efficient outdoor lighting to the entire campus of MHCO for the first time since the 1970's. Prior to the completion of the project the living environment of the children and all who came to campus covered less than 50% of total living areas across the campus, with many lights not-operational and older than 30 years, placing additional burden on the Home through utility costs.

With the projects' completion in September 2015 the placement of a formal recognition marker accompanied the official dedication of the new lights on November 12, 2015 at a ceremony honoring not only Brother Wells, but all donors who contributed the final balance of the project, completing the Home's first capital campaign in over 10 years at 100%. The recognition included those banner sponsors, individuals, and groups who had a part in this significant improvement and its benefit for the Home and the care of the children. As the day turned to night on campus, all in attendance gathered to enjoy the new light that enveloped the campus and the homes of the children, celebrating those who made it possible.



The Wells family presents a check to MHCO.

The importance of in-kind giving and its future at MHCO

For many of our donors the satisfaction of providing a useful item, a need fulfilled, or a physical contribution for the care of a child is unequalled. The benefits are many and the ability to give and make a difference a possibility for anyone. MHCO continues to support these donations and the benefits they create for the care of the children of our Home. In 2016 and beyond we are asking our donors to note the following considerations when providing In-Kind Gifts, used items, or other non-monetary style giving to MHCO. In keeping with IRS and accounting regulations we appreciate the attention and understanding of those wishing to give in-kind donations and their adherence to these measures.



Mike Sawyer and the owners of Hudler's Tree Farm continue a 25 year tradition of donating live NC Christmas Trees to the Home.

- **ASK BEFORE YOU COLLECT OR GIVE AN IN-KIND GIFT:** Please call (888-505-4357) or email (www.mhc-oxford.org) before collecting, purchasing, or traveling to donate in-kind gifts. MHCO is obligated to make sure the work and charity of our donors can be used for the purposes of our mission and in a reasonable time frame. Reference our Needs List. Without prior notice or determination MHCO may be unable to accept an in-kind gift for the Home.
- **DO NOT ASSUME A GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE OR CAN BE UTILIZED BY MHCO:** Not every in-kind gift is tax-deductible. Services and volunteer hours, although welcomed and used by MHCO, generally cannot be written off. IRS Publication 526 outlines what types of donations can be deducted and how to claim a deduction.
- **IN-KIND GIVING CANNOT REPLACE TRADITIONAL GIFTS:** As valuable as in-kind gifts and need items are – and they are valuable and needed - MHCO relies on the flexibility of unrestricted cash donations and must have them to survive and continue to serve children in our care.
- **YOU, THE DONOR, MUST PLACE AN ACCURATE AMOUNT OF VALUE ON YOUR DONATION:** Whether or not you are claiming a gift for tax purposes, the organization must know the value of the in-kind donation. MHCO will need that information for accounting purposes in order to specify in-kind donations and the value of these in-kind donations. This will help you as well as MHCO, especially if you intend on writing off your donation. Visit the IRS website which explains how to determine the fair market value of your donation and if you must complete additional forms for in-kind giving over a certain amount or if you are donating automobiles or property in excess of \$25,000.

VISIT WWW.MHC-OXFORD.ORG AND CHECK THE NEEDS LIST FOR THOSE MOST NEEDED ITEMS!



Photos from left to right. Collection of need items courtesy of our local Walgreens. Brother Lynn Hill lead a group of Masons and their families in collecting and delivering in-kind goods courtesy of St. John's No. 4, Pleasant Hill No. 304, and Richard Caswell No. 705. Lori Dyer joined by her husband, delivered in-kind goods as part of a Christmas Collection in her Wake Forest Neighborhood.

eagle scouts building on our future

Five Eagle Scout projects were completed on campus in 2015. All five addressed significant needs that would have otherwise been delayed due to time and funding priorities. Ben Mason with Troop 329 constructed and installed shelving units in Critcher Cottage to help manage supplies for the children and cottages. Dillon Bass with Troop 416 repaired and painted the bridge by the \$1000 Spring. In addition his crew cleared out the flower bed and installed white rock in the form of two O's to recognize the Alumni of Oxford Orphanage. Foster Yacos with Troop 629 completed his Eagle Scout project to clear the farm barn foundation. Clearing this foundation was the first step in determining whether a sustainable agricultural lab could be developed on this structure. Joshua Whitman with Troop 416 built a walkway to the front of the Print Shop from the parking area between the gym and SGA. Andrew Lyda with Troop 629 remodeled the concession stand on the soccer field. In refurbishing the stand Andrew's team, repaired damaged wood, replaced the wooden window door with the old roll window from the SJAB reception desk, replaced the shelving, added a vent, installed new LED lighting, repaired the floor and painted the stand, inside and outside.

All five projects met needs for the Home and provided a wonderful experience in planning, implementing, and leading a project that will bring benefits well into the future. Thanks to all our Eagle Scouts and their crews for doing such good deeds.



the future of our forest

MHCO is pleased to announce a partnership with North Carolina State University to evaluate, preserve, and plan for the stately and beloved trees on upper campus. Travis Black, NCSU graduate student, is in the process of conducting his graduate project under the coordination and guidance of Dr. Barbara Fair. Mr. Black has focused his project on the tree management needs of upper campus. The plan includes identification and marking of trees, a study with the leaves off and one with them on the trees, plans for maintenance, and replanting plans. In replanting it will likely be recommend the upper campus forest become more varied by the addition of new trees. Other NCSU students will help with some of the necessary trimming as a learning project. One component of the project is to identify "Heritage Trees" to receive more care, support, and recognition. If anyone has a tree on campus that holds special meaning to them, we are collecting those stories to compile, record, and celebrate.

focus on education

2015 annual report

A major emphasis in both programs is a strong focus and value on education. With the support of the Granville County School system, Vance Granville Community College, donors, and various community organizations, it is our goal to help our youth improve academic achievement by promoting life-long learning, cultivating good study habits, and improving self-esteem and self-image. This is achieved in many ways:

- Through the utilization of school and/or MHCO campus tutoring opportunities
- Incentive programs recognizing improvement and academic achievement
- Collaboration between schools, MHCO, and children's families
- Participation in school extracurricular activities and clubs
- Participation in community programs
- On-going skills retention activities during the summer
- Scholarships and financial aid assistance
- Additional highlights to our Education Program:

Each spring MHCO's annual Baccalaureate church service and awards ceremony honors those residents graduating from high school or college and names the year's annual scholarship and award winners. Seventeen scholarships and awards were presented to our Direct Care and Independent Living residents to assist them with their future educational goals. In 2015, six Direct Care high school senior residents graduated from JF Webb High School. Three of those residents transitioned to our Independent Living Program. Three transitioned home with their families with plans to enter into college.

In the summer, residents advancing to grades K – 7th grade participate in Summer Enrichment Activities to keep them actively engaged in learning, especially in math and reading.

From understanding a child's 504 or Individualized Education Plan, to identifying target areas for tutoring needs, to helping a youth adjust their schedule to meet their graduations needs: the Education Coordinator assists the children, staff, and schools with these tasks and much more. The Education Coordinator is active in school district and community related activities to advocate for our residents, often meeting with school level and district level administrators to discuss strategies to improve learning opportunities for our residents.

The MHCO GEMS (Giving Educationally Motivating Signals) Program involves groups of volunteer mentors who work with our youth in regular meetings to reinforce the importance of

education and build educational fundamentals. These volunteers come from academic institutions and volunteer organizations in our community. A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Fair was conducted during 2015 with learning stations provided by the UNC Moorhead Science Center in Chapel Hill.



our mission

The Masonic Home for Children assists families in need by providing a home-like setting together with community based programs and services for children to enhance its stable, supportive and nurturing living environment in order for children to reunite with their families or achieve independence.

- Quality residential child care services to include institutional foster care
- Parent education and counseling
- Social skill development for children and families
- Spiritual development for children and families
- Academic development and achievement for children,
- Assistance for the advancement of higher education for client children and former child clients of the residential program to include both academic and vocational schooling
- Community education and child and family advocacy
- Family reintegration and assistance with permanency planning
- Promotion of independent living education for youth
- After-care and Follow-up services

quality standards

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford strives to maintain a culture of constant performance and quality improvement which supports the mission and promotes an organization-wide standard of quality that is evidence-based and driven by safety, education and ethical, fiscal and legal responsibilities. These standards are validated by our accreditation and affiliation with the following professionally recognized organizations:

accredited by council on accreditation (coa)

Which partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. COA envisions excellence in the delivery of human services globally, resulting in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Benchmarks (www.benchmarks-nc.org)

Child Welfare League of America® (www.cwla.org)

Alliance for STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES™ (www.alliance1.org)

North Carolina Center for Nonprofits (www.ncnonprofits.org)

Association of Fundraising Professionals™ (www.afpnet.org)

vision statement

The Masonic Home for Children is committed to providing a safe and nurturing home environment as well as necessary services through a professional and caring staff, for low to moderate risk children in need of an alternative living environment and for other child development services. The Home is committed to provide emotional, physical, spiritual and social development for children as well as family counseling, in furtherance of reunification with family. The Home will also take all necessary steps to ensure academic remediation, vocational and technical training assistance as well as social and living skills to encourage independent living and productive citizenship.



The Masonic Home
for Children at Oxford, Inc.
600 College Street
Oxford, NC 27565

919.693.5111

Toll Free 888.505.HELP (4357)

www.mhc-oxford.org

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc. is a licensed, residential children's home through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (www.dhhs.state.nc.us) and is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit registered through the Secretary of State of North Carolina (www.secstate.state.nc.us)

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the Charitable Solicitation Licensing Section at 888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

This publication was designed by Lane Singletary, Creative Consultant at Waterman Business Solutions • watermanbusinesssolutions.com

Photographs in this publication courtesy of: Mrs. Tina Gilreath, Pam Reynolds, Chris Richardson, Kevin Otis.

Revlon® is a registered trademark of Revlon Consumer Products Corporation; Altec® is a registered trademark of Altec Industries, Inc.; H&R Blocksm is a registered service mark of HRB Innovations, Inc.; Wheels4Hope® is a registered trademark of Wheels4Hope; GlaxoSmithKline® is a registered trademark of SmithKline Beecham Limited; Ashton Woods Homes® is a registered trademark of Ashton Woods USA, L.L.C.; Bandag® is a registered trademark of Bridgestone-Bandag, LLC; Printer's Plan® is a registered trademark of SoftUSE, Inc.; Amazon® is a registered trademark of Amazon.com, Inc.