

Children's Chatter



February 2023

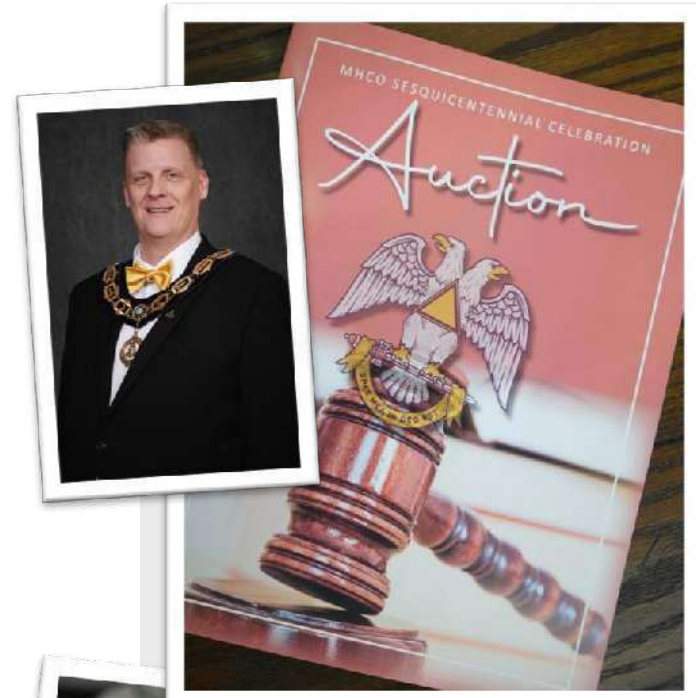
MHCO Lodge Info Update

On Saturday, Feb. 11 The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford kicked off its year-long 150th anniversary celebration. Masons from across the state joined children from the Home, alumni, donors and local officials for a festive evening and good fellowship. We were honored by the attendance and participation of **Grand Masters Kevan Frazier and Daniel "D.T." Thompson, and many Grand Lodge officers and past grand masters.** Our keynote speaker was the grand executive director of the Supreme Council, **Rear Admiral Bill Sizemore.**

Several of our children brought out a birthday cake, led the crowd in a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday to MHCO, and blew out the candles. The smiles on the faces of the children and the audience made the birthday chorus the **highlight of the evening.**

I was honored to announce our new **Dan Rice Orphan's Friend Award**, named in recognition of MW Dan Rice. Dan is an alumnus of our Home, a past grand master and Board Member Emeritus. He supports us in countless ways. **Twelve people received the award** Saturday night: OAAA Board President Terri Lawson, Alumnae Violet Davenport, longtime staff member Mary Helen Parrott, WB Mark Carroll, Alum JC Knowles, WB George Summers, PGM David Wicker, PM Johnny Surles, Program Director Dr. Amy Still, PGL Earl Wells, past NC Rep. Jimmy Crawford, and PGM Dewey Preslar. These awardees represent alumni, Masons, staff and friends of the Home who reflect the work ethic and charitable instincts of Dan Rice in their daily support of the Home.

GM Kevan Frazier closed program with an inspirational message and called on us to be **bold** in addressing the needs of children. Helping children, he said, is a direct response to the commandment to **love our neighbors.**



Scenes and
Seens!

Check out what
we're doing,
where we've
been, and who
we're with!

Table Sponsors

White Hat Level:

Dewey Preslar
Eddie Gaskins
Gilbert and Erin Bailey
OOAA Board of
Directors
NCMF Board
Rotary Club of Oxford
Steve Safrit
Oxford Oaks Distillery
Braxton Jones
Lew Starling

Red Hat Level:

Sparkie Travis

Black Hat Level:

David & Nadine Potts
Johnny & Geri Brooks
Shaun Bradshaw
David Wicker
Tommy Dew
Mike Arrington

Table Builders:

Johnny surles
Kevin Otis
Steve Owen
Charles Ingram
Gene Jernigan
Amran Temple
Oasis Temple
Jason Ross
Larry Thompson



North Carolina's first children's home has provided support and guidance for almost 11,000 children. While MHCO is celebrating its 150-year history, the emphasis is on the foundation that has been established to continue supporting children and families. MHCO could not have celebrated the historic occasion without the support of Masons and lodges. MHCO cannot help children overcome traumatic situations without YOU. Please visit the website at mhc-oxford.org to keep informed of upcoming events, learn more about the Home's mission and the children's successes, and see how you can help. What we do together today impacts generations.

Coming events:

Celebrate St. Johns Day with MHCO on June 24, either on campus or by conducting your own lodge event, fundraiser, or awareness campaign to bring attention and support to MHCO. Our campus celebration that day, with an ice cream social, car show and many fun family-oriented activities is held in conjunction with the Eastern Star.

Remember Homecoming is Oct. 13-14 with a barbecue contest, the state's largest Shrine parade, and more.

Our year-long celebration concludes Dec. 10 with the York Rite Christmas Observance Ceremony in the York Rite Chapel.

Many lodge proudly display a black and white 1951 aerial photo of our campus. How about adding a new aerial view? MHCO challenges your lodge to have a minimum of five members commit to making recurring gifts of at least \$12.50 each per month for three years. With verification of this achievement, MHCO will provide a 2023 photo suitable for framing to be proudly displayed at your lodge. Your recurring and annual gifts make it possible for MHCO to operate while building the endowment toward perpetual funding levels.

More especially, your gift helps lift children from poverty, frees them from bullying and domestic violence, and provides a stable environment while their parents and grandparents participate in their lives while working on their own challenges. Together we are changing lives for the better. Let's make it possible for this tradition to continue for another 150 years — plus. SMIB

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Prayers and safe wishes to all.

Kevin Otis



WE NEED HOUSEPARENTS!

MHCO offers amazing salary and benefits, housing for CCW's and the ability for up to two dependent children to also live in the cottages with their parents. Benefits include tractor pulls, football games, and more as house parents provide a positive family environment with the children.

Call 919-693-5111 or visit mhc-oxford.org today.

The support you provide the children today impacts for generations!