



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois

THE ROYAL ARCH MASONS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

What is the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation?

The Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation (or RAMCF) is the Grand Chapter's separate charitable 501(c)3 non-profit organization which collects, invests and distributes funds to charitable causes as directed by the sitting Grand High Priest. For the next few years, it is anticipated that the RAMCF will support local Illinois causes affiliated with childhood autism.

The RAMCF Mission

The mission of the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation is bring awareness of – and encourage funding for the relief or aid of – causes and needs deemed worthy by our current Most Excellence Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Illinois.

For the foreseeable future, the current and upcoming MEGHPs have determined that the condition of autism will once again be the cause the RAMCF is to provide relief to for local, Illinois families suffering from the ravages of this unfortunate and incurable affliction. All financial donations collected by the RAMCF will be donated to Marcfirst located in Normal, Illinois.

What is autism?

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

- ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances.
- Autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 2 and 3 years of age.
- Autism is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and verbal and non-verbal communication, and by restricted, repetitive or stereotyped behavior. There is no medical detection or cure for autism.
- Autism affects one in 88 children and one in 54 boys. It is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States.
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases. It costs a family \$60,000 a year, on average



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Why did we choose autism as the cause for the RAMCF?

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation chose autism for its charitable cause because....

- ...the Grand Chapter believes this cause to be of utmost importance and has a history of providing charity to various organizations involved in autism research and care.
- ...Marcfirst, a Normal, Illinois-based organization, provides direct care to local children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities, supports their families, and makes it possible for those with disabilities to realize their dreams and desires.
- ...unlike many other autism organizations, 100% of the money given to Marcfirst will go toward the care of those with developmental disabilities, such as autism.

What can Chapters and Companions do?

They can help support the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation's (RAMCF) efforts by purchasing this year's RAMCF lapel pin, purchasing a Royal Arch Mason license plate holder, purchasing Raffle for the Cause raffle tickets or making a direct donation to the RAMCF*.

Part of the puzzle is missing. You.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter's Fundraising Committee and Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation (RAMCF) is continuing the "Autism. Part of the puzzle is still missing. You." campaign to bring awareness of – and solutions to – our Foundation's main concern, childhood autism. Remember, our fraternity's three principal moral virtues are faith, hope and charity, with the greatest of these being charity. Be a part of the solution, Companion.

**Gifts and donations may be tax deductible (the RAMCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so check with your tax advisor).*