KEYSTONE OF LIFE FOUNDATION

REPORT FOR 2023 SPRING BOARD
COVERING PERIOD APRIL 2022 to APRIL 2023

Preface.
The Keystone of Life Foundation (KLF) is a registered non-profit organization, and a charity supported by the Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and the Yukon.
The KLF was founded in 1975 as a means to provide small value grants (up to $13,000) to hospitals throughout the region for much needed primary care equipment. KLF actively seeks out smaller hospitals in the region where need for such grants are greater.

Over the period covered by this report, KLF has been pleased to deliver and /or committed over $52,000 of grants. These grants comprise:

Sechelt Hospital.	$7,850
Victoria General Hospital	$8,503
Trail Regional Hospital	$8,050
Kooteney Emergency Response	$10,768
Surrey Memorial Hospital	$7,500
Kitimat General Hospital	$10,184

Note: It can frequently take several months between the time a grant application is approved and the Health Authority's completion of procurement, and submission of receipt documents to KLF.
The KLF acquires its funds for grant awards from donations , membership dues, and bequests together with income from invested assets. Although to date almost $600K of grants have been awarded, significant downturns in both investment returns and particularly donations / membership dues over the past few years continue to restrict the Foundation's ability to award regular grants .

KLF does not seek to build large monetary assets, which benefits only investment companies and monetary markets in the short term, but attempts to disburse grants as frequently and broadly as prudently feasible, so that the residents of this jurisdiction may benefit as soon as possible from the acquisition of the essential hospital equipment that these grants make possible.

Donations from some individual Masons, Chapters and other Masonic organisations do continue to be received, and for those we are very grateful. However we are encouraging the message of KLF's needs to be spread by **all Grand Chapter officers** whilst visiting, and in their own Chapters, to try to resurrect the same level of enthusiasm and financial support your KLF charity enjoyed a decade ago. **The KLF Board particularly encourages gifting through planned regular giving, bequests and non-monetary donations such as insurance policy and securities transfers.** Any Companion or friend of the Foundation can contact any Board member of KLF to set up the simple process of making such donations. Tax receipts are always available against donations from individuals.

KLF is registered with "CanadaHelps", a national website database of all Canadian charities that allows potential donors to make an on-line donation using a credit card.

Work is still ongoing to encourage more individual membership from RA Masons, Craft Masons, and their families throughout the region. Our aim is for each and every Royal Arch Mason throughout the jurisdiction to become a life member of KLF!

The Foundation thanks all donors and members for their continuing support of this Royal Arch Charity.

The KLF Board is committed to increase awareness of the Foundation amongst all Chapters and Lodges in this jurisdiction and to increase membership in the coming year.

The Keystone of Life Foundation encourages Chapters, through their members, to locate hospitals in their geographic area (particularly those smaller establishments with smaller budgets), who may like to apply for a KLF grant and to put them in touch with a KLF Director.

Wherever possible, representatives from Chapters local to the grantee hospital are invited to be present at formal grant cheque presentations so that Royal Arch Masonry is more broadly promoted as a charitable institution and receives significant press publicity for Masonry as a result.
The KLF Board continues to work hard to raise money for this important charitable cause, and to distribute grants to needy hospitals whilst keeping the Foundation's operating costs to an absolute minimum. New member nominations for board positions are welcome at each AGM.

KLF recognizes that there are many worthy causes deserving of a Freemason's charitable support and that we all have limited resources to donate to these causes, but we earnestly encourage all Royal Arch, and indeed Craft Masons, to consider this Foundation a prime object for their charity.

Some examples of the grants awarded to various hospitals can be seen on the Keystone of Life webpage of the Grand Chapter website.

Thank you for your support!

Peter Edwards
KLF President - APRIL 2023