



## **We Have A Brother Who Is In Need Of Assistance**

It is said every lodge member is an Almoner. While there is a brother in each Lodge designated as the Lodge Almoner, in fulfilling his duties, he is often a busy man. As such he cannot be everywhere so it is important for all brethren to be aware of the Freemasons tradition of caring and what is happening for those less fortunate within the lodge (both brethren and widows) and within the local community.

When a lodge member identifies someone with needs then have a discussion with the Lodge Almoner and identify how best to approach the person. In particular be conscious of the fact that people are embarrassed to admit they are not coping

There are systems in place to enable speedy help to be provided, so if appropriate, with the Almoner, arrange for a District Charity Officer to assist in making an application for financial assistance (or other relief). A District Charity Officer will call and interview the applicant and complete an application form. The District Charity Officer is well acquainted with the procedure for gaining support.

Ensure to preserve confidentiality for the applicant - it is not appropriate to speak of this type of assistance in open lodge.

Tips:

- Rely on those with the experience in administering benevolence. Your Divisional Grand Almoner has the authority to sign off on the level of support.
- Often all that is required is a friendly word – an hour of your time- to talk – a phone call – a letter.
- Visit lodge widows – use your eyes and senses to see if they are in need of assistance. Coordinate any visit with the Lodge Almoner.

