



Grand Lodge of India

FREEMASONS'HALL, JANPATH, POST BOX NO.681, NEW DELHI 110001
Ph.: 91 (11) 23321956,23321949 . Telefax : 91(11) 23320276 Grams : 'Masonic'
E-mail : grandlodgeofindia1961@gmail.com. Website: www.masonindia.org

Care And Compassion For Children With Cancer

04 Feb 2014

Preamble:

Based on the experience gained by the Freemasons of Mumbai in assisting the families of children with cancer undergoing treatment at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai; The Grand Lodge of India has launched a **Pilot Programme** on a country-wide basis with the same objectives.

Objectives:

The family of a child with cancer needs empathy and emotional support.

The need is more when the family seeks treatment at an urban center far away from their home

The family of a child with cancer also often needs financial support.

The GLI, through its daughter Lodges, reaches out and extends a helping hand to these families in their hour of need.

Background Information:

The occurrence of cancer in a child is a catastrophic event in the family. The family is emotionally devastated and needs to cope with diverse stresses: care to the sick child, meeting doctors and starting treatment, arranging finances, managing the rest of the family, arranging time away from work, facing a perpetual uncertainty regarding getting a cure and so on. The young patient is often bewildered by the family reactions and only partially understands what is happening. The slightly older patient is confronted with thoughts of incurability and death. ***At the same time, many childhood cancers are highly curable!***

Educated lower middle class and middle class families fare the worst. In many such families, there is no fall-back to a support system in the form of immediate relatives, who are often either indifferent or preoccupied with their own problems.

GLI proposes the 'adoption' of a few such unfortunate families for providing support, guidance and financial assistance.

The Magnitude of Childhood Cancer:

Population of India (2011 census): 120 crores, men and women almost equal.

Childhood defined for our purpose as children aged 0-24 years.

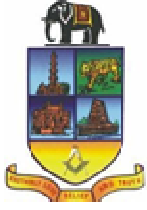
Population of children aged 24 or less: About 60 crores, boys and girls almost equal.
(Extrapolated from census 2011 data on children under 6 years).

Cancer incidence in children aged less than 24 yrs: 50 new cases per 100,000 population per year.
(Extrapolated from the Indian Council of Medical Research - Population Based Tumour Registry Data for Chennai, 2001-2004; more recent figures have not yet been collated).

Overall childhood cancer burden in India: 3 lakh new cases every year.
(As approximated from above figures).

Common childhood cancers (0-15 yrs age): Acute lymphatic leukemia (20%), Brain (20%), Neuroblastoma (7%), Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (7%), Wilm's tumor (7%), Hodgkin's Lymphoma (5%), Acute Myeloid Leukemia (5%)
Bone sarcomas (5%), Rhabdomyosarcoma (3%), Retinoblastoma (3%), Others (18%).

Cancer Aid Fund
From
Grand Lodge of India



Grand Lodge of India

FREEMASONS'HALL, JANPATH, POST BOX NO.681, NEW DELHI 110001
Ph.: 91 (11) 23321956,23321949 . Telefax : 91(11) 23320276 Grams : 'Masonic'
E-mail : grandlodgeofindia1961@gmail.com. Website: www.masonindia.org

Modalities:

1. Dr. P.K. Muthukumaraswamy, Dy GM, is designated as **Coordinator, GLI Cancer Aid Fund**; and will be in-charge of the Project implementation in all its aspects; with the assistance of a **Central GLI Administrative Committee** consisting of the following four Grand Officers.
 - i. R.W. Bro. V. Narasimham, (President of the Board, ex-officio)
 - ii. R.W. Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal, (Chairman, Finance Committee, ex-officio)
 - iii. R.W. Bro. M. Amalsadvala, Mumbai
 - iv. R.W. Bro. R.K. Ramanathan, Mumbai
2. The GLI will initially support each family to a maximum of Rs. 50, 000.00, subject to a 25 to 30% contribution from the sponsoring Lodge, paid in advance by cheque to: "The Grand Lodge of India Fund of Benevolence"
3. **Lodge Hospital Liaison Committees** will be responsible for the implementation of the Project at the 'ground level'.
4. To begin with, the Pilot Programme will be launched in the following twenty one Masonic Centres. Lodges in the other Masonic Centres can also participate, by contacting the Pilot Centre nearest to them.

RGLSI: Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trivandrum, Cochin, Bangalore, Mangalore, Hyderabad, Vizag.
RGLWI: Mumbai, Pune, Indore, Nagpur, Bhopal, Allahabad.
RGLNI: New Delhi, Chandigarh, Allahabad, Kanpur.
RGLEI: Kolkata, Varanasi, Gorakhpur.
5. Each of these Masonic Centres will establish one or more **Lodge Hospital Liaison Committees** comprising 2 or 3 Freemasons each, for purposes of identifying suitable Hospitals and potential recipients. (Ideally one Committee per Hospital).
6. The Hospital Liaison Committee will "empanel" such suitable hospitals in their area **WITH THE APPROVAL** of the Central GLI Administrative Committee.
7. The Hospital Liaison Committees will contact the "empanelled" Hospitals and invite applications (in prescribed format as per the GLI Administrative Committee) for support from deserving families (Personal visits / Posters / Brochures / E Mails / monthly reminders)
8. The Application, complete in all respects, including the cheque / DD towards the Sponsor Contribution favouring "Grand Lodge of India Fund of Benevolence" is to be submitted to the Grand Lodge of India; at any convenient time during the year.
9. An electronic copy of the entire application, created by scanning-in all the necessary forms and documents **into a single MS WORD File bearing the patient's name as the Filename** is to be submitted by email to: glicanceraidfund@gmail.com.
10. The Project will be managed and coordinated solely through the aforesaid email id by Dr. P.K. Muthukumaraswamy, Dy GM, in his capacity as Coordinator, GLI Cancer Aid Fund.
11. All such applications, including the contribution by the Lodge, will be routed to the GLI Administrative Committee, which will authorize the quantum of financial aid and release funds in the name of the beneficiary, through the Lodge.
12. The GLI Administrative Committee will work through emails / telephone contacts and ensure a maximum of 14 days between receiving the application and either disbursing the funds or negating the request for assistance.
13. All things being equal, preference will be given to patients from the Economically Weak families.
14. The Hospital Liaison Committees of Lodges will report on patient status and progress to the Central GLI Administrative Committee every three months as a minimum, and more frequently when called upon.

Cancer Aid Fund
From
Grand Lodge of India