

GRAND CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund Board

Dear

We understand that you are currently experiencing a stressful time in your life and we want you to know that, if possible, the Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund Board is here to assist you.

The goal of the Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund Board is to provide **temporary** assistance to members of the Order of the Eastern Star of Massachusetts, who have been members **in good standing** for at least **five years and whose current years Dues are paid** . When an application for assistance is received, it will be assigned to one of the five members of the Board, who will then review the case and make recommendations to the remaining Board members. Once the Board agrees on the amount of assistance to be given, **the funds will be paid directly to the creditors. Funds are never given to the Applicant and this assistance is generally allowed only once. The Board will consider assisting the applicant again after a waiting period of three (3) years.**

The purpose of the Fund is to help our Sisters and/or Brothers who have suffered a **temporary setback, NOT as a supplement to income**. If there is a need due to a longer term difficulty, such as illness or age, then the Applicant should seek assistance from the Charitable Foundation Board.

The list below contains the steps you need to follow to complete the application procedure:

- Have the application signed by the Chapter Representative and the Chapter Secretary **before** you fill out any personal information. If necessary, the Chapter Representative will be willing to assist you in completing the paperwork.
- Write a letter outlining specific requests for help, i.e. rent, mortgage, heat, lights, etc. Include dates that the bills are due or when they were due. You should explain any circumstances that you feel the Board members should be aware of.
- Complete the application with full detail, including all **current, original** Bills & mailing envelopes for use by the Board. Incomplete applications can slow the process.
- It is suggested that you keep a complete copy of all materials sent to the Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund Board.
- Include all pertinent documentation – Copies of bank statements and/or the last two (2) pages of any savings bank book, checking, CDs, everything that is part of your potential income.
- Full disclosure of any Credit Card indebtedness with all documentation for review by the Board. This documentation should include a breakdown of what was charged to each card.

- (Please be aware, we DO NOT pay credit card debt for purchases, eating out, etc. If you use your credit cards to cover essentials, i.e. rent or mortgage, heat, electricity, etc., the Board will consider paying that portion of the credit card bill.)

Please mail the Application, the Applicant and Chapter Representative Letters, and all the required documentation to the President of the Board whose address and contact information is listed at the bottom of this letter.

If you have any questions while completing the application, the members of the board are here to help you. ***Confidentiality is our main concern in this process and your information will only be shared with the members of this board, the Chapter representative and the Chapter Secretary.***

Fraternally,

Elizabeth K. Rogers, P.G.M., President
 Marion McPhee, P.M., Secretary
 Ruth Q. Wellner, P.M., Treasurer
 Todd J. Ridder, P.P.
 Carl F. Kersting, P.P.

As a result of a vote taken by the trustees of the Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund Board at a meeting held June 11, 2017, the following trustees will serve the Board as Officers until the Grand Chapter session in May 2018:

President: Elizabeth K. Rogers, P.G.M. (2019)
 61 Lynwood Dr.
 Chicopee, MA 01022-1180
 413-593-0043 (home) email: erpgm88@gmail.com

Secretary: Marion McPhee, P.M. (2018)
 7 Cathy Rd.
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 781-272-8585 (home) email: marionmcphee@comcast.net

Treasurer: Ruth Q. Wellner, P.M. (2022)
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Trustee: Todd J. Ridder, P.P. (2020)
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Trustee: Carl F. Kersting, P.P. (2021)
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