



Ashlar Village Resident Dedicates Room in Husband's Memory with Gift to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut



Christina G. Smith is assisted by Gail N. Smith as she cuts the ribbon at the Multi-Sensory Stimulation Room dedication at Masonic Healthcare Center

Throughout her lifetime, Christina G. Smith has given generously to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut in the form of charitable gift annuities and donations to the Masonicare Annual Appeal. A resident of Ashlar Village for 13 years, she loves her home and the people in it and is quick to praise the community for all it has given her, saying, "I'm happy here. I feel content...I feel secure. I know I'm in a safe environment and that's important. I don't have any family close by, so I have taken Masonicare people as my family." Recently Christina made one more charitable gift to The Foundation - one that is very close to her heart. She honored her late husband, Richard, with a generous gift to name the Multi-Sensory Stimulation Room on Wooster 2 at Masonic Healthcare Center in his memory.

"Richard and I were very close," Christina recalls. "We did everything together." Avid boaters, they joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Alabama, and later they became members of the Power Squadron in Connecticut. They lived in several states, and traveled frequently. By the time the couple settled at Ashlar Village in 1993, Richard was in early stages of dementia. After one year together in their cottage on the Ashlar Village campus, Christina felt that he could no longer be left alone safely, and Richard was moved to Masonic Healthcare Center.

During the years of Richard's illness, Christina became very familiar with the special needs of dementia patients. "They get agitated and need something to take away this agitation," she explains. She is convinced the recent addition of the Multi-Sensory Stimulation Room at Masonic Healthcare Center plays a key role in this process. The room consists of a wide variety of relaxing and memory provoking items, ranging from scented candles and spices to the soothing sounds of a beach or waterfall. There is even a colored disco ball for enhanced visual stimulation. "The room is relaxing," says Christina. "It holds the attention of the dementia patients and distracts them from their own feelings. It puts them in a one-on-one situation with a trained staff member who has the patience to find that one thing in the room that will catch their attention. I have seen it work. A lot of families feel frustrated and give up on dementia patients. I hope

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Ashlar Village Residents and The Masonic Charity Foundation To Give Their Regards to Broadway!

Sunday, May 7, 2006



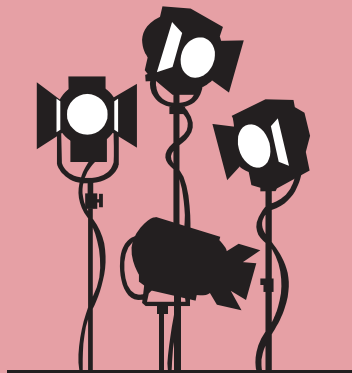
Start spreading the news! The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and the Ashlar Village Association are pleased to announce the second annual spring event at Ashlar Village. Proceeds from this event will benefit The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Give My Regards to Broadway!

will take place on **Sunday, May 7, at 5:00 pm** in the Ashlar Village Waterside Dining Room. Be sure and save the date for this fun-filled extravaganza! Those of you who attended last year's **Swing Into Spring** gathering witnessed the good times first hand. The Foundation is looking forward to building on the success of last year's event to

bring you another highly entertaining evening of music, delectable hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and plenty of good times, all centered around a lively Broadway theme!

Funds for this special event are raised through sponsorships, outright donations and ticket sales. The festivities are planned by The Foundation with the help of an event committee of Ashlar Village residents. The committee, which met for the first time in early February to determine the theme of the 2006 spring event, will continue to meet to assist The Foundation in ensuring the event's success. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged for this wonderful event! If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please contact Michelle Strouse at 679-5571.



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this room will bring families together in cooperation with the staff."

Deciding on a gift to name the Multi-Sensory Stimulation Room was a natural choice. "I had been waiting to find something I could honor Richard with -- something that would be close to him. I could have put a plaque on any other room and it wouldn't have meant anything. Wooster 2 was his home for seven years. The staff members there were wonderful at understanding dementia. They took care of him there, and he thought of them as family." On Sunday, December 4th, 2005, Christina was honored for her generous gift at a special ribbon cutting ceremony and plaque unveiling. "Anyone who didn't get to know Richard missed out," says Christina, "because he had a lot to give." And in his spirit, Christina continues to give as well.

If you are interested in a gift naming, please contact Jennifer King or Eloise Mongillo at 679-5555 for details.

Lending a Hand

How Ashlar Village Residents Support the Annual Giving Programs of The Masonic Charity Foundation

Tribute Giving

Tribute gifts offer a unique opportunity to show others you care. They may be made in honor or memory of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, retirement or other special occasion, and Ashlar Village residents often use this giving vehicle to pay special tribute to the staff, such as transportation services, dining room staff and housekeeping services. Tribute gifts are easily made using the Tribute Giving envelopes which can be found in the Ashlar Village Administration office. The Foundation will notify the honoree or the family of the deceased of your gift, keeping all gift amounts confidential, and, as an added bonus, these gifts are fully tax-deductible.

During the fiscal year 2005, **\$4,828.00** in tribute gifts were made by residents of Ashlar Village. The Masonic Charity Foundation thanks you for this wonderful expression of gratitude and respect!

The Masonicare Annual Appeal

Ashlar Village support for the Masonicare Annual Appeal was at an all-time high for 2005. Total contributions by Ashlar Village residents amounted to **\$26,471.28** over the past year, compared to \$23,0140 in 2004. Gifts to the Annual Appeal have made possible many wonderful Quality of Life Fund additions such as:

- Magnifying reading lamps, newspaper subscriptions, digital clocks and tickets to the annual Wallingford Rotary Barbeque for residents at Masonic Healthcare Center
- Underwriting part of the cost of an in-home tele-monitoring system and Lifeline emergency response system for Connecticut VNA patients and the production of *SpiritSong*, an inspirational musical compact disc for patients and families
- A hutch for pet therapy rabbits, a microwave convection oven, and an aquarium for Ashlar of Newtown residents

We thank you for your enduring support and look forward to your continued generosity in 2006!

Donate Online!

The Masonic Charity Foundation has now introduced yet another way to give. Donors may make gifts directly on the Masonicare website at www.masonicare.org. Just log on, click on "make a donation" and supply the necessary information. Online donations may be designated for the Annual Appeal, Hospice or Holiday Appeal.

Holiday Wrap-up

The Op Shop Holiday Bazaar

Each fall, Jean Kaas, who coordinates the Ashlar Village Op-Shop, gathers specialty holiday items such as Halloween and fall decorations, holiday ornaments and fine dishes for the annual Holiday Bazaar held in the Ashlar Village activity room. Thanks to Jean and her numerous volunteers, this year's holiday sale raised **\$1,430.00** in support of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. Thanks also to all of you who made purchases at the Holiday Bazaar!

The Ashlar Village Holiday Party



Residents enjoy themselves at the recent Ashlar Village Holiday Party hosted by The Foundation

The Masonic Charity Foundation always enjoys holding special functions at Ashlar Village. We have had several entertaining programs over the past year, with wonderful attendance by the residents. These educational and social events culminated this December in our second annual Ashlar Village Holiday party. The gathering consisted of delicious holiday treats and beverages as well as entertainment by a few special guests from the Coginchaug High School choir who led residents in some festive caroling. This month's program was the best attended so far, with 103 residents and each household took home a potted poinsettia plant as a special holiday gift.

The upcoming year will be no exception, as The Foundation is busy scheduling fun and informative programs for the months to come. If you have ideas or requests for programs you would like to see in the future, please feel free to contact Jennifer Oetken at 679-5580.

The Holiday Appeal

Residents of Ashlar Village continue to spread holiday cheer with their generous donations to The Foundation's Holiday Appeal. This very special seasonal fund is used for holiday decorations, baked goods and festive parties for the residents of Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford and Ashlar of Newtown. In addition, caregivers from our Masonic homes carefully select and hand-wrap a gift for every resident.

During the 2005 Holiday Appeal, ninety-five Holiday Appeal gifts totaling **\$3,090.00** were made by Ashlar Village residents alone! This has increased an impressive **40%** from the \$2,200.00 given by Ashlar Village residents in 2004. Thank you for your help in making this holiday season shine for the residents and patients of Masonicare.

Meet the Staff of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut

We are pleased to introduce to you the staff of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut. Our team works together to plan and coordinate the wide variety of fundraising and donor recognition programs throughout the year.



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