

As of June 2023

The Commandery of the Sierras, led by Almoner Larry Lange, KSJ (the first half of 2022) and Almoner Don Witt, KCSJ (the second half of the year), donated \$10,000.00 from Commandery funds to the not-for-profit Renown Hospital's lovely Spiritual Center, to purchase thirty-five prayer boxes and prayer cards, each to be emblazoned with our SOSJ visual identity, plus a privacy screen. The prayer boxes and prayer cards will be distributed to all three main Renown Hospital facilities in the Greater Reno/Sparks Area.

The Commandery also raised and approved a donation of \$52,000.00 to the Reno Sparks Gospel Mission, for the purchase of a much needed late-model refrigerated box truck, to aid in the collection and distribution of perishable food items to those in need in our community. The MOU has been signed, and the Mission's Executive Director is currently searching for a truck to meet their needs. Once the truck has been purchased, it will be wrapped/painted with our SOSJ visual identity, the final design to be approved up the chain of command before it is installed on the truck.

Thank you to our Almoner Committee (Almoners Larry Lange and Don Witt, H. E. Conventual Bailiff Brian Rauschhuber, H. E. Bailiff Emeritus Brooks Mancini, Dame Diane Mancini, Chevalier Richard Harris, and Commander Renée Verrier) for their hard work!

Thank you to our members for their generosity in 2022!

2022

The Sierras Commandery will have donated a total of US\$78,449 to six worthy charities during 2021/22. Renown Hospital received money for a new centrifuge and also for 36 prayer boxes and room divider. Domestic Violence Resource Center got money for kitchen ware and linens and Pack Provisions received US\$2k for supplies and food for those in need at UNR. Compassion Dental received US\$2k for a pilot transportation program to get those in need to free dental care. Lastly Reno Sparks Gospel Mission will receive US\$52,000 to purchase a refrigerated truck for transportation of perishable food for those in need in the community.

2021

Commandery members submitted eleven Charity Beneficiary Applications, and the Almoner Committee, consisting of Prior Brian Rauschhuber, Commander Renée Verrier, Vice-Commander Don Witt, Justice Richard Harris, and Herald Diane Mancini, led by Almoner Larry Lange, visited and evaluated each potential charity, then made funding recommendations to the entire Commandery. Funding for four charities by the end of the year was unanimously approved: 1) **Renown Hospital, South Meadows Lab... \$11,200** for a new centrifuge, from a combination of member donations and Commandery funds; 2) **Domestic Violence Resource Center...\$1000** for kitchen-ware, linens, etc from Commandery funds; 3) **Pack Provisions, helping those in need at UNR with supplies and food...\$2000** from Commandery member donations; and 4)

Renown

Hospital (Spiritual Center) Prayer Boxes...\$10,000 from Commandery funds. Prayer Boxes details are still being worked out.

2011

- **Renown Children's Hospital Pediatric Family Room for the Pediatric ICU:** This provided furniture for parents and friends of children while they are waiting to visit their child or friend in intensive care. \$15,000.

2012

- **The Assistance League:** Help equip the new food pantry building for the Pantry program. This program provides food for indigent seniors. \$12,000.

2013

- **Washoe County Child Advocacy Center:** The donation furnished the waiting room and carpeted the building. This program is a single location where a child who has been abused or raped can see doctors, health professionals, police and district attorneys. This program minimizes the need for the child to tell their story many times to different people at different locations. \$30,000.

2015

- **High Sierra Industries and Washoe Ability Service Center:** This is a merged organization that serves physically and mentally challenged people. The Commandery donation is for the furnishing of a new building. \$30,000.
- **Compassion Community Clinic:** For indigent dental care - \$1500
- **Various Donations:** Minor contributions to Women and Family Shelter, The Sheriff's Walkabout Program and the Women's and children's Center of the Sierras totalling \$3100.

2017

- **Reno City Lights:** Reno City Lights is our premier fundraising event, held in December each year, in 2017 at the Nevada Museum of Arts. All proceeds from this event (\$15,000) were donated to Reno Veterans Guest House which will use it to help fund a major expansion of the facility due to open in 2018.
- **Committee to Aid Abused Women:** A donation was made to Committee to Aid Abused Women, who received \$1,500
- **Safe Embrace:** An \$8,000 donation was made to Safe Embrace.
- **Homeless Shelter:** Members painted a homeless shelter, spending a further \$600 on supplies.

2019

Eddy House: The Eddy House provides services to homeless youth in the Reno metropolitan area. These services include food, counseling and transportation to schools, job interviews and medical services. To assist in this mission, the Commandery donated a total of US\$35,162 for purchase of a 2018 12-passenger van, vehicle insurance through 2020 and vehicle registration fees. The Commandery's contribution included a distribution of \$5,250 raised during our biannual Reno City Lights event held on November 22nd 2019.

Victory Ranch: Victory Ranch is a Reno based charity that provides "equine therapy" to local veterans and troubled youth. The primary programs, conducted at a small private ranch, are the Horse Art Program and the Veterans Ranch Visit Program. Victory Ranch is in its fourteenth year of operation. The Commandery donation of US\$10,000 allowed the Ranch to construct a hay storage barn.

Justin Hope: The Justin Hope Foundation provides support to individuals and families in Nevada affected by neurodevelopmental disorders, including but not limited to autism. The Commandery donated US\$10,000 to fund support groups, workshops and adaptive recreational classes for the special needs community.