



Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

CLEVELAND COMMANDERY - FEBRUARY, 2018 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

Dear Knights and Dames,

The monetary donations our Commandery made in September of last year have sparked very heartwarming expressions of gratitude from the recipients. I am grateful to all of our members for your donations of treasure, and I am grateful as well for the work of the Philanthropy Committee. Our mission can only be accomplished through all of you.

Looking ahead to the fulfillment of our mission this year, I am very pleased to announce Dame Carmella Calta has agreed to head our Philanthropy Committee. A special thank you to Dame Jerry Sue Thornton who devised an application form to be used by organizations seeking funding from our Commandery.

We are approximately 18 months away from our next investiture and need to accelerate our development of a pool of prospective aspirants. In that regard, I am pleased that Chevalier Bert Moyar has agreed to become the chairman of the Membership Committee.

I have added new members to both the membership and philanthropy committees which I will announce at our February meeting. Additionally, seven members have been recommended for promotion to the International office.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months and hope God will grant you and your family many years of good health, peace, and happiness.

Commander Alexander Machaskee



PHILANTHROPY PROJECTS

Our Commandery supported four projects in 2017 and they are as follows:

Hitchcock Center for Women Inc. The Hitchcock Center for Women remains a leader in substance abuse treatment for women, carrying out the mission to “wholistically” empower women to achieve and maintain productive, chemically-free lives at home, at work, and in the community. Hitchcock Center is unique in that it is the only residential treatment center in the region to which a woman can bring her children (up to age 12) while receiving treatment. The building has served as home to thousands of women since 1992, and it has suffered the effects of aging. Roof leaks damaged many of the rooms, leaving them unusable. Our Commandery donated \$31,000 for roof repair.



Providence House Providence House is Ohio's first and one of the nation's longest operating crisis nurseries among the 70+ in operation in the United States and Canada today. It offers free, voluntary (non-custodial) emergency shelter to children, ages newborn to twelve years, who are living in crisis situations which place them at risk of abuse or neglect. Providence House has cared for nearly 8,000 families and children in crisis. In order to meet the growing need, its facilities have undergone significant growth and expansion in recent years; their campus supports three distinct service areas in two buildings and was in need of surveillance cameras to provide a secure and safe environment for its residents and workers. The Cleveland Commandery donated \$10,000 for this purpose.

ZOE MEANS LIFE! Many women are fortunate to have the love and support necessary to lead them to marriage, children and a meaningful life. Others, however, with little or no support, may find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. ZOE serves as a conduit, guiding women to a wider range of support organizations, providing them with a more attractive set of options and hopefully a more promising outlook on their situation. For example, there is counseling, housing assistance, medical assistance, prenatal care, adoption, and other services, all of which are usually unknown to women in crisis pregnancies. The organization was seeking funds to purchase an ultrasound machine to help women better understand the stage of their pregnancy. The Cleveland Commandery donated \$28,000 for this purpose.

Kids' Book Bank Studies show that being read to as a child and having books in the home are the two most important predictors of future academic success, yet two-thirds of low-income families do not own a single children's book. Since 2013, children in Cleveland neighborhoods have enjoyed taking books from Little Free Libraries, small engaging neighborhood kiosks filled with books that encourage neighbors to "Take a Book, Leave a Book." Today there are more than 50,000 Little Free Libraries in 80 countries around the globe, including more than 85 in Greater Cleveland. In support of their mission to foster literacy and a love of reading, the Cleveland Commandery donated \$10,000.

HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR WOMEN In addition to the funding noted above, in November, members of the Cleveland Commandery had the opportunity to tour this facility and learn more about its work. We served dinner to the women but, more importantly, we ate dinner with the women - and learned more about them, their journeys, their struggles, their hopes, their dreams. Those of us in attendance that evening left humbled - by the work of such determined women and by the support of such a determined organization.



During our visit, we talked about the Center's need for a new van - since theirs was on its last leg heading into the winter. They had identified a used van with very low mileage, but they were unable to obtain the necessary loan to purchase it. Members of the Cleveland Commandery personally contributed \$7,250 toward the cost of the van - and Chevalier Bert Moyar loaned them \$28,000. Today, they no longer have to live in fear of a breakdown and costly repairs. (It is also worth noting that Bert's wife, Marjorie, was the first chair of the board of the Hitchcock Center for Women - about 35 years ago!)



MARION STERLING SCHOOL In December, 2017, the Cleveland Commandery continued its relationship with Marion Sterling Elementary School by providing an after-school holiday party. The students and their families – as well as the SOSJ members in attendance - all had a fun time as cards and ornaments were transformed from “ordinary” to “creatively spectacular!” Glitter and paint made for lots of smiles! Afterwards, students and families were treated to a holiday dinner which included turkey and all the trimmings – and beautiful desserts. Thank you to Dame Claire Rosacco for organizing this wonderful event. Thank you also to our Commander, Alex Machaskee, and his wife, Carol, for continuing the camaraderie by hosting us at Marie’s Kitchen for more food and fellowship.



GIFT OF GRATITUDE AND PURPOSE Chevalier **Dr. Rustom Khouri** and his wife, Dame **Mary Khouri**, made a one million dollar gift to the Cleveland Clinic – in gratitude for the exceptional care he received before, during, and after his coronary bypass surgery and to support the cardiac research of Dr. Milind Desai into heart disease, including proactive treatments to detect heart disease sooner. Dr. Khouri’s younger brother and best friend, Samuel, passed away suddenly from a heart attack in December, 2016. On that day, Rustom found himself not feeling well and in the emergency room. Subsequent testing revealed problems that required surgery. Rustom says that Sam’s death was a wakeup call for him – especially considering the fact that his father, mother, and now two younger brothers had all died of heart disease. The realization that Sam’s death could have been his own, the desire to spare others that same fatal fate, and the desire to express their deep gratitude all led Rustom and Mary to conclude that making a monetary gift was the perfect way to pay their good fortune forward.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chevalier **Paul Clark** was named one of the Power 100: Top 30 leaders of Northeast Ohio by *Cleveland Magazine*.

Chevalier **Frank. R. DeSantis**, a moving force behind Legal Aid's pro bono work, was awarded the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's 2017 Legacy of Justice Award, which is presented to an individual whose participation in pro bono efforts has been significant in terms of tenure and impact.

For 2017, Dame **Marilena DiSilvio** was named to the following: Ohio Super Lawyers, Top 25 Women Cleveland, Top 50 Cleveland, Top Women Ohio, Top 100 Ohio. She was also included in the 23rd edition of the Best Lawyers in America, 2017 in the field of medical malpractice law.

Chevalier **Lou Joseph** received the Tri-C Foundation Board of Director's Heath Oliver Distinguished Director Award in recognition of his exemplary service to Cuyahoga Community College and its students for more than a decade. In 2012, Lou and his wife, Valerie, established a scholarship fund with the Tri-C Foundation and have continued to dedicate themselves to making higher education accessible to northeast Ohio residents.

Dame **Tricia Kaman's** oil painting "Diamonds on the Bay" won Best of Show in the "Who Do You Think You Are?" Exhibition which was held at the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center in Tarzana, California. Tricia was one of forty artists who displayed their work. Tricia also won the Jamie Dworman Award for her oil painting "Looking Towards the Light" at the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club's 121st Annual Open Juried Exhibition. The painting was on view in January at National Arts Club in New York.

Chevalier **Dr. Rustom Khouri**, Chairman of the Board of Crimestoppers, Inc. of Cuyahoga County, was honored as the 2017 Person of the Year by the Cuyahoga County Police Chief's Association as an invaluable asset to their collective efforts in making our communities safe and secure.

Having served on the Board of the Musical Arts Association for twenty-five years, having chaired the renovation of Severance Hall, and having headed up the Community Relations Committee for several years, Commander **Alex Machaskee** was recently named Honorary Trustee for Life by the Cleveland Orchestra leadership.

Chevalier **Bob Smith** was named one of the Power 100: Leaders of Northeast Ohio by *Cleveland Magazine*.

Dame Sister **Diana Stano** has completed fifteen months of preparation to become a hospital chaplain and is serving as a chaplain in a continuous care facility in Cleveland. Sister Diana will also be serving at Matt Talbot for women, a drug treatment facility and program for recovering female addicts. She is looking forward to serving the Lord through these new ministries.

