

At the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic we gave a charitable donation of \$50,000 to the Homeless Prenatal Program in San Francisco.

Due to the humanitarian disaster which began to unfold in Ukraine during the Spring of 2022 and the huge numbers of refugees flooding into Eastern Europe, our Grand Commander, Ian Reid, requested our help to assist our Commandery in Hungary with helping these refugees on an urgent basis. Therefore, after setting up an urgent ZOOM meeting with the leadership of our Commandery, we voted to raise donations from our members to be given to hospitals that focus on caring for refugee children needing medical assistance. Within a week, we were able to raise \$30,000 from the members of our commandery. We also had help with this donation from three members of the St. Joseph Commandery and one member from the Commandery of the Sierras. The \$30,000 donation was then securely delivered into the hands of Commander Eva Anna Pandur within just a few weeks. Commander Robert Leonard and his wife Dame Kathleen Leonard also traveled to Budapest within 30 days to ensure that the funds were received and to deliver a letter from our Commandery to Commander Eva Anna Pandur and her leadership team.

Now that we have successfully stepped up to the challenge of this urgent request to help the humanitarian disaster in Ukraine, we will start to brainstorm ideas on how to best support our local charities again. See below:

- The Homeless Prenatal Program in San Francisco – which provides many types of resources and housing to some of the most vulnerable of those on the streets - homeless, pregnant women. This is the newest designated charity for our Commandery.
- The Sentinels of Freedom in San Ramon – which provides severely wounded post-9/11 military veterans with comprehensive personal support and financial assistance as they complete their higher education and achieve success in their post-military careers.
- The George Mark Children’s House in San Leandro - the first hospice in the United States created specifically to care for terminally ill children. It has also become a center of excellence in Pediatric Palliative care and continues to provide life-affirming care and comfort for children and their families.