

The Indiana Masonic Home at Compass Park and the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation in a Nutshell

In 1916, the Grand Lodge of Indiana and Indiana Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star opened the Indiana Masonic Home (IMH) to provide a home for needy Masons, widows, and orphans. This year we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our Masonic retirement community.

Things have changed over the years. Some residents now pay all of their living costs in independent living homes and apartments; the assisted living center; and the medical center.

To ensure our great Masonic retirement community will thrive into its second century, the Board of Directors took action in November 2015 to rename the Indiana Masonic Home, and specifically the gathering area within Red Skelton Circle, as Compass Park. The action was based on a comprehensive study that considered the opinions of residents and leadership from area Lodges.

In addition to the Compass Park name, the study included other recommendations for the Board of Directors. Key findings included the importance of improving communication between the Board and residents, a need to enhance outreach efforts to lodge leadership, the importance of the health center as an asset in the community, maintaining fraternal care with no changes, more latitude in welcoming members and their immediate family members age 55 and above as pay plan residents, and the importance of the natural surroundings.

To ensure its stability for the next 100 years, our community will need to more effectively tell its story to Freemasons and Eastern Star members and their immediate family members. Over the coming months, Compass Park will update its website, photography, and literature and undertake an outreach program to improve communication with members and leadership in lodges across Indiana as well as current residents. We have a powerful story to tell and a rich history to preserve.

Compass Park is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. As residents' needs change, the community is able to accommodate those changing needs through the following housing opportunities:

Independent Living

- Garden Homes, Cottages, and Duplexes
- Freemason Apartments
- Ball Brothers Apartments

Assisted Living

- One bedroom Apartments

Medical Center

- Memory Care
- Intermediate Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing Care
- Short-Term Rehabilitation

Compass Park has approximately 350 residents and 230 staff members. The grounds include 320 acres in a parklike setting.

What has not changed over the years is the charitable aspect of the community. More than 40% of the residents have outlived their resources, and the Fraternity still provides them a terrific place to live. That is where the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation comes in.

The Indiana Masonic Home Foundation (IMHF) was created by the Grand Lodge of Indiana and incorporated in 1936 to provide long-term financial assistance to the Indiana Masonic Home. Since 1980, the Foundation has provided approximately \$85.3 million to Compass Park, \$71.4 of which was operating support and \$13.9 of which paid for special projects. The operating distribution during the 2015-2016 fiscal year will total \$3,981,389. The Foundation's general financial support is used to care for those in the Masonic family who are unable to financially care for themselves and to support projects that benefit the entire campus.

The Foundation also provides \$46,000 annually for the publication of *The Indiana Freemason*.

The Foundation:

- Is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, all Freemasons, which meets quarterly.
- Engages in public and promotional activities to increase awareness of Compass Park and increase the assets of the Foundation.
- Conducts multi-faceted fundraising:
 - Annual giving
 - Major giving
 - Planned giving
- Presents programs to Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, and other Masonic bodies, as well as civic groups
- Supervises and executes capital campaigns

Looking to the future, the Foundation Board of Directors in 2014 announced a gift of up to \$12 million to construct a community center on the ground formerly occupied by Bretzlaff Hall and the Scottish Rite Memorial Building. The Grand Master broke ground on Sunday, May 18, 2014; the cornerstone was dedicated on Sunday, September 7, 2014; and the building opened in July 2015.

The yet-to-be-named community center moves Compass Park closer to realizing its vision of being the retirement community of choice for Indiana Freemasons, will result in happier and healthier residents, provides a home for Masonic and other meetings, and creates a potential source of revenue to help us continue our good work. The project includes:

- Three-lane pool for lap swimming and exercise
- Banquet space for 300, divisible into three rooms for lodge and chapter meetings, smaller meetings and dinners, and exercise and other classes
- Fitness center
- Locker rooms
- Bistro casual dining area

- Patio
- Gathering and welcome areas
- Serving kitchen for the bistro and banquet rooms
- Bus drop off and pickup

In 2015 the Foundation provided an additional gift of up to \$8 million to pursue a much-needed master plan that includes:

- Infrastructure improvements – public water hookup and new campus entrance
- Administration Building remodeling:
 - Energy efficiency
 - New lobby and “main street”
 - Kitchen and dining room improvements

Some people say, “The Foundation gives several million dollars a year to Compass Park. How can my donation make a difference?” Every dollar counts. In fact the Indiana Masonic Home only opened because Nettie Ransford, Past Grand Matron of the Order of Eastern Star, established a penny collection and raised \$32,000 to start construction. Every donation, large or small, means a lot.

A number of gift-giving opportunities are possible –

- Outright gifts by cash, check or credit card (Gold Cards, memorials, and gifts in honor of someone)
- Gifts of life insurance and stocks
- Bequests in a will or trust
- Charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts
- Vehicle donations
- Brick donations
- AmazonSmile
- Kroger Community Rewards

Gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please give generously.

Contact the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation at (317) 637-9582, (800) 277-4643, info@imhf.org, or www.imhf.org for more information. Join us on Facebook.