

## **A Look Back at 2024**

**By Eric J. Vermeulen**  
**IMHF Executive Director**

As we move forward in time, we at the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation like to review each year that has just passed in order to gauge our progress and to understand where we might need to tweak our approach in the next twelve months and beyond. Your generosity has made all the difference as you have joined forces with the Foundation to support Compass Park's residents and help provide them with the excellent quality of life they deserve. In recognition of that partnership, and with the 2025 Grand Lodge Annual Communication just around the corner, here are some of the highlights from the past year, many of which will become part of our annual report for the Advance Proceedings of Grand Lodge:

Yet again in 2024, Indiana Freemasons and Eastern Star members demonstrated their generous commitment to the residents of our Indiana Masonic Home at Compass Park by supporting them in a variety of ways—including financially—as has been the case since the Foundation's incorporation in 1936. As in previous years, IMHF staff made connections this past year to raise awareness and create support among the members of the Indiana Masonic Family, and the result was yet another generous response that has been greatly appreciated and that continues to enhance the quality of life at Compass Park.

Central to our mission is the provision of operating support for fraternal care residents, and during this past fiscal year, the Foundation provided \$3,393,804 to Compass Park to care for those in the fraternal family who have outlived their financial resources. Since 1980, the beginning of the "modern era" of the Foundation, IMHF has provided a total of \$103,823,580 for the day-to-day living expenses of our fraternal care residents. When this annual operating support is added to the \$39.7 million provided for special campus projects, the total distribution to the Indiana Masonic Home at Compass Park over the past forty-four years comes to \$143,523,580. These are impressive numbers that speak well of our shared desire to live up to our Masonic obligations, and they translate to quality care for our most cherished sisters and brothers.

The special projects on the Compass Park campus that IMHF has supported over the years include construction of the Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (SNRC), the Assisted Living Building and the Community Center, as well as renovation of the Administration Building, and a \$7.1 million grant in 2021 to further reduce the loan balance for the SNRC.

And we are in the midst of our next big campus project, a very special one that will make the Velma Wortman Memorial Chapel a reality at Compass Park, with a 2025 groundbreaking squarely in our sights. With a wonderful lead gift from Worshipful Brother Bob Wortman and an incredibly generous response from the Indiana Masonic Family, thus far we have raised over 80% of the \$1.6 million needed to complete the project. If you or your group would like to help put us over the top in this very meaningful endeavor, please contact either Megan Schmidt ([mschmidt@imhf.org](mailto:mschmidt@imhf.org)) or Steve Sonafrank ([ssonafrank@imhf.org](mailto:ssonafrank@imhf.org)) in our office. You can play a key role in enhancing the spiritual life of the campus!

These campus improvements that you have supported through the Foundation continue to enhance the health and happiness of residents; create attractive meeting space for Masonic, civic, corporate, and private gatherings; and improve the fiscal health of Compass Park. As our great Masonic retirement

community continues well into its second century, IMHF remains committed to Compass Park. The need for support continues because nearly 50% of Ball Brothers residents and assisted living residents receive fraternal care through the assistance of Hoosier Eastern Star members and Freemasons.

The Foundation also continues to provide \$46,000 annually to support publication of the Indiana Freemason magazine and to maintain a courtesy mailing list so that our honored ladies may continue to receive the magazine in order to maintain contact with the fraternal family that was such a meaningful part of their husbands' lives for so many years.

Our vehicle donation program, which continues to gain momentum, provides an opportunity to benefit the residents of Compass Park while also saving donors the time and trouble of selling used vehicles. The process is simple, and in many cases—depending on the condition of the vehicle—it can net the donor more value as a charitable donation. Talk to us if you are wondering whether this option is right for you.

Speaking of vehicles, you have also been incredibly generous in supporting Grand Master David G. Morgan's project to replace Compass Park's resident transport vehicle. The current one, a 1997 Buick Rendezvous, has served its purpose and is ready to be retired. Through your continued support, we are on the verge of collecting enough funds to purchase a new Kia Telluride that will transport residents reliably to medical appointments for years to come. Thank you for answering the call on this important project, and thank you to the Grand Master and First Lady for their leadership in the fundraising effort!

IMHF's portfolio performed very well in 2024. Once again, our Board applied its sound investment policy to help guide our investments for the long run while seeing healthy gains for the year. The portfolio went up from \$88.7 million at the beginning of the year to \$90.8 million at the end, even as the Foundation distributed nearly \$3.4 million during the year for fraternal care assistance.

Last year, IMHF received \$932,269.31 in bequests, and we have been informed of \$8.2 million in expected gifts as of December 31, 2024. Accordingly, the Foundation actively recruits new members for the Corinthian Society, comprised of those persons who have decided to leave a lasting legacy by including IMHF in their estate planning. During this past fiscal year, the Foundation welcomed four (4) new Corinthian Society Members, accounting for an additional \$40,500 in expected gifts during 2024. To join the Corinthian Society, a donor need only sign a nonbinding letter of intent, and you can easily take care of that by contacting us at the Foundation office. We would love to discuss it with you over lunch or dinner.

The Board of Directors and Foundation staff members appreciate the public support we have received this past year from Most Worshipful Brother David and Lady Caroline Morgan; Right Worshipful Brother Randy and Lady Mel Seipel; the Grand Lodge officers; the Past Grand Masters; the officers of the Indiana Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star; all Indiana Eastern Star members; the Lodge Ambassadors; and all members of every Masonic or affiliated body in the Hoosier state.

We thank you for your generous support this past year, and we urge you to continue to help sustain Compass Park and its residents through the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation. Compass Park—and the top-notch care provided there—are noteworthy sources of pride for all members of the Indiana Masonic Family, and it is up to each of us to help ensure that it continues to be a shining jewel of our Fraternity.