

In Appreciation to the Masons of Ontario "To all who supported the Millennium Project - Help-2-Hear "

" Thank you , Masons of Ontario ." The children who appeared in the Help-2- Hear video spoke these words, and they had no doubt that the Masons of Ontario would answer their plea and lay the groundwork to benefit the children of Ontario. In 1999, in a display of unprecedented co-operation, our Grand Lodge and Masonic Foundation embarked on Project Help-2-Hear to celebrate the Millennium, with the goal of establishing a \$2,000,000 Capital fund for hearing research particularly directed to children, with the co-operation of Dr Robert Harrison of the Hospital for Sick Children.

My personal thanks, and the thanks of all of the children who will benefit in the future, go out to all of the Masons their families and friends who generously supported our efforts .In particular to all of the District and Lodge representatives who spearheaded the campaign, to the District Deputies, Worshipful Masters and Secretaries who worked tirelessly to ensure our success.

A special thank you to the Help-2-Hear Committee! During my Masonic career I have been privileged to serve on many committees, but these brethren gave new meaning to the usual phrases of commitment, dedication, expertise, devotion and desire, vice - chairman Ron Deline, the seven Regional vice-chairmen : Alf Messenger, Jim Sutherland, Don Jagger, Barry Hutton, Tom Hogeboom, Sam Kalinowsky and Peter Matijek .

With Skip Whiteley on publicity, Shelly Kofsky on special events, Bob Webster and Charlie Reid on the display, Doug Angus, David Bruce and Ken Whiting assisting secretary Mel Duke with correspondence and the newsletter. Terry Shand as the co-ordinator and Jim Cassie the consultant . This was the team, with the unwavering support of the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Robert J. McKibbon and Foundation President Ron Campbell. Our main information vehicles were the Lodge summons, newsletters, the D.D.G.M. Communique, the Help-2-Hear newsletter and The Ontario Mason, we are indebted to all of

To the five hundred and seventy three brethren who joined Millennium Lodge, whose sole purpose was to promote individually and collectively the Millennium project, thank you, in addition to the financial contribution which you made, you brought together

these sources who helped us to get the story out Masons from all parts of our jurisdiction, for two very special meetings, which will never be repeated in our lifetime.

To that very special lady from Dryden, Ruby Whitten, the wife of District rep. David Whitten who gave us the Tried and True recipes cook book first in Western District and then throughout the jurisdiction, thank you for your example and your generosity.

To those in the family of Masonry who chose to support Help-2-Hear, from the Scottish Rite bodies, the Royal Arch Chapters, the Shrine Temples and units, the Eastern Star Chapters, the Rainbow Girls, Demolay Chapters and Jobs Daughters, thank you , you proved once again that we are indeed a family.

To the families of all of the brethren involved in the project who gave us their encouragement, ideas, loving support and became involved in all aspects of the project, thank you so very much.

As we look back over the last two years, we are convinced that this project will contribute not only to the well being of future generations, but to the health of our order, we came together with a common cause, a cause for good. In the words of Dr. Goldblum keynote speaker at the launch of the program, we gave 'till it felt good !

C. Edwin Drew .



The Help to Hear - Committee

- As at the writing of this Article, August 15th, the Help to Hear Project has received from the Lodges, and Districts which comprise the Grand Jurisdiction

\$2,016,182.00

"for the cause of good!"

