



UPDATE

NATIONAL MASONIC FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN / PREVENTION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

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2005

www.masonicmodel.org

SPRING EDITION

Masonic Model Student Assistance Program – Helping Children for Nearly 20 Years

by Thom Stecher, MMSAP Trainer

I step back, 20 years ago, and remember five educators in a hotel room designing, until midnight, the next day's presentation for the first Student Assistance Program Training in Pennsylvania. Four School districts began to identify and intervene with at-risk youth in a systematic, structured way that was successful for students, parents and schools. Then the money dried up and another governmental program was cast to the winds. Providence then moved.

In 1985 when R. W. Brother Carl Stenberg, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at the time, asked the Department of Education how the Masons could help children, the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) was born.

That first year more than 30 district teams were trained in Elizabethtown, PA. The next year, 60 districts were trained and in six years we had trained 501 school district teams through MMSAP in Pennsylvania.

In the late 80's and early 90's Larry Chisholm, the Executive Director of the National Masonic Foundation for Children helped MMSAP grow to Maryland, Illinois, California and Michigan.

This program saved children's lives and helped children and families caught in the cycle of addiction; children depressed and suicidal; children in so much pain they lashed out and hurt others.

Under the leadership of Larry Chisholm and the National Masonic Foundation for Children, the program continued to grow. Oregon, Ohio, Nevada, Arizona, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Washington

DC, South Dakota, North Dakota, New Mexico, and North Carolina began to offer MMSAP training sessions for educators K-12.

The Masonic Model program is constantly being refined to best meet the needs of children in pain. Columbine, Jonesboro, 9/11 and similar events in American history over the past 20 years reinforces the need for Masonic Model Student Assistance Program training. Freemasonry, through the Masonic Model SAP plays a major role in helping and healing the children in America's school systems.



Now, brethren, we are at a crossroads. Our world continues to crush the hearts and souls of our children. Terrorism, war, violence on the street, violence in our homes, violence in our hearts are all factors in placing our children at risk.

We are called once again to build. As our ancient history reminds us, we are the workers of this world. Once we built massive cathedrals to the glory of God.

Now we are called to the greatest task of all. We must build our children, build our schools and build our future.

Our materials are the most precious gems in God's creation—the hearts and minds of our children. We access those precious gifts through the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program. We have the power to create Safe Schools and healthy children through MMSAP. We have the power to leave a Masonic legacy that revolutionizes the American educational system. If we continue to support and help create a Masonic Model Student Assistance Program in every state in the country we will be builders of a future that is not our own. God's grace will enter and do the rest.



Executive Director's Report

W. Don Baugher

A few years ago I heard the Governor of Colorado telling the members of the Colorado legislature to make every decision as though they were holding the hand of a seven year old child. I thought to myself at

the time, the world would be a better place if all of us would do that. How could we possibly look a seven year old child in the face and honestly say, as many Masons now do, "I can't afford to give to Masonic Charities."

The National Masonic Foundation for Children does so much with the small budget we have to work with that it's hard to imagine what could be done in the name of Freemasonry if every Mason in North America would donate just \$10.00 per year to Masonic Charities. With that small donation there isn't a jurisdiction in North America that couldn't offer at least one Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) Core Team training annually.

Our research shows that where we have MMSAP Core Teams in place in our schools, our students are more likely to succeed. Their grades are better, their attendance is better and they are more likely to graduate from high school. This happens because at-risk behavior is identified early and students' problems are dealt with quickly and efficiently. It is the most cost effective way I know of dealing with at-risk behavior.

We have ended the season for the Combined Federal Campaign's annual appeal. I want to personally thank the federal employees, including the men and women in our armed forces for their generous support of our work. Without their support the National Masonic Foundation for Children could not continue to

function. Many of these men and women are serving overseas, putting their lives on the line daily in combat situations but still support our work by making regular donations through payroll deductions. May God richly bless them for all they do.

We continue to add new jurisdictions to our training schedule. In October, we conducted MMSAP trainings in Nevada and Utah. The Masons in both of those jurisdictions have been very supportive in funding these trainings. God willing, we will conduct our first training in Texas in 2005.

Arizona continues to amaze all of us. JGW David Luebke, the State Coordinator, recently put together a MMSAP three day core team training for the entire Yuma, AZ school district. There were 90 educators in attendance and he had to turn people away because the fire marshal wouldn't allow any more in the room. Dave is doing a great job. If you are in a small jurisdiction and think you can't afford MMSAP because of your size, talk to Dave. He can show you how to do it.

We just finished developing a new MMSAP Grand Lodge Guide. This guide gives step by step directions for setting up MMSAP in a new jurisdiction. If you are interested in getting started or have questions about the program, give us a call at 1-800-35 MASON and we will answer your questions and send you a copy of the guide.

Fraternally,

W. Don Baugher, PGM MI

Executive Director

Starfish Award presented to Del Ripley



Past Grand Master Del Ripley of South Dakota was presented with the National Masonic Foundation for Children Starfish Award.

Del is the NMFC State Coordinator in South Dakota. He was presented with the award at the 50th Annual Table Lodge of Washington Lodge No. 111 in White, SD on October 30th. Del is the 4th recipient of the Starfish Award.

The Starfish Award was created a year ago to recognize the outstanding contributions by State Coordinators to the Masonic Model program. This award is called the "Starfish Award" because, just like the story of the young man throwing the starfish back into the ocean, recipients of this award are making a difference.



President's Report

J. Garrie Burr

It seems that life in the 21st century is full of many frustrations. There are so many things that are happening around us that we don't seem to be able to do anything about. That is one of the reasons why working to alleviate pain

in our children is so rewarding. For those who work on this problem, whether a teacher who is learning to recognize children at risk, an instructor who is teaching them how, the administrator who has realized there is a solution to this tragic problem, or the many who have made funding possible, here is a problem that we can do something about.

We have many exciting things going on, both within the NMFC and within participating jurisdictions. Masonic Model training sessions took place in new jurisdictions such as Utah and Nevada last fall, along with training in other jurisdictions. After presenting our story at last summer's Northeastern Grand Masters Annual meeting we have strong reasons to believe we will see additional trainings in that part of the United States.

I recently met with one of our State Senators in Illinois who informed me, that despite severe budget problems that threatened our program, he feels that moneys have been restored that will help us go forward. He has seen our program and believes in it, which points out the importance of making sure our state government representatives are aware of what we are doing in each of our states.

Our service provider, Newman/Stecher Int'l., continues to work hard to provide specialized trainings in jurisdictions that have particular needs. One of the results of their efforts is that we now offer a two-day training program for those jurisdictions that have established programs but need supplemental training for existing Core Teams that have new members.

Realizing the importance of keeping costs as low as possible, Newman/Stecher and your Foundation are investigating different ways of delivering service that will result in lowering costs. We are working with a fundraiser to find moneys to start pilot MMSAP training sessions and to help jurisdictions with established programs that are experiencing financial difficulties.

We continue to receive strong financial support from the Grand Lodges that have supported us in the past and are optimistic about acquiring additional funding from new jurisdictions. The program of the National Masonic Foundation for Children is the only charity that has been sanctioned by the Grand Masters of North America and it works better than any other program we know of.

I look forward to bringing you more information as it becomes available.

Fraternally,

J. Garrie Burr, PGM

President

National Masonic Foundation for Children to Host Prevention Summit

The National Masonic Foundation for Children (NMFC) will host a Prevention Through Service Alliance (PTSA) Summit at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The summit, which is being sponsored by the International Narcotics and Law (INL) Bureau of the United States Department of State, will bring together fraternal and service organizations from around the country who are involved in Drug Prevention for America's youth.

The summit, which will be held April 14-16, 2005, will concentrate on identifying ways for the various organizations in attendance to work together in their local communities and states to coordinate prevention efforts.

In addition to fraternal and service organizations, the summit will be attended by representatives of the U.S. Department of State and Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as well as former and present White House staff.

This is a great opportunity for the National Masonic Foundation for Children to show what we are doing in the name of Freemasonry to help at-risk children and prevent alcohol and other drug abuse in our schools and communities.

Visit us at:

www.masonicmodel.org



NATIONAL MASONIC FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

MMSAP ACTIVITY SUMMARY

The National Masonic Foundation for Children has been very busy over these past few months. The year began with the opportunity for the Foundation to make a presentation about the Masonic Model program at the Conference of Grand Masters. One of the co-founders of this successful training, Thom Stecher, gave an overview of MMSAP, along with a summary of recent research (reported in UPDATE Winter 2004) that proves that student assistance training makes a real difference in children's lives. Accompanying Brother Stecher were several MMSAP lead trainers who were available to speak about the Masonic Model program to interested parties. The feedback from the conference was that there is much interest in MMSAP, and that those jurisdictions already sponsoring the program are very pleased with the results.

2004 was an active year for the NMFC. After the Conference of Grand Masters, Garrie Burr, president, Don Baugher, Executive Director, and Cathy O'Malley, Executive Assistant of the NMFC, attended a "Training of Trainers" session held in May by Newman/Stecher International to review their training practices and make updates where needed to components of the MMSAP program. One major topic of discussion was why the Masonic Model is so unique among other student assistance programs. The most significant reasons that surfaced were the quality of MMSAP trainers; the personal attention provided to the Core Teams; the long term commitment of the trainers to those teams; the follow-up conducted by the trainers; and the ability to tailor training needs where necessary. In many jurisdictions educators are requesting the Masonic Model program to meet their student

assistance needs.

NMFC has also been invited to speak to a few regional conferences. In July, Don Baugher addressed the members of the Rocky Mountain Conference at their meeting in Park City, Utah. Providing MMSAP to the jurisdictions in that conference offers a unique challenge. Their population is spread over such a wide area that it is difficult and expensive to bring teams to one central location for training. We are looking at the possibility of video conferencing our training in order to offer MMSAP to schools in remote locations.

Also in July, Garrie Burr addressed the Northeast Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Several jurisdictions in the Northeast Conference are already offering MMSAP to their schools. Hopefully, we will be adding one or two more jurisdictions in the near future.

The Southwestern Masonic Conference, which was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Arizona, was held in Phoenix in early September. Don Baugher addressed this group and explained the benefits to a Grand Lodge when they get involved in MMSAP. Three jurisdictions in that conference have expressed new interest in becoming involved. Arizona has been offering MMSAP to their schools for several years. Although they are a small jurisdiction they continue to be a leader in offering MMSAP training.

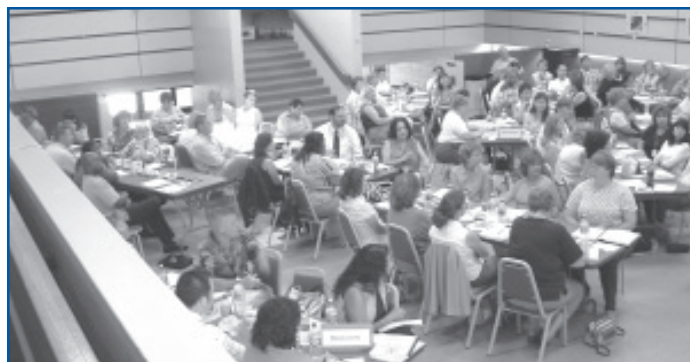
Since last September, we have been able to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for teachers and administrators attending MMSAP. For additional information about CEUs contact the Foundation office.

MMSAP Training in Yuma, AZ

On Thursday, August 5th through Saturday, August 6th, 2004 the Arizona Masonic Foundation (AMF) for Children hosted its largest MMSAP class ever. Working with former student and Yuma School District #1 Staff Director Peggy Lund, the AMF provided training for approximately 1/3 of the district staff in the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.

According to Dave Luebke, the Arizona Program Director, the MMSAP program was requested by the school district and was the first of several sessions that will result in the training of the entire district staff. Luebke also indicated that Yuma School District #1 will be the showcase district for the Arizona Masonic Foundation.

This MMSAP session had 90 attendees, including principals, vice principals, all the school nurses and school counselors, resource officers, and many district teachers. The dates of the session were selected to allow the returning staff to be ready for the start of school.



LOCAL MASONIC LODGE IS SPONSORING MMSAP WORKSHOP FOR ENTIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

In these times, it's easy for kids to get lost. When a child is in pain, it's easy to turn to drugs, alcohol, depression or gangs as a way to ease the pain. And when that happens, everyone loses—kids, families, schools and the whole community.

Because Masons care about kids, they offer a free workshop for California state educators, administrators, and support staff in schools from kindergarten through high school. The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) is a three-day workshop that teaches the attending school core teams how to identify kids at-risk and help them on the road to a successful life. MMSAP trains the core teams how to work with other personnel at their schools to identify kids at risk, gather the necessary information about the children, and then develop a school-based action plan appropriate to the specific needs of each child in the areas of academics, health, behavior and attendance.

So that the entire district can experience the benefit of this worthwhile training, Masonic Naval Lodge No. 87 in Vallejo, CA, is sponsoring an MMSAP workshop in Vallejo for all the teams in the Vallejo City Unified School District August 15, 16 & 17, 2005.

The workshop will be held at the Springbrook Masonic Temple in Vallejo, CA. A continental breakfast and full lunch will be served each day, and the training will be provided by Newman Stecher International, a consulting firm that has developed and provides training and technical assistance in at-risk prevention/intervention programming to schools and community groups throughout the United States. The workshop is being organized with the assistance of the Grand Masonic Lodge of California.

A Dream Becomes A Reality

by Chuck Pagano

It seems ironic that the article is written as we prepare to celebrate the holiday honoring the late Reverend Martin Luther King. By way of introduction, I am a retired faculty member from the College of Health Sciences at West Chester University (WCU). For the past several years, I have conducted Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) trainings throughout the United States for the National Masonic Foundation for Children as a trainer for Newman-Stecher International. Often, teachers, school counselors, building administrators, etc., have posed the question: "Why is this information not presented during our undergraduate preparation?" After speaking with several central office administrators and receiving positive responses, an idea and a dream to address that question was developed.

A proposal was presented to Dr. Don Barr, Dean of the College of Health Sciences at WCU (Don Barr is the person responsible for WCU offering CEUs for MMSAP trainings). The proposal was to conduct a MMSAP with a group of undergraduates preparing to commence their student teaching experience. The Dean agreed with the proposal and the Department of Kinesiology student teachers scheduled for the spring semester, 2005 were designated the pilot group. On January 11, 12, and 13, 2005, the dream became a reality.

A Masonic Model Student Assistance Program Training was conducted with fifty-five seniors from the Department of Kinesiology preparing to embark on their



student teaching field experience. The training was the first MMSAP conducted with college students. To our knowledge, it may be the first time any type of SAP training model has been conducted with undergraduates. Clearly, Freemasonry is, again, at the forefront of providing a service to impact the health of children.

Thom Stecher, one of the originators of the Masonic Model SAP with Larry Newman, served as the co-trainer. In addition, Craig Erb and Rick Stevenson, both MMSAP trainers with Newman-Stecher International, provided assistance with the program. Peter Czeck, a retired teacher and prospective MMSAP trainer, also volunteered his time and expertise to the project. Peter was the Pennsylvania Alternative Education Teacher of

A Dream Becomes A Reality

(continued from page 5)

the Year for 2004. He provided the participants an understanding of alternative education and the significance of a student assistance team to a teacher. Dr. Paula Wagner, licensed psychologist and Director of Student Services in the Great Valley School District (located outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), shared with the students the impact of student assistance teams in her school district from the viewpoint of an administrator.

Don Baugher, Executive Director of the National Masonic Foundation for Children, addressed the students at the outset of the program. The participants repeatedly expressed the impact of Don's presence at the training. The students were excited to be the "first" undergraduate group to experience the training and to have the Executive Director join them for the day.

During MMSAP, participants role-play a parent/teacher conference. To have the student teacher training seem more realistic, it was decided that "outsiders" be

recruited to role-play parents, grandparents, guardians, etc. Dean Barr and other WCU administrators, faculty, support staff, coaches, retired faculty, and friends from the community filled the roles. Based on student comments, this aspect of the training proved to be a highlight. The realism provided by campus folks and friends provided students an opportunity to test their skills.

Certainly, the training seemed to be a success, but the true value will not be known until three to twelve months in the future. At the conclusion of the semester, the student teachers will provide feedback relevant to the impact of the training upon their field experience. A year from now, a follow-up assessment will be conducted to gain additional reflections and feedback. At that point, we will have a better understanding of the value of the dream that became a reality.

ILLINOIS MASONIC FOUNDATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUMMER 2004 UPDATE

by Janine Toth, Director of Programs,
Illinois Masonic Foundation

At this time in our training cycle, we look back on the year of service and look forward to another busy year, all made possible through the charitable commitment of Illinois Masons and the addition of a grant from the IL Masonic Family Health Foundation.

During the 2003-04 school year we served 141 schools, trained 12 brand new Core Teams, and worked with a total of 467 participants, mainly from schools with a need to add new members to their established Student Assistance Programs. In this way we keep Core Teams in the schools sustained and viable over time.

Looking ahead to 2004-05, we have eight MMSAP sessions scheduled so far, with several more in the planning stages. We continue to provide training at locations throughout the state in order to increase participation and reduce travel costs for school districts.

Comments from training participants:
"Best workshop that I have attended in years",
"Superb atmosphere, professionalism and humor of leaders," "I appreciate this experience—very enriching"

During the spring we conducted a comprehensive program and training needs assessment and learned of many technical assistance and special topic needs of teams, including support group facilitation, bullying, and skills for de-escalating violent episodes in schools.

The Board of Managers of the IL Masonic Foundation gathered this summer to conduct a strategic visioning session to strengthen the direction of the foundation. Fund development efforts continue to include our license plate program, the Masonic credit card, grants from like-minded foundations, golf outings and Grand Lodge appeals.

ANNUAL STATE COORDINATOR MEETING



In November of 2004, the Foundation once again brought together its Board members and State Coordinators from throughout the country to meet and discuss what is taking place with the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP). Larry Newman and Dr. John Bearoff from Newman/ Stecher, Int'l. also attended to help facilitate the meeting and hear what the Coordinators had to say. Many ideas were shared between jurisdictions, about what is working, and what needs improving.

All representatives present expressed their satisfaction with how the program is run, and the most repeated comment was the need for more funds in order to keep up with demand. Once a jurisdiction sponsors MMSAP and the educational community sees what it offers, the experience has been that demand for MMSAP increases dramatically. Since September, 2004, Continuing Education Units (CEUs) have been offered to educators participating in the Masonic Model program. This has been very well received by the education community. The Masonic Model program now encompasses several levels of training: its Core Team training which initiates a core team of educators in a school in the student assistance process; Booster training for teams that have been operational for at least a year; New Member training, for an educator replacing a departing member from an established team. Also available are Administrator training sessions for a group of administrators if a school system so desires.

Our State Coordinators come together once each year to meet with the Board of Directors and Newman/ Stecher International to critique the training process and assure that Masonic Model is the best Student Assistance Program available.

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TEACHERS THANKFUL FOR RECENT TRAINING

From the Vacaville Reporter, Vacaville, CA

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Seven members of the staff at Browns Valley Elementary School recently had the opportunity to participate in the all expenses paid Masonic Student Assistance Program in Southern California.

We would like to graciously extend our thanks to the California Masons for providing this training. During a time of limited financial resources within our district, we were provided with a phenomenal training that offered invaluable information on creative and effective ways with which to help students who are "at risk" or who are experiencing crises in their lives.

The information we learned and the resources that we obtained will be applied at our school site to help our

students be successful in school and beyond. In addition to the wonderful training, we also experienced the hospitality of this generous organization and the beautiful setting of the Masonic Children's Home in Covina.

The dedication of the Masons to ensure the success of all children in California is to be admired and respected.

Marcia Bjerkin

Toni Schaffer

Derenda Faias

Jennifer Allard

Margaret Bernard

Mandy Bland

Stephanie Rogers

Thinking About Starting MMSAP?

Any Grand Lodge Line Officer of a jurisdiction not conducting the Masonic Model program may contact Executive Director Don Baugher at 1-800-35-MASON to learn more about MMSAP and to observe a Masonic Model training in a nearby jurisdiction.

*Please send us your
Masonic Model news to:*

NMFC UPDATE
P.O. Box 41540
Arlington, VA 22204
Email: nmfc@earthlink.net

We would like to extend a big "thank you" to all the individuals who have contributed so generously to NMFC through the Combined Federal Campaign. You are helping to make a difference!

Yes! I want to help support the NMFC's important work in promoting the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program in our communities to help our youth avoid addiction.

Donor _____

Street or RR _____

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