

Geriatric Care and Homes for Seniors

For more than a century Homes for the Aged have been a major project of International Odd Fellowship. In fact, the first Home for the Care of the Aged and the Orphan was established by Odd Fellows in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1872. From that small beginning the Order has been responsible for the care of nearly 50,000 Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, widows and others needing shelter. Today the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs operate more than 100 homes in North America alone, with 8,000 residents and an annual budget of more than \$100 million.

In more recent years, in cooperation with governmental agencies, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have established extensive housing facilities for senior citizens on limited incomes and Alzheimers care units in many jurisdictions.

Arthritis Foundation, Arthritis Society & Health Care Agencies

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are the major non-corporate contributors to the Arthritis Foundation, as well as the Arthritis Society, which is seeking a cure for that dreaded disease that causes so much pain and suffering to both the young and old throughout the world.

Automobile raffles and Mini Grand Prix's have brought entertainment and communication to local areas where joint efforts have raised thousands of dollars in the fight against arthritis.

Living Legacy Program

Around the world, members have been planting trees, shrubs and flower gardens in public areas and on government lands showing their concern for the worlds environmental problems.

Boy Scouts and school children have been recruited in many areas to assist in many of these endeavors.



Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

- Endow a \$1.2 million research chair at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.
- Provide scholarships and low interest loans to deserving college students through a \$2.8 million Educational Loan Foundation.
- Maintain more than 150 facilities for the aged and youth.
- Sponsor an educational tour to the United Nations in New York and the U.S. and Canada capitals for young adults from around the world.
- Spend \$300 million annually for relief.
- Raised more than \$4 million in eleven years for Arthritis Research.
- Plant trees and other vegetation, striving to combat the effects of Global Warming as a gift to future generations.
- Provide activity meeting space for Scouting Troops, School Clubs and other Youth Activities.
- Share and Care by fund raising for the less fortunate children and senior citizens in the community.

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PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Odd Fellow / Rebekah Way

Opening Doors Through Communication and Participation



**Independent Order
of
Odd Fellows**

Youth Programs

Sponsored By The Order

One of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs major endeavors is the sponsorship of Junior Odd Fellow Lodges and Theta Rho Girls' Clubs for those between the ages of 8 and 18. The Odd Fellows have also long been recognized as one of the major sponsors of Boy Scout Troops in North America, while many Rebekah Lodges sponsor Girl Scout Troops and Camp Fire Girls. The D.A.R.E. Program against drugs is the main youth program in several Jurisdictions. Working



with local law enforcement agencies it has proven highly successful. Thousands of "Trauma Bears" have been made and donated to law enforcement agencies to use when small children come under their protection. Coaching and sponsoring Little League and Pee Wee League Baseball teams has filled a great need in many communities. Many Jurisdictions offer local scholarships to deserving students in their area

Youth Camps & Recreational Facilities

Organized Youth Camps are operated in several Jurisdictions to provide encouragement and guidance to young people in helping them grow into worthwhile and productive citizens.



World Hunger & Disaster Fund

Sponsored by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs a World Hunger and Disaster Fund has provided for immediate relief to both Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, while also providing for financial support to others in need.

You, Too, Can Become Partners, Caring for Your Communities

FUND scholarships for local students.

PREPARE personal care packages for the Battered Women and Children shelters in your area.

VOLUNTEER as host and hostesses at Ronald McDonald Houses.

RAISE funds for daily food costs at soup kitchens.

DONATE funds for "milk breaks" at local elementary schools.

ADOPT teenage and divorced mothers in your Community and small children providing basic food and clothing.

DELIVER meals on wheels to shut-ins.

PROVIDE drivers for delivering older patients to and from doctor and hospital appointments.

COLLECT grocery coupons for computers for schools.

ANSWER phones for "Help Line", "Hot Line" and Crisis Centers.

VOLUNTEER as Tutors, Teachers Aides and assisting in nursing homes.

PURCHASE one weeks supply of dog food for the local Humane Animal Shelter.

PROVIDE space and supervisors for teen youth groups.

SPEND one night a month in work parties at local food banks, sorting and bagging food.

SPONSOR golf tournaments to raise funds for supporting underprivileged children's Christmas activities and gifts.

PROVIDE shoes for elementary school children bringing local merchants and schools together.

PROVIDE hands on volunteers working with Fish and Wildlife preservation activities.

ADOPT parks, nature trails and highways to clean up, replant and beautify.

ASSIST local group to secure grant funds for the upkeep of historical buildings, trees for planting and youth centers.

PROVIDE space for musical recitals, for High School Class meeting place, for teenage dances, for teaching young children self help, Karate and other local activities.

MAN highway rest stops and local information booths.

RAISE funds for local Police activities.

Summer Music In The Park

Sponsoring local bands to hold concerts in local parks during the summer evenings has become a worthwhile project by some local Lodges.

United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth

Odd Fellowship is proud to be the sponsor of the United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth, and each summer several hundred high school juniors or sophomores from all over North America participate in this educational program. Most of the students also participate in educational bus tours, which include visits to many of the historical sites along with visiting the national capitols of the United States and Canada. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs feed and entertain these young delegates. In recent years, students from abroad have joined the students from North America to study at the United Nations.

Manning the Phones for Worthy Telethons

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have been loyal supporters of many telethons for educational TV channels, the Arthritis Foundation, Arthritis Society, and many other health agencies and worthwhile causes.

Odd Fellow - Rebekah Child Care

Originally Odd Fellow Homes for Children were to provide for the youngsters of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, so these early day homes were for orphans and half orphans. As conditions changed over the years there was not the need for such homes, so the goals and purposes of some of these homes have changed significantly.

Now child care is available for Social Services programs, Foster Parents, Day Care and other much needed services.