



# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta

*Office of the Grand First Principal  
Most Excellent Companion Gerald D. R. Waldern, GZ*

May 10, 2022

All Constituent Chapters  
Grand Chapter Officers

My Dear Companions:

I'm sure we have all watched in horror, the atrocities that have occurred in Ukraine since the Russian invasion of February 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyday on TV, we see the bombings, the carnage, the scorched earth policy of leaving nothing standing that is happening to innocent civilians. This has included hospitals for pregnant moms and their children, shelters, train stations at their busiest times, apartment buildings, shopping malls, mining of farm fields and much more. Genocide, finding of mass graves and untold horrors everywhere are what the Ukrainian people are facing day-in and day-out. It is estimated that over eight million of the country's forty-five million will become refugees. That is nearly twenty percent of the population.

I have no doubt, that Canada and in particular Alberta, will see a great number of Moms and their children arrive here. Many have lost family and their homes in this war. Everything for them has been lost and there is nothing for them to go back to. Many I believe will make a new life for themselves in Alberta, making Alberta their new home.

So, what can we do as Grand Chapter? Well, I'm pleased to announce that our Youth Endowment Committee and Grand Council recently met to discuss what we might be able to contribute to refugees coming to Alberta. We have a wonderful vehicle – the Youth Endowment Fund that exists to help the needs of children in Alberta. Make no mistake, the children coming here as refugees are Alberta children. These children will need a great deal of help to deal with: loss of family; uprooted from what they knew as home; psychological and health problems; a new country, language, and education system; and no friends. While we realize that the needs of Ukrainian child refugees are of utmost importance at the moment, there is also a chance that Russia will invade other neighbouring countries possibly increasing the number of refugees. As well, other child refugees coming to Alberta have a claim upon our kind offices.

I want to encourage our Chapters and members to be on the lookout for refugees coming to our communities and of their needs. Once identified, please submit requests to the Youth Endowment Committee. As a Chapter or as individuals you may wish to make a donation to the Youth Endowment Fund for this specific purpose. Please indicate so with your donation.

Fraternally yours,

