

# WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL CHARITY FUND

## FATHER MCGIVNEY'S DREAM COME TRUE

### **Definition of Charity**

Active charity is thoughtfulness, courtesy, gentleness, kindness and commitment. Technically charity is not giving what we have, but giving what someone else needs.

### **Mission Statement**

Motivated by the thought of Brother Knights helping Brother Knights, their widows and others in need, the entire membership of the Wisconsin State Council is committed to a very ambitious charitable fund raising activity. It must be very reassuring to Father McGivney that his followers in Wisconsin continue to be crusaders who follow the true north on the compass of his great order.

Grants from the Charity Fund will help alleviate sorrow, ease financial burdens and restore hope to families and victims of accidents and illness. This fund will also be the source of funding for vocations by the State Council.

### **Genesis of the Charity Raffle**

The State Council has always been besieged with requests for funds for needy people and causes, and each State Deputy has agonized over the inability to respond. Past State Deputy Sonnleitner during his 1972-1974 term, addressed the problem by introducing the "Disaster Relief Fund." A canister was distributed to each council with the expectation that it would be passed around to members during each council meeting with the hope that members would contribute toward the fund. In spite of periodic reminders only a handful of councils responded with only a few thousand dollars being contributed annually.

During the 1985 State Convention, the delegates approved a resolution sponsored by State Deputy Kaczmarek. State Deputy Kaczmarek like his predecessors, wrestled with the problem of how to respond to requests with only limited funds. A devastating tornado occurred at Barneveld and seminarians were being saddled with escalating educational costs. Then too, there were always situations of destitute widows. The increase in the number of charitable requests, along with the increased magnitude of need prompted this State Deputy to sponsor his convention resolution which would ultimately result in more meaningful assistance to Brother Knights, their families and others.

It is both sobering and somewhat reassuring to know that perhaps the reader of this document, or his family, could conceivably be the beneficiary of a charity grant.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **State Officers**

The State Officers are obligated to enthusiastically promote the sale of raffle tickets and to lead the way by example. The officers are also to work in concert with the charity committee when allocating funds.

### **Charity Chairman and Committee**

Chairman and the Committee are responsible for the logistics of distributing tickets to the councils, following up on and promoting sales, keeping records, researching and making recommendations relative to charitable requests and giving pragmatic advice to the State Officers in matters concerning the fund.

### **District Deputies**

It is mandatory that these representatives of the State Deputy promote the sale of raffle tickets and to lead the way by example. It is equally imperative that they frequently monitor each council's progress and firmly and diplomatically encourage their councils to meet their ticket sales goals.

### **Grand Knights**

Grand Knights are the grass root leaders who make or break the raffle. Technically, they should appoint a chairman to handle this important program and follow up frequently as to results. Grand Knights are strongly urged to schedule their traditional council raffles so as not to conflict with the state raffle. Charity raffle monies are not to be commingled with other council funds. Remember that councils receive \$2.00 for each ticket sold and properly forwarded to the Diocesan Charity Coordinator. The Councils can also earn a bonus if they sell at least three tickets per member. The council will receive their reimbursement check at the Diocesan meetings in August and September.

### **Goal**

Five tickets sold per member. During the raffle held in 2003, twenty-nine Councils exceeded 10 tickets per member with the highest in the state having sold 28.5 tickets per member. IT CAN BE DONE. Remember, you achieve only what you really aim at!

### **Second Chance Drawing**

After the main drawing at the State Convention, the Council should hold a Second Chance Drawing in May or June at a Council meeting or function. You are limited to a total prize of \$100.00. This can be one \$100.00 winner or two \$50.00 winners or four \$25.00 winners. The Council should pay off the winners using its Council rebates from the raffle as the source of funds.

### **Requests for Grants**

Print a copy of the Grant Request, complete and submit to the State Office. If unable to print, forms are available from the Charity Committee Chairman and from his Diocesan Committee Members.

### **Conclusion**

We can take justifiable pride in being a benevolent Order of Knights on a crusade of charity.

Remember – *We make a living by what we do, but –we make a life by what we give!*

## **HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE COUNCIL LEVEL**

### **Appoint of Council Chairman**

Grand Knights should appoint a Council Chairman to be responsible for ticket distribution, collection of ticket stubs and proceeds, tabulating results and preparing forms for transmitting information to the Diocesan Charity Coordinator.

### **Set Council Goal**

Grand Knight and Council Chairman should establish a Council Goal for the number of tickets to be sold. Suggestion- Five tickets sold for each Council member. For the 2003 State Raffle, one council sold over 28 tickets per member.

### **Ticket Distribution**

Council Chairman should distribute five tickets to all Council members by November 15th. Tickets should be given or mailed to members with a letter which explains purpose and necessity of raffle. Mail tickets to all members, even the inactive members, out of state members and widows since they may be able to sell them. Remind members that tickets must be returned to Council Chairman. (Sample letter is on the next page.)

Please Note: Use of proceeds of annual raffle printed on back of ticket.

### **Reports**

Utilize Charity Chairman Reporting Form to keep track of which members return ticket stubs and in preparation of the check for submission to Diocesan Charity Coordinator with the Council Raffle Deposit Form, which should be sent in during the months of January, February, March and April.

### **Consider Awards**

Consider giving prizes to the top three sellers to your Council.

### **Council Promotion**

The Council Chairman should promote the Charity raffle at each Council meeting and put a promotional message in each Council monthly bulletin. Also try to sell tickets at any Council function which attracts the public by setting up a small table and have a member available to sell the tickets. The Council may also consider buying some tickets and inserting their own name or the name of their favorite charity or their Council Chaplain on the ticket stub.

### **Community Support**

Besides the members of your Council, ask other people to help in selling the tickets. The promotional posters and easels can be placed in business establishments which would help them sell the tickets. Examples of businesses are bowling establishments, taverns, banks, restaurants, etc. Also use the pocket inserts to show how the proceeds of last year's raffle were distributed.

### **Any Questions**

Please contact the Charity Coordinator for your Diocese listed in the State Directory.

## SAMPLE LETTER TO DISTRIBUTE TICKETS

Dear Brother Knight:

The Wisconsin State Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a statewide charity raffle. The proceeds from this raffle are used to help support your Brother Knights and other members of our community to alleviate sorrow, ease financial burdens and restore hope to victims and families of accidents and illness. In addition, \$2.00 for every raffle ticket sold will be returned to our Council to allow us to fund charitable needs in accordance with requests made of us.

As you can see on the enclosed tickets, the total prizes to be paid out to forty winners will be \$133,000 with \$50,000 going to the first place winner. Last year, the KC's sold approximately 143,000 tickets which means that your odds of winning are certainly much better than in the State Lottery and the use of the net income is for some very worthy causes. This is the largest cash raffle in the State of Wisconsin for the \$5.00 price.

An added feature to this year's raffle is a **second chance drawing** that will be held at the Council level in which we will be paying \$25.00 to four lucky winners after the State drawing at the Convention. The person purchasing a ticket must fill out the regular stub and the second chance stub to be eligible for both drawings.

I am enclosing 6 tickets, which I would appreciate your best efforts in trying to sell at the \$5.00 price. Why not buy one yourself and then sell five to your friends, relatives or co-workers. Please call me if you need more tickets.

Since the drawing will take place during the State Convention, I would appreciate having all of the ticket sales returned to me no later than April 15th. Of course, if you dispose of them sooner, please turn in your proceeds as soon as you can.

Fraternally yours,

Council Chairman

**Note: If your Council was the recipient of a Charity Grant during the past year, it would be a good idea to mention the fact in this letter and try to personalize the situation.**

PER CAPITA TAX REBATE FORM

**SPECIAL CHARITY GRANT  
FOR  
INACTIVE INSURANCE MEMBERS**

Pursuant to several complaints by subordinate councils that the inactive insurance members cause a heavy burden on the council treasury, the State Officers submitted a resolution for a special charity grant and the resolution was passed at a convention.

The Supreme Council gives a credit to subordinate councils for each inactive insurance member. The intent of the Special Charity Grant is to make available money from the Charity Fund to make up the difference between the credit given by the Supreme Council and the actual cost of the State Council per capita tax.

There shall be a minimum of \$25.00 for reimbursement. The council needs to fill out this form and submit it to the State Office no later than November 1st. The council needs to submit the name of the Charity they wish the Grant to go to and the check will be made to the Named Charity.

NUMBER OF INACTIVE INSURANCE MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

X DIFFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CHARITY \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL NAME & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Knight

\_\_\_\_\_  
Financial Secretary

Make copies and submit to State Office by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mail to:  
Wisconsin State Council  
Knights of Columbus  
4297 W. Beltline Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711

