

Brothers, sisters and friends of the Scottish Rite:

We have many duties in life. Also, the Degrees of the Scottish Rite teach us many lessons. Relating specifically to the Scottish Rite Foundation and our duty to fund the speech and language clinics statewide, would be the lessons of the 5<sup>th</sup> Degree, in which we are taught: life is uncertain; death may call at any time and the noblest portion of humanity is virtue for virtue's sake.

These are important lessons for all of us to learn and understand, and warrant this separate letter to each of you, instead of just a brief statement in the bi-monthly newsletter, although that is included also.

The question then becomes: "How does this apply to the Foundation"? For your consideration, that could be answered by: "Life is uncertain and death may call at any time" – those first two lessons of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree stress the importance of caring for our immediate family members, now, and for the time when you are no longer on this earth to do so. The 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson, i. e.: "the noblest portion of humanity is virtue for virtue's sake", relates to morality and doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do, in my view. You may have your own.

Consider: If you have done all you can to provide for your family and loved ones upon your death, that is all we can do for them, the best we can, because we must. But there are others who may not be as fortunate as we are to provide so fully for family members. In this case, such as the children we support in the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, you can consider a gift to them, one that will live on to continue funding their special needs, long after we have left this earth, in the form of a charitable gift to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida through our Legacy Program. There are numerous ways to donate various sums and every gift counts, regardless of size. Complete details are included in our legacy pamphlet, which may be obtained from the General Secretary or myself. If you are in need of monthly cash income, for example, one of the various forms of annuities may meet those needs, as well as providing tax advantages, which should be discussed with your accountant or lawyer. Additionally, these annuities are currently paying nearly 5%, far exceeding CD's or other non-stock market investments.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for all your past and future contributions to the children the Foundation serves. Even though they do not get to come to the Valley to thank you personally, it is part of my job to thank you for them. As members of the Orient of Florida, we continue, each of us through all our donations, and good works, to quite literally, speak for children who can't speak for themselves. The Valley does keep in contact with the University of Florida, Gainesville Clinic, in particular, and receives positive feedback regarding the children provided care in this Foundation funded clinic. Your donations do exceptionally good work!

Lastly, if within the length of your cable tow, please send a monthly donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, in care of the General Secretary, Valley of Ocala. We are close to our annual goal, and the children and their families are counting on our generosity.

Fraternally,

Bob Moynihan, Valley of Ocala Trustee to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida