

**Masonic Home and School
Research Proposal
Scholarship Incentive Program**

The underlying mission of the Masonic Home and School is highlighted on their website. Although the statement is not expressly made as a mission statement, it does outline the purpose of the program as the following:

“Masonic Home and School is dedicated to lending a helping hand to people who need the opportunity to become worthwhile adults- people, whom when given the opportunity, become good citizens” (Masonic Homepage).

In short, Masonic Home’s “function is to rear and educate normal children”(Masonic Homepage). This function is at the core of our proposal.

Proposal

In order to “rear and educate normal children”(Masonic Homepage), Masonic Home and School must be held responsible for the aspect of normalcy in a teenager’s life. Freedom to grow both mentally and socially is an imperative piece of a teenager’s maturation. To facilitate social growth, responsibility, and community involvement, students need the personal freedom that independent transportation provides. In addition to this need, students must maintain a certain level of academic achievement to promote learning and increase responsibility. These academic standards lead to students being able to make positive contributions to society, as the mission statement claims. A program that rewards students for their academic achievements will be successful in encouraging them to excel. This leads to our proposal:

In order to promote scholarship at Masonic Home and School, an incentive based program has been formed to reward academic achievement with the ability to drive a vehicle.

What do the students and faculty think?

For Masonic Home students to prove their responsibility, juniors and seniors must be given the opportunity to make decisions unsupervised. Being able to control their decisions by driving off campus would be an exceptional prequel to college life, or whatever may proceed after high school graduation. According to the Masonic Home Driver's Education teacher Lori Liles, the licensed students are prepared and willing to drive. Liles believes, after spending one-on-one time with each and every junior and senior at Masonic Home, that the incentive program will not only heighten their scholarship, but their driving abilities as well. Jon Niles, a Masonic Home Senior working in our group, worries about his driving skills. He wonders how he will gather driving experience without ever being able to get behind the wheel. Michael Zenier, another senior group member, believes that the incentive program would urge him to study harder to become eligible to drive. Incentives, he thinks, would work for him and most likely for other students with similar circumstances. It is apparent that something must be done to prepare these teens for college or other post-high school plans with increased freedom and awareness of the importance of academic achievement.

What exactly would this scholarship incentive program entail?

Simply stated, the program offers a variety of valuable assets to be learned from active participation. To name a few, gaining knowledge, learning study and time management skills, showing responsibility, improving sense of achievement, increasing self esteem and multiplying unsupervised, real world experiences. In order to set the groundwork for the program a decision had to be made concerning exactly what the scholarship goals would be. This decision was not one that was taken lightly, as information from TCU scholarship programs and Masonic Home's academic achievement statistics were used as guidelines. The requirement for maintaining a scholarship at TCU is 3.25, which validates the importance of the grade point average,

and would be consistent with the higher academic achievement Masonic Home is trying to accomplish. After reviewing the Masonic Home and School A/B Honor Roll, their grade point averages as a whole were less than 3.25, which would require an improvement for most juniors and seniors to be eligible to drive. This way, most students will be urged to improve their study skills in order to enjoy the freedom that a car has to offer.

How would Masonic Home obtain vehicles for the program?

Masonic Home and School looks for support for this program from local car dealerships and Master Masons. Three local car dealerships, when surveyed, agreed with the logistics of the program and complimented the program's emphasis on scholarship. Freeman Mazda in Irving vowed that it donates too many cars annually to donate to Masonic Home's cause, but just action of donation proves that the proposal might work at a different dealership. Moritz of Fort Worth frequently sells cars to organizations at cost. Mr. Moritz adds support to the program by providing information that the price of these cars would be dramatically more affordable for non-profit organizations, such as Masonic Home. In order to buy cars, funding from the Master Masons at the local lodges would be the most logical option. However, research is still pending concerning the Mason's standpoint on the scholarship incentive program. If Masonic Home administration approves the program, hopefully the Masons will follow suit by supporting our effort to finance the proposal. In order to show our appreciation, a plaque will be awarded to the donors. In addition to the plaque, along with the cooperation of Masonic Home students, thank you letters will be sent as an added gratuitous measure. These measures would act as an incentive for cooperating and assisting Masonic Home in reaching its goals.

What is the overall impact for Masonic Home?

The Masonic Home should adopt and implement the scholarship incentive program for several reasons. First, by adopting the program, the Masonic Home enables

students to control their own destiny in terms of using the car. This ability will help install a sense of responsibility. Second, the use of a vehicle increases a students' sense of independence by allowing them to make sound decisions outside of their normal, protected environment. Also, the program rewards students for academic achievement. By adopting the program, Masonic Home increases student's self -esteem, motivates students to continue heightened scholarship and promises well -balanced citizens as stated in the Masonic Home mission statement.

Works Cited

1. Bankston Nissan of Irving (Secretary). Telephone Interview. October 24, 2001.
2. Freeman Mazda of Irving (Assistant Manager). Telephone Interview. October 23, 2001.
3. Homepage. www.mhstx.org. October 19, 2001
4. Liles, Lori. Interview with Jon Niles and Michael Zenier. October 29, 2001
5. Moritz of Fort Worth Car Dealership (Manager). Telephone Interview. October 23, 2001.
6. Niles, Jon. Interview. October 30, 2001.
7. Zenier, Michael. Interview. October 30, 2001.

Q: Jon- do you ever practice driving?

A: No, I did my driving times to get my permit and license but since then I think I've driven only a couple of times.

Q: Are you worried that you may not remember how to drive when you get a car later in life?

A: A little- I hope to get a car soon, but I haven't practiced very much, so I'm kind of not very good yet (laughs)

Q: Michael- what do you think about the scholarship program? Do you think it will encourage you to study if you know that you will be able to drive with good grades?

A: I don't know for sure if I will get better grades, but I think it will make me try harder because I know we all hate driving around in those stupid vans and we want to do stuff by ourselves sometimes.

Q: Do you think other people you know will want to drive cars also?

A: Yes- definitely

Q: Do you think they might study more too if they had a car waiting for them?

A: Definitely- we all really want to go out and have fun and do stuff away from campus.

Interview with Lori Liles by Jon Niles & Michael Zenier

1. How do you think we are prepared for driving in the real world?

I think any time we take a vehicle any were to games or any thing the kids should be able to drive this way giving you a chance for experiences, but given the life you have you generally don't get to drive as much as you would if you were in your own home and with your parents who would allow you to drive more.

2. How are our drivers Ed compared to others?

It is the same except we have to get up and have it at six thirty in the morning and that I know the kids more than I know them at other places.

3. Do you think the people who have passed are ready to drive?

I believe everyone should get a chance until proven otherwise, despite other problems, but if there are any problems made by the drivers take privilege away.

4. Out of all the cars you know of which one is the safest that you know of?

Four doors, not white or beige, an Impala, Chevy Malibu, intrepid maybe even two cars a standard and an automatic.

5. What type of guidelines or things should be done to drive a car?

She said juniors and seniors who have established A and B honor role A job could be part of it they must have a driving evaluation, and GPA being fairly high are some of the qualities needed to drive the car.

6. Do you think this is a good idea for our school?

Yes, because the students need the experience, and not many of the students here have the chance for a car. Most kids who live with their families have a car usually right when they get a license or right after here it is not the case. "If we can I believe we should have 4 or 5 so every student has the chance to drive." Direct quote.

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To Whom It May Concern:

As you may already know, Masonic Home and School of Texas is a non-profit organization established in 1899 by a group of men called Master Masons. Currently, Masonic Home accommodates approximately two hundred and fifty residents, with one hundred students and more than twenty sibling groups. The mission statement for this institution states that "Masonic Home and School is dedicated to lending a helping hand to people who need the opportunity to become worthwhile adults-people, whom when given the opportunity, become good citizens." In short, Masonic Home and School rears and educates children in a caring environment that they may otherwise not have had. However, in order to "rear and educate children" and give them the tools they need and the opportunities they may have missed, Masonic Home and School must be held responsible for the aspect of normalcy in a teenager's life. This is why it is important to allow the Masonic Home and School students some freedom in their life, which is an extremely significant aspect of a teenager's growth. In order to do so, it is valuable to these students to have a mode of independent transportation available to them. Seniors need a car to promote responsibility, social growth and community involvement. These students do not get the opportunity to go to McDonalds with their friends, or see a movie on a Friday or Saturday night like other more fortunate teenagers. This leaves the Masonic Home students extremely sheltered. In order to promote scholarship at Masonic Home and School, an incentive based program has been proposed to reward academic achievement with the ability to drive a car. If they maintained a 3.25 grade point average, are a senior in high school, and keep a clean disciplinary record then this opportunity would be available to these particular students. The drivers education program professor believes that, after spending one on one time with the seniors at Masonic High School, that the incentive program will not only heighten their scholarship, but their driving abilities as well. Jon, a senior student at Masonic High School believes that this incentive program would urge him among many other students to study harder in order to become eligible to drive. Crystal, another Masonic senior student worries about her driving skills, and how she will gather driving experience without ever being able to get behind the wheel. In order to obtain this mode of transportation we are looking towards car dealerships. We have discussed with car dealerships the opportunity of donating a car, and received one positive response that they do this for such organizations as Masonic Home and School. However, future funds for this program will be needed. We send you this letter in hopes that you will participate in this rewarding program, and help the growth of the present and future seniors of Masonic Home and School of Texas. A sense of academic achievement with rewards increases self-esteem, motivates to continue heightened scholarship and promises a well-balanced citizen as stated in the Masonic Home mission statement. We are in great need of donations, and would appreciate any contribution that was made. If you would like to receive further information about this program then we ask that you please contact Masonic Home and School of Texas, and let them know of your interest. Your time is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

reward

why?
for what?