



THE HIKE FUND, INC.

*Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund
Supported by Job's Daughters International*

Dear Friends:

As members of the Masonic Family, we know that philanthropy has a very important place in your hearts and in your work. Through this letter we hope to inform you of what one branch of your Masonic Family, Job's Daughters International, is doing to promote the spirit of charity and makes Masonry special and unique.

Job's Daughters International (JDI) is an organization for girls from the ages of eleven to twenty who are related to Master Masons. Founded in 1921, there are approximately 18,000 Job's Daughters throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and the Philippines.

From the very beginning, philanthropy has been an important part of being a Job's Daughter. However, in 1985, members and adult supporters of the JDI set out to create a charitable organization all our own. So was born The HIKE Fund, Inc. which stands for Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment. The HIKE Fund raises money for underprivileged children in need of hearing aids and other listening devices. The fund awards children who demonstrate both a medical and financial need up to \$4,000 for the purchase of assistive hearing devices, regardless of gender, race or religious affiliation.

Today, The HIKE Fund, Inc. is going - and growing - strong. HIKE is a fully recognized 501(c)3 organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service. Since its beginning in 1985, members of the JDI has raised over one million dollars and awarded listening devices to nearly one thousand children. We are proud of the fact that our operating expenses are less than five percent; for every \$100 raised, over \$95 goes directly to the recipients. Donations continue to increase each year. In 1994, HIKE collected just over \$100,000; just four years later, nearly \$200,000 was collected in one year. As expected, with an increase in exposure comes an increase in demand for HIKE's services. At any given time, the list of children awaiting awards is between 35 and 40.

The success of HIKE gives members of JDI a sense of pride and accomplishment equal only to the pride of our Masonic heritage. There are truly very few places where a girl of eleven, twelve, or even sixteen can boast she has been instrumental in changing another child's life. In fact, the motto of The HIKE Fund, Inc. is derived from this unique experience. *Kids Helping Kids*

Anyone can be a part of the magic that is created through HIKE. Donations are gladly accepted for both the general fund, which goes immediately back to the children, and for the endowment, which accepts a minimum donation of \$500 and works to ensure the long-term success of The HIKE Fund, Inc. All Donations to HIKE are tax deductible; our tax identification number is 36-3406438. HIKE also accepts funding from wills, bequests, memorials, and corporate donations. Donations made out to The HIKE Fund, Inc. and inquiries can be sent to:

Secretary of the HIKE Board
10115 Cherryhill Pl.
Spring Hill, FL 34608-7116
(352) 688-2579
email: ceterrill1@aol.com

Children are presented their awards in public ceremonies throughout the United States. If you ever have the opportunity to attend such a presentation please do. The experience will be a very moving and rewarding one. The look on the face of a girl who for the first time hears her mommy's voice, or a boy who hears his own laughter for the very first time, is one that you will never forget. Moreover, knowing that you were a part of that laughter will change your life forever.

Thank you for your time and support.