

Cherokee Lodge No. 10 focuses on charity

Saturday, Oct. 18, the Cherokee Masonic Lodge No. 10 is hosting an all-you-can-eat benefit breakfast for the lodge itself. The proceeds will be used to aid in the operation and cost of repairs and maintenance of the building.

Breakfast will feature bacon, eggs, pancakes, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, gravy, orange juice and coffee.

The lodge building is in need of repairs and updates to continue providing a quality environment for hosting benefits and fundraisers for the many charitable organizations the Masonic Lodge supports.

Cherokee Masonic Lodge No. 10, the oldest Masonic lodge in the state

of Oklahoma, was established in 1848 in Tahlequah. In 1955, the current building was dedicated and put into use for the lodge itself and for the community.

For decades, the lodge has hosted benefit breakfasts and dinners for many charitable organizations in the community, including Help-In-Crisis, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Special Olympics, Save-A-Senior, Boy Scouts of America, Relay for Life, Salvation Army Home Energy Aid, and Tahlequah Men's Shelter.

The Masonic organization is the oldest-known fraternity in existence, dating back several hundred years. Many famous and influential men who were

Masons have played a pivotal role in the foundation of this country, major events and World Wars throughout history: Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Winston Churchill, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Douglas MacArthur, Omar Bradley, Irving Berlin, Gene Autry, Cecil B. deMille, Burt Ives, Red Skelton, Mark Twain, John Wayne, Henry Ford, Charles Lindbergh, J.C. Penny, Chief John Ross and Will Rogers, to name a few.

In addition to the monthly benefit breakfast, the Cherokee lodge sponsors many benefit dinners and other fundraising events to support individuals and organizations. The lodge also recognizes children and educators through their program known as, Student of Today, and Teacher of Today. Lodge members provide eye screenings for children at the schools around the county. Masonic organizations across the state of Oklahoma raised in excess of \$9 million for charitable functions and individuals.

Each year, Cherokee Masonic Lodge No. 10 provides a free Thanksgiving dinner to the community the third Saturday of November. There is no cost for this event; however,

donations are appreciated.

Your support of all of the charities in our communities is vital to the success and continuation of their mission. Thousands of individuals are impacted annu-

ally by the generous acts of the Masonic Lodge and all of the other charitable organizations in our communities," said Worshipful Master Dana Hazzard. "Please support all chari-

ties so that they can positively impact individuals who are less fortunate or might be enduring a crisis."



Cherokee Masonic Lodge No. 10 hosted a benefit breakfast for Help-In-Crisis on Sept. 20 and raised more than \$2,000. Dana Hazzard, Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge, Cherokee No. 10, on left, presents Penny Gifford and Ellen Wakamatsu with a check for HIC.