



Mark G. Mattern
Grand Commander

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August 1, 2021

From the Desk of the Grand Commander

To: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

COMMUNICATION NUMBER TWO

GRAND COMMANDERS CHARITY - THON

Sir Knights:

In General Order No. 1 I told you that my theme this Templar year is “Make a Statement, Take a Stand”. Find something that you believe in, something you’re passionate about, and help to make it better. That we should look beyond our fraternity to help others.

My stand is to support an amazing group of student leaders that will be our leaders of tomorrow and show them that other groups see what they are doing, support their efforts, and appreciate their hard work. My stand is with the student volunteers at Penn State University who participate in THON. THON is the largest student run philanthropy in the world. This great organization raises money every year for Childhood Cancer Treatment and Research through the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. They have raised millions of dollars for this endeavor and they deserve our help as well.

Four Diamonds was established by Charles and Irma Millard after their son, Christopher, passed away after battling cancer for three years at the age of 14. Shortly before he lost his battle with cancer, he wrote a story about a great **Knight** who sought out the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty and strength, in order to be released from the grips of an evil sorceress, which

was the inspiration for the name Four Diamonds. Through Four Diamonds, Chris Millard and his legendary story of **Sir Millard** live on, and serve as a beacon of hope for children and their families fighting cancer. A copy of that book is attached to the email with this communication.

Supporting the largest student run philanthropy in the world to show those student leaders that other groups recognize what they are doing and support them in their efforts to support an organization that helps kids with cancer and was named after a book about a **Sir Knight**. To me this is a no brainer. This deserves our help!

I am asking for each commandery to collect at least \$100 so we can make a donation as one group to THON. If you can collect more, do that. If you can't collect that much, that's fine, get what you can. If you want to do a fundraiser for it, great. Please help, so together we can make a statement to those students as the leaders of tomorrow and the kids looking to see a tomorrow and take a stand with them.

P.T. Barnum said "The noblest art is that of making others happy". Together we can give those kids happiness.

Checks should be made out to **Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of PA** and sent to me at my home address, **129 Doreen Dr, Hummelstown, PA 17036-2725**. I need to receive all monies by the end of January 2022. The THON dance marathon happens in February and we need to make arrangements to meet with them to present the collected donations.

Yours in Templary,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark G. Mattern". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark G. Mattern
Grand Commander

Attest:

Douglas M. Rowe
Grand Recorder