



ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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Pro Deo et Patria

**Illinois Knights Templar Home
An Open Letter to the SKs of Illinois**

Dear Sir Knights,

On October 31st 2017 the Illinois Knight Templar Home operated for over 68 years in Paxton, IL was sold. It was a sad day for many Sir Knights around Illinois who felt pride in “Our Home in Paxton”. The continued operation of the existing home under current regulatory requirements along with current healthcare and long-term care models made it very difficult for a small independent facility to operate efficiently. This problem had been known to the board of the Knight Templar Home for several years. The existing model required huge expenditures of funds for administrative and legal expenses far above and beyond the direct care of those people whom the home was intended to help. That could not continue very long. Over several years the board has made many changes including hiring a professional management company to operate the home which delayed the inevitable and slowed the drain of assets and funds. During these trying times, as always, the first interest of the board was to maintain the High Christian Standards the Knights Templar Home was known for.

After the sale of the home was completed, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois along with The Knights Templar Home Board decided the purpose of the Knights Templar Home needed to continue in some form. After long research and planning it was decided that in the near term the board can provide assistance to Illinois Templars, their wives, widows and orphans. It was determined that a program was needed to support the original intent of the home and provide support as intended to worthy recipients.

Initially, the board turned to the Grand lodge of Illinois for information and guidance as they had gone through a similar situation a few years back. The board entered into a one year renewable agreement with the Illinois Grand Lodge currently operating Illinois Masonic Outreach Service (IMOS) program to be the first point of contact. There

are many regulations and processes required to provide assistance to those in need without causing harm through good intentions. IMOS has professional staffs who know how to navigate through the mine fields to see that the relief to the needy is maximized. An example: someone receiving government assistance such as Medicaid, SSI or SSDI may lose that assistance if grants are not made in the proper way, causing the individual to have to wait and repeat the long application process to re-establish their government assistance. Many examples of harm through good intentions exist and need to be avoided.

The Illinois Knights Templar Home Charity established the Illinois Knights Templar Outreach Assistance (IKTOA) program. This program initially supplies funds to IMOS for direct assistance and application processing of Sir Knights, Widows and Orphans of Illinois. Applicants who under IMOS guidelines do not qualify for assistance will be referred to IKTOA program for consideration and assistance. Guidelines have been established and agreed upon by IMOS, IKTOA and ILL. Grand Lodge on how much funding and what types of cases can be processed through IMOS. Those who do not qualify under IMOS will not have to reapply in most cases to IKTOA. This is intended to streamline the process and to reduce the time it takes to get needed assistance to worthy applicants.

IMOS and IKTOA programs will review the effectiveness of the processes and report to their governing boards their recommendations for changes, renewal or termination of this agreement annually.

The Knight Templar Home Board has every intention of pursuing establishing a new Knight Templar Home or similar facility if a proper fiscal and regulatory environment justify and allows operation of a high quality care facility we as Christian Knights demand.

The Knight Templar Home Board and its Illinois Knights Templar Outreach Assistance program along with the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, solicits your support through your purse, advice and tolerance during this transition. This month we all gather to give thanks on the fourth Thursday of November. Please keep your fellow SKs in your thanks. We firmly believe we can supply assistance in a more efficient manor than previously, thus providing more needed direct assistance to our Grand Commandery Family when needed. In Christ’s service,

Andrew Michyeta, III President
Illinois Knights Templar Home Corp.
P.S.

The Illinois Knights Templar Home Board would like to thank SK Mark A, Keagle, REGC for allowing us to directly speak to the SK of Illinois.