

Greetings Nobles and Friends of the Spokane Hospital,

On September 26th, the nobles, family and friends from throughout the nineteen temples that support the Spokane Shriner's Hospital, made the pilgrimage to Spokane to celebrate the 85th birthday of our beloved hospital. One thing that was very apparent to everyone in attendance was the recommitment of dedication that Bagdad has shown for our hospital. It is with great pride and honor that I inform you that Bagdad had the highest number of RSVPs of any temple in attendance.

It was a wonderful event held downtown at the Lincoln Center. There was a great banquet, followed by entertainment and talks put on by several of our past patients. In the course of the evening, an additional \$20,000 was raised for our hospital.

One question that I am quite often asked, "Is if I donate money to the Shiners, will the money go to Spokane?" This is a complex answer. Yes and no. When Spokane receives a donation, it is credited with it, however the money is sent on to Tampa. While we all want to put our hospital first, we must remember that a child from someplace else is equally important as one from our area. When making donations, we must remember that our dedication is to the system as whole and each child as an individual.

The budget in Spokane is set forth by the Board of Trustees based off of projections of the services that the hospital will render in any given year. So folks, when you hear me constantly promoting going out and finding kids that we can help defy the odds serves two purposes: first and most important, helping the kids and secondly, the more Spokane does the more Tampa will put into our budget. As an example, if we do ten more spine surgeries this year than we did last, the Board of Trustees will add the cost of those surgeries to annual budget. Hence, more money for the hospital.

The message is out and I am proud to say that Bagdad has answered the call and is actively seeking kids for our hospital. As I have told you before, in 2008 Bagdad averaged four approved applications per month. So far in 2009, our average is around seven approved applications per month. I believe this to be a substantial increase for us and I am proud of everyone who has participated in sponsoring a child.

The financial markets are coming back but at the same time there is a rise in the cost of medical services that we provide. Our commitment to raising funds for the hospital cannot cease. I want to thank the clubs, units and patrols of Bagdad for their continued dedication to raising money for the hospital. I think if it could be broken down, the donations to the hospital will reflect Bagdad's hard work. Let's not forget our travel fund too. We all know the importance of getting the child to the services he needs.

In closing I want to say that I am proud to be one of the representatives of such a great and glorious temple as Bagdad. We have come a long way over the years, in promoting our hospitals and it is a job that will never cease and remember no man has stood as tall as the man that has stooped to help a child.

Yours in faith,

E.G.