



For Immediate Release

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Eastern Star Grand Matron Raises Nearly \$40,000 to Benefit the MMRL

Sylvia Moravia, Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of New York for 2014, designated the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) as her Grand Matron's Project. The 14,000 member organization selected the theme of *Every Heartbeat Counts*® and together raised nearly \$40,000 to benefit life-saving cardiac research. The yearlong campaign came to an end recently with a check presentation to Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director of Development and Communications for the MMRL, at their Annual Communication, also referred to as Grand Chapter.

When asked why she selected the MMRL as her project Sylvia replied, "I was particularly impressed by their research into women's heart health, both awareness and treatment. The Order of the Eastern Star strives to serve our Masonic family and the general public through our charity. What better way to improve the quality of health for all than to support this world- renowned Institute in their fight against heart disease, the #1 killer of men and women."

In addition to dozens of different fundraisers, the Order of the Eastern Star sold *Every Heartbeat Counts*® lapel pins to their membership and the general public. They also raised funds through Grand Matron's Visitations, direct donations and their fundraising platform the W.H. Albery Society. It was truly an impressive effort by everyone involved. The amount raised rivals any Grand Matron's Project in recent history.

Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research for the MMRL, said "We offer our heartfelt thanks to Most Worthy Sylvia Moravia and her team. We so pleased to have the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of New York at our side as we work to fulfill our mission to provide a healthier tomorrow for

all. Their efforts raised awareness of the MMRL statewide and provided funds critical to our on-going research.”

Myron Thurston III spoke at the Order of the Eastern Star Annual Communication regarding how the funds will be put to use and expressed the sincere gratitude of the Board of Directors and Staff for the generous support.

***About The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory** - The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute founded by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York in 1958 and dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The institute’s primary mission is to conduct high quality basic and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for development of the medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Please visit www.mmrl.edu to learn more about research at the MMRL or search for the MMRL on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube and LinkedIn.*

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