

Miguel's Mettle Helps The Shriners

By ELIZABETH BANKS/DAILY NEWS STAFF
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ONE day last year, Miguel Regalado, a student at Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School, watched as his grandmother set aside aluminum tabs from cans.

You know, those pop tabs on soda cans, cat food and a long list of other products.

Miguel, now 11, asked her why she was saving them, and his grandmother answered that they were for the Shriners' aluminum tab project.

Miguel then asked his homeroom teacher if she knew about the Shriners. So, his homeroom teacher told the story of how her cousin had been badly burned and was treated at Shriners Hospital - for free.

With the help of reading specialist Rebecca Zieminski, Miguel went online and researched Shriners Hospitals and the aluminum tab project. He learned the tabs were recycled and the proceeds benefited the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund.

Shriners Hospitals for Children are located throughout North America and provide care for burn victims, orthopedic patients and for those with spinal cord injuries. The Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston provides care for children with burns or burn-related injuries.

After talking to his homeroom teacher, Zieminski said, Miguel was hooked. He decided to collect aluminum tabs for a community service learning project. Now a fifth-grader, Miguel will present the tabs - and there are a lot of them - to representatives of the Marlborough Masons and Shriners on Feb. 11.

I met with Miguel and Zieminski last week and asked just how many tabs have been collected since the project began. Both shrugged their shoulders. There's no way to know, they answered.

Someone contributed a plastic zip-lock bag full of tabs and wrote 500 on the bag, Zieminski said.

A large barrel sits in Zieminski's classroom filled with aluminum tabs, and a collection box sits at the school's main office reception desk.

Miguel said he decorated and placed collection boxes in the teachers' lunch rooms and both school cafeterias.

All elementary school principals have agreed to help and the high school, where tabs have been collected for years, agreed to send Miguel their tabs, Zieminski said.

Once a month, Miguel checks the boxes and collects the tabs. He plans to write Mayor Nancy Stevens asking if he may place a collection box in City Hall. He goes into classrooms to talk about the project, bringing a large bucket of tabs with him.

"It's been fun," Miguel said. "It's good to help people."

Next year, Miguel moves up to Marlborough Middle School, but he's training a current fourth-grader to continue his efforts. Miguel wants to involve the entire city in the tab-collecting project, and he hopes that restaurants and businesses will start saving tabs, too.

As Zieminski said, "This is not just a classroom level activity. It has become much bigger than that. This is a community service learning project that Miguel has nurtured for over a year."

Robert Jesse of the Marlborough Masons plans to be at Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School on Feb. 11, 2008, to accept the aluminum tabs from Miguel. He said the tabs are sold as scrap metal and the proceeds are used to help transport people to Shriners Hospitals for Children for treatment. Often, he said, they come from all over the world.

Last year, Jesse said, the Aleppo Shriners in Wilmington spent \$350,000 transporting patients and their families to the hospitals - and Jesse is particularly enthusiastic about Miguel's efforts.

"I think it's fabulous. What a good kid. I'm looking forward to meeting him."

So if you have any spare aluminum tabs - and as Zieminski points out, cans may be returned for the 5-cent deposit without the tabs - round them up and drop them off at Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School. Miguel will be thrilled to get



them.

On Feb. 11 at 9:30 a.m., Jesse and other Marlborough Masons will pick them up and put them to good use. The more people involved in this effort, the greater the benefit for the patients of the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

As Zieminski says, Marlborough students are encouraged to get involved in a community service project. All it takes for them to be successful, she said, "is a child with a good heart and a teacher with a willing ear."

Clearly, Miguel and Zieminski fit that criteria.

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FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

AN EXCERPT FROM GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:

It is natural to associate the fez with Shriners Hospitals for Children. Because of this, meticulous attention must be given to all fundraising activities, including circuses, to make certain that such activities comply with the law of the land and that a contributor is not led to believe that his money will be used for the Hospitals when all or a portion thereof will be used otherwise. The integrity of our charity and of our fraternity must remain above reproach.

Your specific attention is called to the following fraternal and charitable bylaws:

§335.3 USE OF NAME "SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN." The use of the name "Shriners Hospitals for Children" or reference to the Hospitals in connection with any fundraising activity by a temple or Noble without the written consent of the Imperial Potentate and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hospitals is prohibited.

§503.10 The use of the name "Shriners Hospitals for Children" or reference to the Hospitals in connection with any commercial product or business enterprise is prohibited unless the written consent of the Board of Directors and Trustees has been first obtained.

Now, therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Fundraising for Fraternal Purposes:

- (a) No Noble (in his capacity as a Shriner), club, unit, organization of Nobles or affiliated or appendant corporations shall engage in any fundraising activity without the express written consent of the potentate of the temple having jurisdiction thereof.
- (b) There can be no representation, express or implied, that the proceeds will be for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children.
- (c) The temple potentate shall carefully examine all phases of the advertising, promotion and solicitation to determine that it complies with §335.3 and §503.10 of the fraternal and charitable bylaws.
- (d) The temple potentate must approve the terms and provisions of any contract for a fundraising activity after receiving the advice of the temple attorney, and additionally, as may be required by the temple bylaws.
- (e) A copy of the temple potentate's written consent shall be mailed to the Executive Vice President, Imperial Council. Further, such written material pertaining to the fundraising activity, as requested by the Executive Vice President, Imperial Council shall be promptly mailed to him.

2. Fundraising for Charitable Purposes:

- (a) No Noble (in his capacity as a Shriner), club, unit, organization of Nobles or affiliated or appendant corporations shall engage in any charitable fundraising activity other than for Shriners Hospitals for Children, and said activity shall not be in the jurisdiction of any other temple. Permission therefore must be first obtained in writing from the temple potentate. The temple potentate must then obtain written permission from the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors and Trustees. This request for written permission shall be sent to the Executive Vice President, Imperial Council, P.O. Box 31356, Tampa, FL 33631-3356.
However, a joint charitable fundraising activity with another §501(c)(3) charity may be authorized provided that a minimum of 50% of the net proceeds are for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children, and the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors and Trustees determine, on a case by case basis, that it is in the best interest of Shriners Hospitals for Children and they grant their written permission for the activity.
- (b) 100% of net proceeds (as defined in the Charitable Fund Raising-Approval And Reporting provisions of any existing General Order) from charitable fundraising must be given to Shriners Hospitals for Children except for such portion thereof as may be permitted to be retained for the temple Shrine Hospital Patient

Transportation Fund, pursuant to the Special Purpose Funds provisions of any existing General Order. Provided, however, if the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors and Trustees determine for good cause shown, that the law of the land requires that a portion of the net proceeds must be distributed locally, then they may, if they determine it to be in the best interest of Shriners Hospitals for Children, grant their written permission for such distribution.

- (c) The temple shall report the result of each charitable fundraising activity within sixty days of the activity, pursuant to the Charitable Fund Raising-Approval and Reporting provision of any existing General Order.
 - (d) This section shall not apply to activities exempt under §335.4(b) of the bylaws of The Imperial Council.
 - (e) Each independent corporation or entity that receives the permission of the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors and Trustees to raise money for Shriners Hospitals for Children, and which does not have its financial statements audited pursuant to §334.5 & §337.8 of the bylaws of The Imperial Council, shall have its financial statements audited by a certified, chartered or licensed public accountant and shall submit such audit report to The Imperial Council within 120 days of the activity.
3. Statement of Purpose and Disclosure:
- (a) Every fundraising activity must contain factual information on its solicitation material, tickets, programs and documents, including all electronically transmitted materials, regarding the use of the proceeds.
Examples:
"Proceeds are for the benefit of (_____ Shriners) (_____ Shrine Club) activities."
"Proceeds are for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children."
 - (b) Every fundraising activity which is not entirely for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children shall prominently state on the solicitation material, tickets and documents that "payments are not deductible as charitable contributions."
 - (c) There must be compliance with the Revenue Act of 1987 provision of any existing general order by U.S. temples.
4. Compliance with Applicable Laws:
It is the responsibility of the temple potentate, after receiving the advice of the temple attorney, to determine that there is compliance with all applicable laws in its jurisdiction for the temple's fundraising activities.
5. Financial Records:
- (a) The temple shall maintain detailed financial records pertaining to all fundraising activities involving Nobles, clubs, units, organizations of Nobles or affiliated or appendant corporations. Details of all revenues and expenditures shall be maintained in such financial records.
 - (b) The temple must retain such detailed financial records for a period of seven (7) years.
 - (c) There must be compliance with *Financial Reporting on Charitable Funds and Activities* provision of any existing general order.
6. Notification to Nobility:
A copy of the *Fundraising Activities* provisions of this General Order shall be printed in the temple publication at least once every calendar year. If there is no temple publication, then a copy shall be mailed to each Noble in the temple not later than the last day in March of each calendar year.
7. Discipline:
Any officer, Noble or temple which violates a provision of *Fundraising Activities* is subject to discipline pursuant to the bylaws of The Imperial Council.

Bits & Pieces

Why wear the Fez?

Proud to be a wearer of the Red Fez. We are looked upon as something special to mankind; nobody has had the courage to criticize our goal, Special Kids Who Need Us. Not being paid money to be a Fez Wearer would make one ask, "what for?"

Good news would be the fellowship of every Shriner, regardless of his origin, and his giving of himself for the crippled and burned kids. We all know the fun we have together. The Shrine is the only truly dedicated group for an unquestionable cause that all people have us for, free dedicated health care for children. - Skip Sleyster
Kansas City, MO