



TDV DISTRICT FREEMASONS

BULLETIN

April 21, 2025

From the Desk of the District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Reddy Sampath

TDV DISTRICT HOSTS RECORD-BREAKING MASONICH.I.P. EVENT PUS: FRIEND-TO-FRIEND PROVIDES DUAL OPPORTUNITY



(From left): Bro. Bryan Colombo - MASONICH.I.P. District Chair; R.W. Bro. Reddy Sampath - DDGM; Lovelyn Balduenza-Flores - RN; W. Bro. Ron Reid, Regional Coordinator MASONICH.I.P.

The Toronto Don Valley District Freemasons achieved a significant milestone today with their largest MASONICH.I.P. event to date.

Remembrance Lodge No. 586 and Quinte St. Alban's No. 620, in a collaborative effort, partnered with the TDV District to provide this vital service to nearly 50 children and their families at Thornhill Temple on Saturday, April 19.



MASONICH.I.P. District Chair, Brother Bryan Colombo, expressed complete satisfaction with both the turnout and support for this important initiative.

"The event showcased the Masonic commitment to community service and child safety, bringing together lodge members and their families from across the district." said Colombo.

Two Decades of Child Protection

W. Bro. Ron Reid, Regional Coordinator for the program, revealed that the MASONICH.I.P. initiative has been operating in Ontario for approximately 20 years, though it has a longer history in the United States. According to Reid, who has coordinated the program for a decade, public perception has improved significantly as the Masons have become more transparent about their process.

"People start to believe we're going to put a physical chip in their children, which is crazy," Reid explained. "I've been doing this for 10 years, and I find it's getting better all the time, because we're more open. We can prove to them we keep no information."



Reid highlighted the importance of district-level support for event success, specifically mentioning the involvement of District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Reddy Sampath.

"This event here today is a good example. It's not a lodge-specific. It's more of a district event, because your DDGM has gotten involved and really pushed it out there, which has helped a lot," explained Reid.





Comprehensive Child Protection

The **MASONiCh.I.P. ONTARIO program (Masonic Child Identification Program)** utilizes police-approved techniques to create comprehensive identification kits for children.

These kits include digital photographs, video, voice recordings, digital fingerprints, saliva swabs, and standard identification details such as height, weight, and physical characteristics.

For children who can communicate effectively, the video includes questions that might reveal valuable information in case of disappearance.

"If you're upset because your brother did something or whatever, is there someplace you like to go and maybe hide because you're mad or something like that? And these children reveal that place," Reid explained. "So God forbid one of these children ever goes missing... They hand that card to the police. Everything they need right away is there."

Growing Support & Recognition

The program has received endorsements from law enforcement agencies across Ontario. "We've got all sorts of accolades from Metro Police, OPP, York—and others They just love it," Reid said.



Reid described the thorough process: "We take all their pertinent information, name, address, phone number, age, weight, eye color, hair color, glasses, if they wear glasses and all that. Then the next step is we do fingerprints, electronically, all five, each hand. Then we go to the next portion, we do a picture, one full face, and one of each profile, and then at the very end, we do a short video."



Designed to integrate seamlessly with Ontario's law enforcement systems, these kits enable rapid information sharing should a child go missing, potentially reducing recovery time in critical situations. Reid recommends updating a child's identification kit approximately every five years as children develop and change.





As with all MASONICH.I.P. events, today's services were provided completely free of charge by dedicated Masonic volunteers – including their family members, with the valued assistance of the **Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Toronto Assembly 2**. All shared the same heartfelt sentiment: "We hope you never need to use it."



Friend-to-Friend Event Provides Dual Opportunity

The day's success extended beyond the MASONICH.I.P. program, as the Lodges simultaneously hosted a **Friend-to-Friend** event. With 66 adults present, this strategic pairing created a perfect opportunity for potential candidates who were already present for the child identification program to learn more about Freemasonry.

Between participating in the MASONICH.I.P. activities, interested men were invited to visit the Lodge Room upstairs, providing them with a firsthand glimpse.

Brother Bryan Colambo deserves special recognition not only for his outstanding work as MASONICH.I.P. District Chair but also for his foresight in organizing these dual events. His dedication to both child safety and Masonic growth exemplifies the values of the fraternity.

"Combining these events allowed us to serve the community while also opening our doors to those curious about our fraternity," said Colambo. "This milestone achievement demonstrates that with proper planning and hard work, we can fulfill multiple aspects of our Masonic mission simultaneously."

Toronto Don Valley District Freemasons: Forward Together, Stronger as One.