

NEWS RELEASE

(Lodge Name) Masonic Lodge No. (Number)

Child ID Program

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact: *(Contact Name and Phone Number)*

CHIP event photo recommended

Local Parents Offered Free Child ID by Freemasons

Parents are invited by *(Lodge's Name)* Masonic Lodge No. *(Number)* in *(Town)* to protect their children by taking them through a five-phased, free identification program on *(Day and Date)* from *(Start and End Time)* at *(Location)*.

The South Dakota Freemasons Child Identification Program (SDCHIP) is the most comprehensive child identification program available to parents. When completed, parents are given all materials for easy access and safekeeping, including a brief video interview of their children, digital photograph, digital fingerprints, cheek swab and an impression of their teeth. *(Lodge's Name)* Masonic Lodge is paying the cost for each child who goes through the program.

“*(Lodge's Name)* Lodge is proud to provide this vital service to our community,” said Master *(Master's Name)*, who heads *(Lodge's Name)* Lodge. “On average, a child is reported missing every 43 seconds in the U.S. The identification materials parents receive provide the best overall information about a child, which increases the likelihood of their return.”

The program is conducted by the members of *(Lodge's Name)* Lodge in cooperation with the South Dakota Dental Association and South Dakota Sheriff's Association.

(Master's Last Name) explained that the teeth impression also yields saliva that can be stored for at least three years and used by bloodhound recovery dogs and for nuclear DNA testing. Cheek swabs provide DNA, and, when frozen, can last up to 30 years.

(Lodge Name) Lodge meets monthly on *(day of the month)* at *(time)* at *(address)*. It was chartered in *(year)*, and has *(number)* members. There are more than (6500) members in about (90) communities in South Dakota. Freemasonry has nearly two million members in the U.S.

Masonic lodges across South Dakota support various local youth and community projects and humanitarian efforts including *(name a few here)*, child identification program and scholarships. In 2009, *(Lodge Name)* Lodge will also support *(explain community service projects your lodge will support in 2009)*.

Freemasonry, a benevolent, educational and charitable organization, provides \$2 million a day in charity through its lodges and appendant bodies.

#

#

#