2026 Matching Funds Update

The GCU Matching Funds Program is intended to help raise additional money for local charities benefitting individuals, community nonprofit organizations, Byzantine Catholic Churches and churches of other denominations throughout the communities that GCU members call home.

The maximum allotment for the 2026 calendar year:

- **Byzantine Catholic parishes with a GCU approved Parish Coordinator- $2,500.^{00}**
- **Non-Byzantine Parishes—$1,000.^{00}**
- **Community Non-Profit Organizations—$2,000.^{00}**
- **Individual Person Fund Raising Efforts—$1,000.^{00}**
- **GCU Agent/Agency Matching Funds—$1,000.^{00}**

The procedure for the Matching Funds program is as follows:

1. **Request Approval**—As soon as the Parish Coordinator, Constellation Coordinator, GCU Agent/Agency or Individual GCU Member knows full details of the fund raising event they would like to help supplement with GCU Matching Funds, they must complete the appropriate Matching Funds Request Form electronically on the GCU Website Fraternal Tools Page: http://www.GCUusa.com/FraternalTools.html.

   Requests for approval must be made no later than 4 weeks prior to the actual event date. We will not process any Matching Funds Requests post event date!

2. **Approval Process**—Once the application is received by the GCU Fraternal Communications department it will be reviewed and the submitter will receive notification as to whether the event is approved or not approved for GCU Matching Funds.

3. **Submitting Financial Report**—Upon completion of the project, a Financial Reporting Form must be submitted electronically for the appropriate type of Matching Funds being requested. Again, the Financial Reporting forms are available at http://www.GCUusa.com/FraternalTools.html. The form requires that a 2 or 3 sentence description of the event and 1 or 2 photos be submitted for publication in the GCU Magazine. Failure to include this information will result in a delay to the GCU sending out the Match. In some cases additional documentation may be required and this request will be made prior to approval of the Matching Funds payment being considered.

4. **Matching Funds Payments**—The GCU will send a check made payable to the entity the funds were requested for, to the coordinator/member that submitted the

request. Checks will be mailed within 5-10 business days of the financial report being accepted by the GCU Fraternal Communications Department.

Please Note: Parishes may hold multiple events to receive the maximum allotment of Matching Funds allocated by the Board of Directors in any calendar year.

In order to allow for the most GCU members to take advantage of this opportunity to assist in their communities, Community and Agent/Agency Matching Funds are limited to **one** request per member/agent in a calendar year. GCU must limit the number of matching funds request to two maximum for any event and/or entity.

In addition to Parish Matching Funds a Byzantine Parish with a GCU approved Parish Coordinator may request one additional Community Matching Funds project through their parish coordinator.

These requirements will be reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly depending on the annual Fraternal Budget established by the GCU.

Special Matching Funds ($10,000.^{00} maximum per event)

The GCU Board of Directors has established guidelines to allow for Special Matching Fund events when unexpected disasters hit on a local or national level. An example would be the Hurricane/Wildfire Relief Fund that was set up in 2024 in response to the natural disaster that took place throughout the summer. There have been other instances of fire and flooding where GCU has established these special Matching Fund events. These guidelines will allow for the President/CEO to immediately institute a campaign via the GCU Website, to begin collecting funds for a specific event without awaiting Board approval.