



# **ENF Gratitude Grants**

Gratitude Grants are the ENF’s way of saying thank you to every Lodge that meets the National President’s per-member goal for giving to the ENF. These \$2,000 grants offer an opportunity for Elks to think about how best to serve their community and make it stronger.

Last year, nearly 80 percent of Lodges met the per-member goal for giving to the ENF, so start planning your grant today. The possibilities are endless!

Lodges use Gratitude Grants to do things like partner with D.A.R.E. to hold drug awareness programs in schools, or hold recreational events for people with disabilities.

Though donations do qualify, we encourage your Lodge to consider using its Gratitude Grant in an active way. We want you to serve your communities in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing big things. Gratitude Grants are available for use between the date your Lodge met the per-capita goal and July 31, 2014.

*Under updated guidelines, Lodges may not use grants to fund scholarships, Hoop Shoot events, hold youth awards nights, appreciation dinners, poster and/or essay contests, or fundraisers.*

Examples of how to make a Gratitude Grant project more active and meaningful.

<b>Gratitude Grant Project—Good for them</b>	<b>Gratitude Grant Project —Better for the Lodge</b>
Donation to food bank.	Have a food drive, and serve a meal to families in need.
Donation to six youth groups.	Hold monthly drug-free youth activities
Donation to restore a city building.	Partner with students to hold a community clean-up day
Donation to Veterans group	Volunteer at a Stand Down, or reach out to veterans in need
Purchase supplies for fire dept.	Partner with both groups on a Community Safety Day

### Application questions.

- Describe in detail your Lodge’s charitable community project.
- How does your Lodge plan to promote this project in the community? This is a chance for your Lodge to reach out to new people in the community, and spread the word about your Lodge’s commitment to charity and building community. Doing so may lead to new members.
- What local concern or need is your Lodge addressing with this project?
- How did the Lodge decide on this grant?
- A budget is also required.

Gratitude Grant applications are online only. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.elks.org/enf/community/GratitudeGrants.cfm>.  
Questions? Contact the ENF Programs office at 773-755-4730 or [ENFPrograms@elks.org](mailto:ENFPrograms@elks.org).

## Operation Home for a Hero

Walking up the steps or turning on a faucet are tasks many complete without a second thought. But for Staff Sergeant Kelly Keck, a veteran severely injured in Afghanistan, these daily tasks present new challenges.

### Gratitude for our Troops



The house Keck came home to after serving simply could not accommodate him. When the Elks of Abingdon, Md., Lodge No. 2354 learned that Homes for Our Troops would be in town to build a specially adapted home for Keck and his family, the Lodge's decision to use their ENF Gratitude Grant to help was unanimous.

"Anyone can present a check, however, it doesn't get Elks out into the community and seen doing great things," says Exalted Ruler Rae Vasold. "We know from past experience that getting involved makes more of an impact."

### Breaking Ground

Elks participated in every aspect of the build. Lodge members worked with the event's co-coordinator to run the opening ceremony, helped install specially equipped bathroom fixtures in the house, and fired up the grill for hot dogs and hamburgers to feed all 200 volunteers.

Being such a visible partner in the build not only highlighted the Lodge's commitment to veterans, it sparked renewed interest in what the Lodge does year round.

"Several volunteers asked for more information about the Elks, with two completing applications for membership on the spot," says Vasold.

### A Veteran Comes Home

After just two days, the accessible home was nearly completed. A cheering crowd of volunteers waving American flags welcomed Keck and his family to their new home.

"To see hundreds of Americans of all ages coming out to support a veteran who put his life on the line so we can continue to enjoy our freedom was beyond words," says Vasold.

Mission accomplished.



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