



# HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

ISSUE 59 | SUMMER 2018

Can't Stop the Feeling! It was a revival in a sense as Sean Loosli, a member of Provo, Utah, Lodge No. 849 and the top Most Valuable Student from 2003, channeled Justin Timberlake for the surprise entrance of the 150 Elks scholars at Opening Ceremonies in San Antonio.



## SERVICE IS THE START

### IN THIS ISSUE

Mark Your Calendar ..... 2

Remember the Moments ..... 5

Teamwork Makes  
the Dream Work ..... 5

Ask the ENF ..... 6

CIP Code Purple..... 7

Keep the Momentum  
Rolling!..... 7

ENF

SUPPORT THE GREAT  
HEART OF ELKDOM!

Visit [enf.elks.org/HBSummer](http://enf.elks.org/HBSummer),  
and your online donation will  
be put to work immediately  
in Elks communities!

This summer, 150 Elks scholars gathered in San Antonio for the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Elks. One hundred fifty scholars converged on Haven for Hope to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. One hundred fifty scholars served side by side with Elks members who support their college dreams and beyond.

The sound of this selfless sacrifice filled every platform in which the scholars served. From Trinity University, their home for the weekend; to Haven for Hope, a homeless shelter; to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, the site of the side-by-side service—the buzz was distinct. It was the sound of service.

### Connections to Last a Lifetime

The connections made in San Antonio are deeper than a handshake and a photo. Larry Hovorka, an Elk from Ontario, Ore., Lodge No. 1690, and 2014 Most Valuable Student Cecily Froerer served side by side at 150 for 150. By the time they finished packing kits for veterans, Cecily had secured an invitation to speak at the Lodge and received information about an Elks-run camp that focuses on communicative disorders—Cecily's major at Utah State University.

"It's because they're Elks," Cecily says. "They help people. It's who they are, and it's what they do. And as Elks scholars, we're blessed to be a part of it."

These are the connections that are made possible through side-by-side service

*see Service, continued on page 2*



**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.**  
HELPING ELKS BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

773/755-4728  
[enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org)

2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-2256  
[elks.org/enf](http://elks.org/enf)



Painting lines in the hot sun. ... On Saturday, the scholars braved the brutal heat to serve at Haven for Hope, a place of hope and new beginnings for people in Bexar County experiencing homelessness. "The sun was relentless," said Cullen Edens (2016 MVS), "[but] we never let the conditions stop us from our mission."

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**2018**  
AUGUST 15 - NOVEMBER 15  
MVS Application Available Online

SEPTEMBER 1 - FEBRUARY 1  
Legacy Awards Application  
Available Online

NOVEMBER  
Class of 2019 Impact Grant  
Announcement

DECEMBER 31  
Grant Applications Close

**2019**  
JANUARY 6-12  
Winter Elks Scholar Service Trip  
in Biloxi, Mississippi

MARCH 10-16  
Spring Elks Scholar Service Trip  
in Portland, Oregon

APRIL 11-14  
MVS Leadership Weekend

APRIL 27  
Hoop Shoot National Finals

*Service, continued from page 1*

between Elks and scholars. Some scholars, like 2016 Most Valuable Student Jay Little, take their interactions with Elks a step further.

"Every Elk I've met has supported, encouraged and cheered me on," Jay says. "I love the Elks. I'll be getting initiated into Gulfport, Miss., Lodge No. 978 in November."

Elks scholars like Cecily and Jay engage with the Elks in part because of their gratitude to the Elks for supporting not only their college education, but also their dreams. If we continue to engage them—by inviting them to attend events or to speak at the Lodge—many more may go on to join the Elks.

## Echoes from the Past

Justin Schulberg, a 2013 Most Valuable Student, recognizes that he would not have gotten through college without the Elks, and he knows that he and his fellow Elks scholars have a duty to pay that support forward.

"The Elks have been around for 150 years, which is incredible," Justin says. "I feel



Throughout the weekend, the scholars—like Lauren Gates (left, 2012 Legacy) and Sophia Kim (2017 MVS)—bonded over service and shared experience, deepening their sense of Elks family.

*see Service, continued on page 4*





Lou's white lie. Said by Board Chairman Lou Sulsberger (at lectern) to be busy elsewhere, the scholars surprised Opening Ceremonies attendees by bursting into the hall and flooding the stage.

Jay Little (left), the top Most Valuable Student from 2016, connects with delegates at Opening Ceremonies. Many moments like this one encouraged Jay to join the Elks, which he'll do in November.







How do you follow a surprise appearance by 150 Elks scholars? With Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band, naturally.

*Service, continued from page 2*

like what *we* represent is not the past 150 years, but the next 150 years.”

Those next 150 years will be filled with more selfless service.

“It’s so important that we give back,” says 2014 Most Valuable Student Nathan Miller, “because if we concentrate all our energy on ourselves, in the end, what are we truly living for?”

That sentiment had longtime attendee Bob Anspach of Framingham, Mass., Lodge No. 1264 beaming.

“Absolutely the best Convention in my 28 years of attending,” he said. “I’m even more proud to be an Elk.”

Sean Pringle, a member of Oceano/Five Cities, Calif., Lodge No. 2504, has a more modest number of conventions under his belt, but he draws pride from both sides of the Elks and scholars equation. He was a 2010 Most Valuable Student and an early member of the Elks Scholar Advisory Board who helped put initiatives in motion that eventually made 150 for 150 possible.

“This weekend created lasting memories,” Sean says. “It reflects just how true it is that we are all a part of the Elks family.”

The 150 for 150 Service and Celebration Weekend continues to echo. To see even more coverage from the 2018 Elks National Convention in San Antonio, visit [enf.elks.org/2018SanAntonio](http://enf.elks.org/2018SanAntonio).



Amber Pristas (2016 Legacy) organizes food donations at Haven for Hope.

## REMEMBER THE MOMENTS

Those who attended the Convention in San Antonio left with much to remember in addition to the Alamo. From the sea of red shirts celebrating 150 for 150 to the Lt. Dan Band and many moments in between, this year's Convention was an unforgettable experience.

Throughout the weekend, hundreds of Elks visited the ENF and Hoop Shoot booths. ENF staff members had a chance to put faces to the names of the many Elks they interact with each day while Elks picked up the latest program brochures and, of course, ENF ribbons. At the Hoop Shoot booth, things got competitive as Elks went head-to-head with the Regional Directors at the free-throw line. Jury's still out on which group had better shooters.

On Saturday, the ENF donor event offered an opportunity to wind down, take pictures with a Davy Crockett impersonator, and sway to the tunes of a local country band. The next night, things picked right back up. Following the incredible show at Opening Ceremonies, Elks and scholars danced the night away to Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band.

These are just a few of so many memorable moments from the weekend. To see what else was captured throughout the Convention—stories, photos and more—visit [enf.elks.org/150Recap](http://enf.elks.org/150Recap).

*see more photos on page 6*



Gary Sinise praised the “mighty Elks” during the Lt. Dan Band concert, which had multiple conga lines going at one point.



The Hoop Shoot booth at the Elks National Convention in San Antonio was a star-studded event, as some National Champions came to town looking to make a splash. Getty Powell Award Winners Bailey Finn and Anthony Thompson turned the Hoop Shoot booth into Fan Antonio. Elks lined up to get the autographs of these Hall of Famers!

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

*Teamwork is what makes common people capable of uncommon results.*  
—Pat Summitt

Joining the leadership team of Hoop Shoot Regional Directors this year are Brandon Wilkins of Colorado and Terry McMichael of Kentucky. We are excited to welcome them aboard and see what we can accomplish together. Get to know your RD by visiting [enf.elks.org/HSTeam](http://enf.elks.org/HSTeam) before Lodge contests start this fall!

Looking to help with your local Hoop Shoot this year? You can see what's in store by watching the new contest volunteer video at [enf.elks.org/HSVolunteerVideo](http://enf.elks.org/HSVolunteerVideo), and contact your Lodge's Hoop Shoot Director to step up!



Below: Double Trouble! The Cowgill boys—two-time National Champion Camden (right) and two-time Runner-Up Kaden (left)—competed in the San Antonio Lodge No. 216 Contest. Since we were on their home court, they wanted to stop by the booth, where they challenged Regional Director Larry Torres.



Above: Nester Tan (center) accepted his plaque for becoming a platinum-level donor, a goal he'd been working to accomplish since joining the Elks 36 years ago. With the audience on their feet, his daughter by his side, and tears in his eyes, Tan received his plaque from Lou Sulsberger (right), chairman of the Elks National Foundation's Board of Trustees, during the ENF's donor event. Each year, Faith level donors are invited to witness unforgettable moments like this during the convention. For more information about the Foundation Fellowship, visit [enf.elks.org/AnnualRecognition](http://enf.elks.org/AnnualRecognition).



## ASK THE ENF...

**Q**

In San Antonio, I heard fellow Elks talking about how much fun they had at the ENF donor event. How do I get an invitation? I support the ENF and would like to attend in St. Louis.

—Conventioneer in Concord

**A**

Dear Conventioneer:

The ENF donor event at the Elks National Convention is a Foundation Fellowship benefit. Donors at the Faith level (\$1,000 or more in a fiscal year) receive an invitation to the annual event, along with a pin, honor roll listing in *Heartbeat*, and more! Learn more about the Foundation Fellowship benefits at [enf.elks.org/AnnualRecognition](http://enf.elks.org/AnnualRecognition), and keep tabs on your annual giving total in the 'My ENF' section of [elks.org/enf](http://elks.org/enf). Remember, the Foundation Fellowship is a fiscal year donation recognition program—from April 1 to March 31 each year. See you in St. Louis!

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at [enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org).



## CIP CODE PURPLE

Dover, Del., Lodge No. 1903 has been fighting food insecurity and homelessness with help from an Impact Grant.

When Elks come together for the community, incredible things happen. That is especially evident for the 2018 Impact Grant recipients, an elite group of 74 Lodges. In just the first half of 2018, about 1,300 Elks served approximately 28,000 individuals. The statistics are impressive, but it's the stories in those stats that really illustrate how life-changing an Impact Grant can be.

Take Dover, Del., Lodge No. 1903, for example. Since 2016, the Lodge has run its own food pantry with the help of an Impact Grant. Each week, 20 Elks rally together to share food with the Dover community. In addition, the Lodge addresses other needs of people experiencing homelessness, like work boots, clothing and first-aid kits. The Lodge typically serves around 400 community members.

To gain exposure, the Lodge partners with Code Purple Kent County, a nonprofit that opens shelters when temperatures drop below freezing. When Code Purple contacts the Lodge, Elks answer the call to cook and deliver hot meals to hundreds at the Code Purple shelters.

"We aim to increase trust between our pantry and the people we serve, and to increase community compassion for the homeless," says Project Manager Yvonne Biddle Heisler.

Last winter, Elk volunteers met a man at a Code Purple shelter. They learned he had experience as a cook in the Navy and ended up offering him a job in the Lodge's kitchen.

"He was extremely excited, and the Lodge was equally impressed," Heisler says.

The Elks provided the work boots he needed to get started at his new job, and the rest is history.

"We are humbled that our Elks Pantry has touched the lives of so many people in our community," Heisler says.

## KEEP THE MOMENTUM ROLLING!

The Community Investments Program grant year is off to a blazing start! With more than 1,500 applications approved in the first three months, and Promise and Freedom grants awarded in record time, it was a busy summer in the CIP office.

That may seem like enough activity to last a lifetime, but there's still a great deal to do. In mid-November, we'll reveal the Impact Grant class of 2019—stay tuned to the ENF's social media pages for the big announcement.

Your Lodge can still get in on the action! Gratitude, Beacon and Anniversary grant applications close December 31. For more details, visit [elks.org/cip](https://elks.org/cip).

**Thanks for reading! Tell us what you thought of this issue of Heartbeat. To complete a survey, visit [enf.elks.org/Heartbeat59](https://enf.elks.org/Heartbeat59).**



Elks  
National  
Foundation, Inc.

# STAY CONNECTED!



Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read about the 150 Elks scholars who gathered in San Antonio for the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Elks ... and much more!



A 501c3 public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. *Heartbeat* is the Elks National Foundation's official newsletter. For more information about featured *Heartbeat* articles or to suggest items to be included in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*, please contact the ENF at 773/755-4728 or [enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org).

#### Board of Trustees

F. Louis Sulsberger, Chairman  
Louis J. Grillo, Vice-Chairman  
James M. McQuillan, Secretary  
Michael F. Smith, Treasurer  
Frank O. Garland, Assistant Secretary  
James W. Damon, Assistant Treasurer  
Charles F. Williams, Past Chairman  
James W. O'Kelley III, Director



**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

HELPING ELKS BUILD  
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

2750 N. Lakeview Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614-2256  
[elks.org/enf](http://elks.org/enf)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 4077  
CHICAGO, IL