

HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

ISSUE 61 | WINTER 2019

After a day of service, Elks scholars soak in a sunset view on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



ELKS SCHOLARS HARNESS THE POWER OF THE ELKS

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A group of Elks scholars walked into the Biloxi Visitors Center. What happened next was no joke.

They were greeted by an eager employee whose face promptly lit up on learning that they were Elks scholars in town for a service trip. He quickly ushered them outside to the lighthouse, Biloxi's most recognizable landmark, and offered to take them to the top for free. The lighthouse was closed, but like the scholarships we provide, the Elks name opens doors.

Nineteen Elks scholars from across the country converged on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the Winter Service Trip. They had one mission: to learn, serve and connect in the name of the Elks.

The scholars accomplished that mission on the bayous, where they removed invasive species, picked up trash, and stared down alligators; at the Moore Community House and Boys and Girls Club, where they played games with children of all ages; and in the V.A.'s Community Learning Center, where they delivered care packages and traded stories with veterans. Everywhere they went, the scholars made the kind of difference for which the Elks are known in the community; the kind of difference that opens doors.

The scholars also had a few opportunities to connect with their Elks family. They attended three different Elks Lodges.

see Power, continued on page 2



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During the week-long service trip, the scholars visited three Lodges, including Biloxi Lodge.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

MARCH 31:
2018-19 Donation Deadline

APRIL 1:
2019-20 CIP Grant Applications Open

APRIL 11-14:
MVS Leadership Weekend

APRIL 25-28:
Hoop Shoot National Finals

Power, continued from page 1

At Gulfport Lodge No. 978, they ate red beans and rice, a Monday night staple in the South, and packed 100 hygiene kits to deliver to veterans the next day with the Lodge. At Ocean Springs Lodge No. 2501, they ate tacos and butchered their favorite songs at the Lodge's karaoke night. And at Biloxi Lodge No. 606, they added new pins to the Lodge's visitor map and talked about the doors opened by their Elks scholarships.

"Visiting the Lodges is great because the scholars get to meet and thank Elks who have supported them in their college careers," says John Kavula, Elks Scholar Fellow. "Elks take this time to share their stories with the next generation of Elkdom, making for meaningful connections."

Listening to a veteran's story, singing karaoke with new friends, coming within a few feet of an alligator—the scholars left Mississippi with special memories and a deeper understanding of why the name *Elks* is so powerful.



Biloxi's famous lighthouse was closed when the scholars arrived, but the Elks name opens doors.

It's not all lighthouses and Lodges—the service trips bring scholars together to serve in the name of the Elks.





“I COULD LIVE AGAIN”

Rose loves being a mom to her 11-year-old twin daughters. Like most parents, she works day in, day out to keep the rent paid, the lights on, and her children fed. Until there was one day when she couldn't.

“I tried for so long to keep going,” she says. “It finally just all caught up to me, and I wasn't able to make ends meet.”

Rose served in the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007. After completing her service, she received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Rose was taking all the right steps to build a future for herself and her kids even while fighting unshakable experiences from her past.

“I have been struggling with PTSD ever since being on active duty,” she shares.

Rose also suffers from fibromyalgia. Her conditions have cost her a salaried job, then an hourly job. When she was forced to choose between feeding her daughters and paying the electric bill, Rose turned to the Veterans Affairs office. As a veteran living in one of the eight metropolitan areas targeted by the V.A. for increased focus by the Elks, Rose was able to apply for up to \$2,500 in emergency assistance to prevent or exit homelessness.

The Elks accepted Rose's application and paid her rent. That assistance gave her the stability she needed.

“Your whole mind opens up because you're not stressing out,” Rose says. “I was able to be a better mom. I could live again.”

She was also recently accepted into the Service to CEO Program through

see Rose, continued on page 4



COYNE A PHRASE

We're pleased to announce that Olympic gold medalist Kendall Coyne will be the keynote speaker at the 2019 Hoop Shoot National Finals Awards Banquet in Chicago on April 27.

Kendall went from being the only girl playing hockey in her hometown to an international superstar. She competed with Team USA at the 2014 and 2018 Winter Olympic Games, taking home the silver and gold medals, respectively. Her Team USA teammates like to call her “the fastest woman in hockey.”

In January, Kendall was the first woman to participate in the fastest skater contest at the NHL All-Star Skills Competition. She placed seventh.

Today, when Kendall isn't playing professional hockey for the Minnesota Whitecaps, she runs the Schofield Family Foundation with her husband, Michael Schofield of the San Diego Chargers. The organization provides funding and support to improve the lives of veterans, first responders, youth, and families in need.



Frank Garland shares a smile next to Bryce Bolio, a Hoop Shoot National Champion, at the ENF Donor Event at the 2015 Elks National Convention in Indiana.

70 YEARS OF ELKDOM

Longtime Trustee Frank Garland passed away on December 12. Frank was an Elk for more than 70 years. During that time, he held many notable positions, including President of the Washington State Elks Association and Grand Esteemed Leading Knight. Frank went on to serve as the Grand Exalted Ruler in 1984. He built special friendships with every Elk who had the pleasure of meeting him.

Frank was also a very special friend of the Foundation. He was a Gold level donor, funded several named scholarships, and was a member of the John F. Malley Society. He joined the ENF Board of Trustees in 2003 and remained on the Board until the time of his death. He served as Chairman from 2007 to 2009.

Frank was a well-respected and beloved member of the Elks family, and he will be greatly missed.

Rose, continued from page 3

The Rosie Network, a nonprofit dedicated to building a network of military entrepreneurs. She hopes to instill a mindset of unwavering perseverance in other women by opening an empowerment center. She hopes this can help other single moms navigate the obstacles she has faced—like finding childcare—by giving them the skills to take their jobs anywhere.

Rose attributes the timely assistance from the Elks for affording her the opportunity to pursue this next step in her life, and she hopes to one day be in a position to give back to the Emergency Assistance Fund.

“You have a chance to be a catalyst in somebody’s life,” she says. “It’s a butterfly effect. Why wouldn’t you want to be that catalyst or that spark?”

Her words articulate how crucial the emergency assistance is. For Rose, and hundreds of other veterans who have received help from the Emergency Assistance Fund, it’s the spark that led to a new career, a stronger home and a better life. For Rose, it’s a new beginning for herself and her daughters.



Rose sought emergency assistance from the Elks when she was forced to choose between feeding her twin daughters and paying the electric bill.

Since 2015, the Elks National Foundation has contributed \$4 million to help end veteran homelessness. The money funds the Elks National Veterans Service Commission’s Welcome Home initiative, which includes the Emergency Assistance Fund. To date, the Elks have helped more than 1,350 veterans exit or avoid homelessness through emergency assistance. Learn more at enf.elks.org/WelcomeHome.



Oshkosh Lodge uses an Impact Grant to augment art and music classes at a local school, help the students learn to read, and build community through shared meals.



OH GOSH, OSHKOSH!

They say time flies when you're having fun, but for Pam Schedivy, the Grants Coordinator at Oshkosh, Wis., Lodge No. 292, it's soaring. Last year, Schedivy helped her Lodge receive an Impact Grant, embarking on a new journey for the Lodge and community through the Feed, Read & Arts Program.

Since 2006, the Lodge has received \$55,600 in CIP grants—a picture-perfect example of what the Elks National Foundation envisioned when it created the Community Investments Program.

This past fall, ENF staffers road-tripped to Oshkosh to see Schedivy and the Lodge's army of volunteers in action.

"From the moment we walked into the Lodge and saw Pam and her team packing backpacks, I could feel the passion Pam has for the Elks and for serving her community," shares CIP Manager Colleen Conrad.

What began simply as a desire to build a strong literary foundation for children in Oshkosh has turned into a supercommunity of families, teachers, administrators and students from Roosevelt Elementary School, and, of course, Elks.

Each month is dedicated to feeding, reading or creating. During the "Feed" month, the Lodge hosts a "Fun Night" at the school, serving dinner to children and families.

For "Read," Elks volunteer to read in classrooms. The Lodge provides a yearlong Scholastic Weekly Reader subscription to students and sends books home to read over summer break.

During the art months, the Lodge has a few paintbrushes up its sleeve. One month, they hosted acrylic painting on canvas with fourth-grade classes. Another, Elks brought African instruments to music classes.

see Oshkosh, continued on page 6

TAKE A CIP

The 2018-19 grant year was a year of change for the Community Investments Program, and resilient Elks volunteers stepped up to the plate and made it yet another successful year of serving their communities with CIP grants.

As the door closes on another outstanding CIP grant year, here are some highlights:

- The 74 Impact Grant Lodges had an impressive year. Over the four quarters, an average of 1,460 Elks volunteers served 15,560 individuals. Visit enf.elks.org/ImpactGrant for more detailed data on this past year's successes.
- More than 1,000 Beacon Grants, 1,450 Anniversary Grants and 1,200 Gratitude Grants were approved by December 31.
- The new Impact Grant process yielded an impressive group of 67 strong Impact Grant projects for 2019.

As the saying goes, when one door closes, another opens. The 2019-20 CIP grant year is already around the corner. Gratitude, Promise, Freedom and Beacon grant applications open April 1! Now is the time to start planning. Keep an eye on the CIP website at elks.org/cip for updates on the new year!



THE MISSION CONTINUES

The Elks National Foundation expects to extend its commitment to help end veteran homelessness with an additional \$2.5 million over two years. The money funds the Elks National Veterans Service Commission's Welcome Home initiative, which has served veterans like Rose, who you read about on page 3.

Through the Emergency Assistance Fund, the Elks have helped more than 1,350 veterans exit or avoid homelessness, but we still have work to do. To learn more, visit enf.elks.org/WelcomeHome.



Pam Schedivy (left) and her army of Elks volunteers gear up to read with students at an Oshkosh elementary school.

Oshkosh, continued from page 5

Elks and kids are sitting elbow-to-elbow, learning about new instruments, reading books, and enjoying wholesome dinners, all while strengthening their Elks community. When the students recognize an Elk at the grocery store, they greet them like a friend.

“Our work is not in vain and touches those outside our own Elk community in profound ways,” Schedivy says.

For more, watch a new film at enf.elks.org/OpenedDoors.

The Elks National Foundation allocated \$12.4 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit elks.org/CIP.

JOHN F. MALLEY SOCIETY

The John F. Malley Society honors individuals who plan gifts to the ENF. We sincerely thank all the current members. For more information about the Malley Society, visit enf.elks.org/MalleySociety or contact Kate Keating Edsey at KateE@elks.org or 773/755-4866.

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David Cioe believes life is all about helping others. He's pictured here delivering bags of food for his Lodge's East Bay Cares Impact Grant project.

DAVID CIOE'S ECHO IN ETERNITY

Before General Maximus leads his army into battle in *Gladiator*, he reminds them, "What we do in life, echoes in eternity." Now that David Cioe is a member of the John F. Malley Society, he wants others to remember Maximus' words.

"There is no easier way to know that your efforts and your donation will be everlasting," Cioe says.

Cioe has been an Elk for more than 40 years, continuously supporting the ENF as a monthly recurring donor in the ENF Fidelity Club. He took his philanthropy to the next level when he joined the John F. Malley Society, a program that recognizes individuals who plan gifts to the Foundation, for two reasons:



1. He believes in the programs the ENF supports and loves knowing his donations will support those programs in the future.
2. He knows that when he's gone, he'll continue supporting the ENF.

"It's a great feeling knowing that you can support the ENF's causes forever," Cioe says.

Cioe believes life is all about helping others. In addition to developing the friendships he has made with Elks throughout the years, he's also glad he's met people who feel the same way he does about benevolence; people who work together to support worthwhile charitable causes in any way they can.

Leave your legacy. For additional information about ENF planned giving, please visit ENFPlannedGiving.org. To discuss planning a gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Kate Keating Edsey at KateE@elks.org or 773/755-4866.

ASK THE ENF ...

Q: I'm a Grants Coordinator, and I want to start planning for next year. Will the CIP offer the Anniversary Grant in 2019-20?

—Grants Coordinator
in Grand Rapids

A: Dear Grants Coordinator: Way to be on top of planning for next grant year! The Anniversary Grant was offered in 2018-19 for a second year to help kick off another 150 years of service through the BPOE. Unfortunately, the Anniversary Grant will **not** be offered again in 2019-20.

However, new CIP grant opportunities are on the horizon! Each Lodge will receive three copies of the 2019-20 CIP Grant Field Guide in early spring. The Field Guide will outline the grant opportunities available in 2019-20. Throughout the coming months, check your Lodge's mailbox, email inbox, and the CIP website at elks.org/cip for updates!

*Have a question for the ENF?
Email us at enf@elks.org.*



Elks
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STAY CONNECTED!



Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read about Elks' efforts to help children in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, learn to read ... 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.

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