



Elks National Foundation

2012 Impact Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the class of 2012 Impact Grant recipients! The following projects will receive between \$2,500 and \$10,000 to make a significant difference in their communities. (Renewal grants are marked with a ★.)

★ **Huntsville, AL, Lodge No. 1648** will continue the *Engineering, Leadership, Knowledge and Service Among Today's Youth* program, and will partner with additional schools to offer the program to even more students this year. The program focuses on showing students the real life applications of math and science, and promotes service to the community.

★ **Cahaba Valley, AL, Lodge No. 1738** will continue to assemble and distribute Comfort and Care kits to patients at local dialysis centers through the *Expressing Loving Kindness and Support (ELKS)* program. Elks will expand the program to reach 640 patients this year, and continue to have events for the patients and hold fundraisers for the centers.

Marion County, AL, Lodge No. 2684 will also address the needs of dialysis patients in the state with the *Marion County Elks Care* program. The Lodge will provide bags of personal and treatment-care items to local dialysis patients in need. Elks will also build relationships with patients and their families through regular events.

Mountain Home, AR, Lodge No. 1714 will address the community's growing hunger problem with the *Feed the Children* program. Elks will work with grocery stores, bakeries, butchers and farmers to increase nutrition and food availability for families who visit the local food pantry.

Sierra Vista, AZ, Lodge No. 2065 will offer kids in need access to technology with the *Computers for Kids* program. Elks collect donated computer equipment from the community, and repair, upgrade and reassemble them into working order. They then distribute these computers to low-income families and children in the community.

Green Valley, AZ, Lodge No. 2592 will support low-income children at a local school through the *Enhance Learning for Kids* program. Elks will provide monthly snack packs, basic clothing, and education and athletic equipment for kids in need. Elks will also volunteer regularly with the school's reading program and act as lunchtime chaperones.

Mesa-Buckhorn, AZ, Lodge No. 2656 will promote reading at a local school with the *Elementary Comprehensive Reading Program*. Elks will purchase books and manage a book buddy reading program for kids. In addition to acting as book buddies, Elks will host parties to celebrate reading success.

★ **Santa Barbara, CA, Lodge No. 613** will continue to collect supplies for a nearby veterans clinic, hold monthly veterans' lunches and holiday events, and provide gift cards for those homeless veterans and veterans in need. This year, the Lodge's *iSCARF* program will also provide veterans with information about benefits, counseling and other resources.

Livermore-Pleasanton, CA, Lodge No. 2117 will support local active duty military members through the *Comfort for Those Who Serve* program. Every six weeks, Elks will send local troops care packages full of basic necessities, snacks, treats and letters of support from Elks and local students.

Vacaville, CA, Lodge No. 2638 will support local seniors and their families with their program *Saving our Seniors—The Golden Heart Challenge*. Elks will provide meals several days a week, volunteer with and provide supplies for recreation activities, and manage the center's transportation programs.

★ **Littleton, CO, Lodge No. 1650** will continue to fund, volunteer and organize multiple three-day adventures for the children of active military personnel with the *Cowboys for Kids* program. Elks partner with the Colorado National Guard to offer a camp experience that is therapeutic and character-building for the children.

Ocala, FL, Lodge No. 286 will provide 10 meals a week to homebound veterans through the *Feed the Heroes* program. Elks will also form a support network for the veterans and run an awareness campaign about veterans in need in the community.

★ **St. Augustine, FL, Lodge No. 829** will continue to hold the *Kids Fit Club* for low-income children in the community. Elks teach children about healthy lifestyles through physical activity, healthy diet, and good choices. Elks will expand the program this year by holding a 3K fun walk and special sessions for homeless children.

West Palm Beach, FL, Lodge No. 1352 will partner with St. George Center to build the *Community Garden*. Elks will design, build and install all aspects of the garden. When complete, Elks will maintain the garden, train volunteers three times a week, volunteer to teach children how to garden, and use the produce to support the St. George Center soup kitchen.

★ **Bradenton, FL, Lodge No. 1511** will continue to support kids in need with the *Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummys* program. Elks partner with several community groups and are now able to purchase, pack and deliver weekend food packs to 300 students each week.

★ **Cocoa Beach, FL, Lodge No. 2387** will continue to provide food, material support and social services to veterans at the Cocoa Beach Transitional Facility through the *Veterans Beginning a New Life* program.

★ **Cartersville, GA, Lodge No. 1969** will continue to support a local domestic violence shelter with the *Safe Haven* program. Elks provide food, supplies and other necessities to the shelter. They will also hold holiday events for shelter residents' children, and install a new security system at the shelter.

Sandpoint, ID, Lodge No. 1376 will provide local youth with a free recreational activity through the *Junior Golf Program*. Elks will organize, teach and run two month-long instructional golf programs for kids in the community.

★ **Saint Maries, ID, Lodge No. 1418** will continue to help run the *Elks & 4-H Afterschool Program*. Elks will provide equipment and support and act as volunteers, mentors and coaches for the youth involved.

Mount Vernon, IL, Lodge No. 819 will support homeless individuals and families in need with the *A "Hand Up" Through Education* program. Elks will help to establish an education center at a new local homeless shelter. Elks will assist with planning and serve as mentors, job coaches and homework tutors at the center.

Elwood, IN, Lodge No. 368 will assist low-income families in the community with the *Family Share Project*. Elks will provide quarterly dinners at the Lodge for 25 needy families. They'll also provide supplies and gifts for the children, and maintain a close relationship with each family.

Linton, IN, Lodge No. 866 will build a more inclusive community for local children with disabilities through the *Lifted Spirits* program. Elks will plan, purchase and install accessible playground equipment at a park, and hold several fundraising and support events for children with disabilities and their families.

Highland, IN, Lodge No. 981 will partner with the Highland and Griffith Police Departments to hold the *Summer Great Program*. Elks will address the gang problem in the area by inviting at-risk teens to a two-week summer camp. Elks and police will give presentations, focus on team-building, teach youth about safety, and go on field trips.

★ **Bicknell, IN, Lodge No. 1421** will again work with local schools and teachers to run the *Back to School Mall* program. Elks will provide students in need with all the necessary supplies for a successful school year.

★ **Houma, LA, Lodge No. 1193** will again organize the *TeamSpirit Leadership Conference* in the community to teach teens about positive, healthy choices. Elks will recruit speakers, find public support, provide food for the weekend, and volunteer at the conference each day.

Escanaba, MI, Lodge No. 354 will provide year-round social activities for people with disabilities through the *People First* program. Elks will partner with the schools, local group homes and other organizations to hold dinners, dances, picnics, Special Olympic events and more to provide a more inclusive community for those with and without disabilities.

Columbia, MO, Lodge No. 594 will partner with the local food bank to provide weekend meals to students in need through the *Elks Buddy Pack Program*. Elks will adopt several schools and provide these students with backpacks full of healthy food, hygiene products and school supplies.

Nashua, NH, Lodge No. 720 will run a food pantry at the Lodge with the *Bags of Hope* program. Elks will provide a small bag of food for up to 100 people in need each day, and welcome them to the Lodge for one hot meal each week. Elks will also run a hunger awareness campaign in the community.

Cliffside Park, NJ, Lodge No. 1502 will become part of the hunger solution in the community with the *Cliffside Elks Community Food Pantry* program. Elks will establish, stock and run a food pantry at the Lodge to serve those in need twice a week.

Las Cruces, NM, Lodge No. 1119 will provide support through the *Advancing Disadvantaged Mothers and their Children* program. Elks will partner with Avance New Mexico to mentor youth mothers, provide field trips for their children, volunteer with the program, and provide transportation to and from the center's literacy classes.

Tahoe/Douglas, NV, Lodge No. 2670 will partner with a domestic violence shelter to provide food for women and children in need through the *Elks Leading with Kindness and Support* program. Elks will purchase food, raise funds and solicit donations for the shelter's emergency food pantry.

★ **Mid Westchester, NY, Lodge No. 535** will continue to run a social group for teens with disabilities to reduce their isolation and offer their parents and families respite through the *Social Group for Teens with Special Needs*.

★ **Colonie, NY, Lodge No. 2192** will hold monthly events for people with disabilities with the *Miracles Dance Night* program. Elks will plan, host and volunteer at the events, which are attended by up to 300 people.

Findlay, OH, Lodge No. 75 will partner with the city to carry out the *Growing Findlay with Elks Bicentennial Trees* program. Elks will promote replanting of trees lost to flooding and disease by sponsoring educational events, raising awareness and working with the community to plant 200 trees.

★ **Coos Bay, OR, Lodge No. 1160** will continue to address childhood hunger with the *South Coast Food Share Weekend Snack Pack Program*. Elks will expand the program to provide snack packs to 80 children each weekend, and volunteer with a larger program to help thousands more children receive snack packs.

Burns, OR, Lodge No. 1680 will address the growing hunger problem in the frontier community with the *Harney County Chuck Wagon* program. Elks will provide healthy meals to those in need up to four times a month.

★ **Hillsboro, OR, Lodge No. 1862** will continue to provide support for *Lacey's House for Homeless Veterans*. Elks handle day-to-day operations; coordinate fundraising; help with publicity; provide supplies and volunteer support; and cook, counsel and befriend the veterans.

★ **Erie, PA, Lodge No. 67** will again partner with Therapy Dogs United to organize and carry out two 10 week training sessions at the Lodge where children with autism are paired with a therapy dog. Elks will provide equipment, recruit and register participants, and volunteer at each session through the *Elks K-9 Coaches* program.

★ **Bristol County, RI, Lodge No. 1860** will continue to fight hunger in the community with the *East Bay Cares* program. Elks will partner with various food banks, churches, civic groups and businesses to provide all in need with adequate food supplies.

★ **Murrells Inlet, SC, Lodge No. 2797** will continue to work with a local center for people with disabilities through the *DIG* program. Elks will expand and maintain the existing garden, improve its accessibility, and make it sustainable. Elks also help teach the center's horticultural therapy programs each week, and use the garden's produce to help community members in need and encourage healthy choices.

Fayetteville, TN, Lodge No. 1792 will partner with the HELP program for juvenile offenders to run the *Elks Leading Kids to Succeed Mentoring Program*. Elks will volunteer as mentors to youth, and will hold monthly activities ranging from service projects to educational trips to social get-togethers.

Austin, TX, Lodge No. 201 will come to the aid of children with cancer through the *Support for Critically Ill Children and their Families* program. Elks will provide free hospital parking passes for families and will hold recreational activities for children undergoing treatment.

★ **Cleburne, TX, Lodge No. 811** will continue to provide daily meals, snacks and emotional support to women and children residing at a local crisis center through the *Meal Program for Shelter Residents* program.

Irving, TX, Lodge No. 2334 will help low-income children improve their reading skills with the *Irving Elks and Books for Kids StoryTime Program*. Elks will assist with training, solicit community support, and volunteer regularly with the reading program.

★ **Plano-Richardson, TX, Lodge No. 2485** will again pack emergency duffel bags for individuals and families in crisis, and volunteer with the Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling Center through the *Emergency Duffle Bag Program*.

★ **St. George "Dixie", UT, Lodge No. 1743** will continue to provide material and other support for students at a local alternative high school with the *Pantry Partners for Success* program. Elks will focus especially on young parents and independent and at-risk students to improve the school's graduation rate.

★ **Alexandria, VA, Lodge No. 758** will continue to provide healthy, well-balanced lunches to homeless individuals five days a week through *The Rock (Route One Community Kitchen)* program. Elks will also provide water, winter coats, information and support to those in need.

★ **Onancock, VA, Lodge No. 1766** will continue to provide fresh produce for families in need with the *Elks Fresh Produce Program*. Elks will provide each family with five pounds of fresh produce each month.

Everett, WA, Lodge No. 479 will assist students learning English as a second language with the *Everett Elks & ELL PenPal Program*. Elks will mentor students by reading books together and exchanging letters throughout the year. Elks will also hold reading events and an end-of-year party.

Fond Du Lac, WI, Lodge No. 57 will encourage creativity with the *Open Art Studio for At-Risk Teens*. Elks will partner with the studio to provide workshops for teens every Thursday. Elks will also hold exhibitions of the teens' work at the Lodge and will work with local merchants to support the program.

★ **Watertown, WI, Lodge No. 666** will continue to help community members recover their health quickly through the *Health Care Equipment for Home Use* program. Elks maintain a large supply of medical equipment and coordinate with hospitals to provide this equipment free of charge to those in need.

★ **Wheeling, WV, Lodge No. 28** will continue to provide healthy meals in a family atmosphere at a local soup kitchen once a week. The Elks *Just for Kids* program will include an educational presentation each week and homework help.

★ **Lewisburg, WV, Lodge No. 1758** will expand the existing *IMPACT Pantry* program to provide students at six different schools with needed hygiene products. Elks keep the pantries well-stocked and are present five days a week to distribute supplies and spend time with students.