



Elks National Foundation

2009 Impact Grant Accomplishments

*"Thank you for demonstrating such love and care for your community."
– Herbert Paul Reimann, New Braunfels, TX*

Kingman, AZ, Lodge No. 468: Elks set out to provide a positive outdoor fishing experience for children in their community. Hundreds of people showed up to volunteer and enjoy the Fishing for Smiles event, including 147 children who collectively caught more than 400 fish that day! The Lodge also used funds to build an accessible ramp so they can expand their project to include a veterans fishing event in 2010.

Grass Valley, CA, Lodge No. 538: Elks supplied healthy snacks to 8000 schoolchildren each week, and provided emergency food packets once a week to anyone in the county in need through their HOPE in Nevada County project.

El Cajon, CA, Lodge No. 1812: Elks supported the East County Youth Symphony by providing instruments to more than 45 children in need. The Lodge also hosts all the symphony's concerts.

Rancho Cordova, CA, Lodge No. 2484: Elks spent thousands of hours on their "Catch the Spirit" project, working with the local police, the National Guard, veterans hospitals, and food banks to provide support to veterans, military families, and others in need. Through donations and partnerships, Elks were able to give away more than \$353,000 of food this year.

Telluride, CO, Lodge No. 692: Elks organized a three-day wilderness orienteering challenge for youth in their community. Elks taught participants about wilderness survival, how to take bearings, mapping courses, search and rescue missions, and first aid before they set out on the Elks-designed course.

Bridgeport, CT, Lodge No. 36: Elks held monthly meals at a transitional shelter for homeless veterans. They also provided the residents, who often arrive with nothing, with donations of clothes, food, supplies and other necessities.

Naugatuck, CT, Lodge No. 967: Elks repaired, painted, winterized, and provided general maintenance to 30 seniors' homes this year. Their more than 1,000 hours of work did not go unnoticed—thank you letters were regularly posted in the local newspaper!



Tampa, FL, Lodge No. 708: Elks provided year-round support to the 32 previously homeless female veterans and their children staying at Athena House. Weekly barbecues, game nights, children's programs, and holiday parties have fostered friendships between the Elks and the residents.

St. Augustine, FL, Lodge No. 829: Through community partnerships, Elks were able to hold their Kids Fit Club year-round! Each week, more than 80 high-risk, low-income children attended sessions where they learned about fitness and healthy eating.



Milton, FL, Lodge No. 2377: Elks provided free transportation to the VA hospital to 245 veterans this year. The Lodge started the program in hopes that increased access to medical care would "bring many smiles and a 'lust for life' to our deserving veterans."

Cocoa Beach, FL, Lodge No. 2387: Elks provided year-long support and friendship to residents of a local veterans transitional facility. Their help did not go unnoticed: "Thank you for all the wonderful things the Elks of Cocoa Beach have

done for the Veterans here. The effort put forth just says to me that people really do care about us."

Jupiter, FL, Lodge No. 2469: Elks fought hunger in their community by purchasing, assembling and delivering hundreds of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to families in need.

Lake Placid, FL, Lodge No. 2661: Elks started a Meals on Wheels program in their community, operating five days a week to deliver hundreds of meals each month to those in their own community. Their volunteer drivers also deliver thousands of meals each month to those in neighboring communities.

Pearl City, HI, Lodge No. 2669: Elks provided a holiday celebration at the local Kaleolea veterans transition facility with their "Bringing the Spirit of Christmas" to veterans project. Lodge members decorated, provided gifts for the residents, and prepared a great holiday feast for the residents and staff.



Decorah, IA, Lodge No. 443: Elks provided personal finance education to local high school students. Classrooms benefitted from specialized computer equipment and programs, as well as from financial presentations given and arranged by Elks and their colleagues.

Preston, ID, Lodge No. 1670: Elks renovated and repaired the kitchen, bathrooms, and delivery vehicles of a local senior citizen center that provides more than 1,600 meals per month to those in need. Senior center director Frank Gifford says, "We thank the Elks National Foundation and the local Lodge for all their past and current help with our expansion project and ongoing operations."

Marion, IL, Lodge No. 800: Through donations and community support, Elks were able to expand their program to distribute hygiene kits, containing items like toothpaste, shampoo, soap and other items, to 1,800 people this year!

Carlinville, IL, Lodge No. 1412: Elks provided much needed support to a local food pantry, providing freezers and food, as well as held a widely attended monthly cooking seminar, where pantry-goers were taught how to easily prepare healthy meals for their families. At the end of the year, each participant was given an Elks recipe book with everything they'd learned!



Vincennes, IN, Lodge No. 291: Elks expanded an overcrowded animal shelter in their community by building an addition, providing an outside play area, repairing the heating and ventilation system, and painting the outside of the building.

Wabash, IN, Lodge No. 471: Wabash Lodge has extended their project into 2010, waiting for one last piece of government approval before they launch into their plans for constructing a local riverwalk where they will hold environmental seminars.

Bicknell, IN, Lodge No. 1421: Elks held a back-to-school mall to provide students in need with all the necessary school supplies. The community was so excited about the event that they started lining up hours beforehand, and by the end of the day 328 students had received backpacks filled with school supplies.

Goodland, KS, Lodge No. 1528: Through their partnership with Genesis Food Pantry, the Elks were able to provide food for 677 families, or 1,947 people total!

Ashland, KY, Lodge No. 350: After school and during each school break, Elks held a children's program for at-risk students, teaching things like sports, art, music, drama, and the importance of civic service. As many as 225 children attended some of their sessions!

Opelousas, LA, Lodge No. 1048: Through a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club, Elks were able to take 140 children on historical and educational field trips this year, to places like college campuses, museums, and the state capitol where the children even met the governor! A grateful Boys & Girls Club awarded the Lodge with its first annual Hero Award.



Christian County, MO, Lodge No. 2777: Elks spent hundreds of hours repairing and restoring the kitchen and bathroom, installing new appliances, floors, and painting the walls of the Christian County Family Violence Center, doing much of the work themselves. Thanks to them, the current 127 residents and those for years to come will benefit from the Elks' hard work!

Raleigh, NC, Lodge No. 735: Through open houses at the Lodge, visits to veterans homes, and spreading the word in the community, Elks collected and recorded interviews from 90 veterans this year, helping to preserve individual accounts of our nation's history.

Hickory, NC, Lodge No. 1654: Elks provided a hot, home-cooked meal to hundreds of people in need one Sunday each month. The outpouring of Elks volunteers and new members shows how the program "has changed our Lodge", says PER Joe Elko.



Toms River, NJ, Lodge No. 1875: Elks held business seminars around town to educate local businesses of the benefits and importance of hiring young adults with disabilities as employees.

They were attended by more than 100 interested employers, and the Elks were able to place 24 individuals and set up contacts for many more.

Greater Wildwood, NJ, Lodge No. 1896: Elks provided fresh produce, which many pantries cannot provide, to more than 400 families this year. In addition, they were able to expand this food program to provide hundreds of hot lunches to those in need in their community.

Colonie, NY, Lodge No. 2192: Elks hosted monthly get-togethers at the Lodge for people with disabilities and their families. Their summer barbecues, Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day parties, Veterans Day dinners, and other events regularly drew large crowds—sometimes more than 200 people attended!

Lockport, NY, Lodge No. 41: In partnership with the local YMCA, the Elks planned, organized and carried out an annual week-long summer camp tailored to meet the needs of people with disabilities. The camp, which includes activities such as canoeing, hiking, basketball, swimming and more, continues to grow in popularity. This year, the Lodge was able to procure a donation from a local business so that they wouldn't have to turn away any campers.



Herkimer, NY, Lodge No. 1439: Elks spent hundreds of hours fighting hunger in their community, serving meals, stocking shelves, delivering food, and providing much-needed donations to several food pantries in the community.

Clifton Park, NY, Lodge No. 2466: The Elks Bike Works program, which aims to increase community access for low-income youth and their families, gave away 102 bikes this year and repaired many more. They also held clinics on bike maintenance, care, winterization and safety, even coming up with a "bike drivers ed" manual for children in grades 4 through 8.

Indian Lake, OH, Lodge No. 2792: Elks provided support for a local youth outreach center, building a new outdoor basketball court, purchasing computer supplies for the center, warm winter clothing for the children, and providing 300 youth with new backpacks filled with school supplies. They also volunteered with the center's weekly homework project, allowing the program to grow and expand to a second location.

Coos Bay, OR, Lodge No. 1160: In partnership with a local pantry, Elks fought childhood hunger by providing weekend snack packs for 583 students each week. The Lodge received the Judge Richard Barron Award from their county for their "volunteer efforts that significantly enhance the lives of at-risk youth in the community."



Bristol County, RI, Lodge No. 1860: Through donations, fundraising and community support, the Elks were able to give away more than \$22,000 in food through their East Bay Cares food program. They even received a donation of a van to help with food delivery, and a "stone soup" award from a local food pantry for "playing a key role in helping us engage, educate and empower the East Bay in creating a hunger-free community."

Cleburne, TX, Lodge No. 811: Elks volunteers cooked and prepared a meal and a snack each day for as many as 46 residents of a local family crisis center, making many friends along the way. The Center says, "The Elks have been very supportive of our mission at the Center. We appreciate all they have done and will continue to do for us."



New Braunfels, TX, Lodge No. 2279: Elks provided free, comprehensive dental service to 41 people in need in their community. This amounts to more than \$40,000 worth of visits.

Arlington-Fairfax, VA, Lodge No. 2188: Through clinics, job trainings, and providing access to specialized education, Elks were able to assist more than 100 military spouses and wounded caregivers in searching for flexible and lasting employment.

Tri-Cities, WA, Lodge No. 2755: Elks constructed kennels at a local domestic violence shelter, allowing women and children leaving violent environments to take their pets with them. Elks built the outdoor kennels complete with dog houses, shade covers, food dishes, and a play area, as well as provided pet carriers, pet food, and cleaning supplies.

Wausau, WI, Lodge No. 248: Elks partnered with several community groups and dozens of volunteers to build 13 ramps at homes in their area, providing accessibility and freedom to the elderly and those with disabilities. As their waiting list grows, luckily so does their community support and funding!



Watertown, WI, Lodge No. 666: Elks started their own closet full of medical equipment, renting it out free of charge to those in the community who need it. This year alone, they served 70 people. The program was so successful and received so much support that they are already self-sufficient after one year!

Wheeling, WV, Lodge No. 28: More than 83 Lodge members volunteered with the Just for Kids project, serving homemade, nutritious meals to hundreds of children every Tuesday night at a local soup kitchen. Each night featured a presentation from prominent community members, games and homework help.