

HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Fall 2008 · Issue 21



THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS HELPING THE ENF SAVE KIDS' LIVES BY BATTLING UNDERAGE DRINKING. SEE PAGE 3.

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Here's our annual
honor roll through
September 30, 2008.

Donate online now at
[www.elks.org/donate/
heartbeat.cfm](http://www.elks.org/donate/heartbeat.cfm), and
your online donation
will be put to work
immediately for our
program recipients!

Lees Summit Elks Teach Youth to Serve & Protect

“What did you do on your summer vacation?” Every kid has to answer that question when they return to school. Some kids have exotic vacation destinations to talk about, while others return with tales of summer camp. Thanks to Lees Summit, Mo., Lodge No. 2804, an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant and the Lees Summit Police Department, 17 seventh- and eighth-graders returned to school ready to answer this question with exciting stories of making arrests and setting off explosives.

GAINING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

In its first year, the Lees Summit Junior Police Academy was an unbelievable success. During the weeklong academy, students learned about a wide variety of police work, from patrol tactics to bomb detection. They also got to hear from members of the SWAT Team, the DEA and the US Marshals Service. The Lodge used a Promise Grant from the Elks National Foundation to help pay for t-shirts, meals and other supplies for the young participants.

Many of the students who attended see a future

in police work and were excited to gain experience in the field. Emily Fletcher, 13, said she attended the academy because she wants to be a detective. “I like detective work, like fingerprints and footprints, so I thought I’d come learn about all that,” she said.

The students learned there is a lot more to police work than most people think. They practiced techniques for conducting traffic stops, learned how to solve a burglary, and responded to police calls acted out by volunteers. But it wasn’t all hard work! They also got to see the Bomb Squad blow up some watermelons, and they tried on bulletproof vests and handcuffs that the police officers use.

PROVIDING ROLE MODELS

Through the daily activities, the youth learned about teamwork and discipline and built their self-esteem and competence. This event also allowed police officers and community leaders to build a rapport with the youth of their community.

As Fred Pickard, a member of Lees Summit, Mo., Lodge No. 2804 and the driving force behind the Police Academy, explains, “Through this interaction,

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2009 IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED!

On October 16, the Impact Grant Review Committee met to award the 2009 Impact Grants. The committee awarded 46 grants totaling \$410,000 in funding. To view the list of recipients and summaries of their projects, please visit our website at www.elks.org/enf/community.

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Never Too Busy for the ENF

If only I could get things done while I sleep..." Has this thought ever crossed your mind? With a full to-do list, even the easiest tasks can become a hassle. As a wife, mother and active member of her community, Charlotte Upton of Hamilton, Ala., knows it well. She fills her schedule on purpose, because as she explains, "The more I have to do, the better I am!"

An Elks Family

When Upton's husband, Kevin, joined the Elks in 1993, their two children were young, so the Hoop Shoot and other youth activities were ideal for their family. The entire Upton family jumped right in at the Marion County Lodge.

"At first, [joining the Elks] was a social opportunity," she explains. "But as soon as we got there and saw all the good, it motivated us to stay and get more involved."

"I'd highly encourage any Federal employee who's involved with the Elks to give through the Combined Federal Campaign"

Charlotte joined the Elks in 2000. Her son joined as soon as he turned 21, and her daughter plans to do the same. Since becoming a member herself, Upton has served as Treasurer and Secretary.

Currently, she is both the Lodge ENF Chair and Exalted Ruler!

"Our Lodge funds programs for youth and supports other groups and activities in our community," Upton says. "We cover so much of the expenses. Without the Elks, our local Scouts, for example, would have a really hard time."

When it comes to supporting their good work, the Marion County Elks look to the Elks National Foundation for help bringing things to another level. "I'm really excited about the Gratitude Grants," Upton cites, "and the Hoop Shoot. These opportunities allow us to do so much more for our small-town community."

Playing Her Part in Every Way

In addition to the time and talent Upton shares, she also donates to the Elks National Foundation with annual dues and at fundraising events. But now, Upton is taking advantage of a newer way to donate to the ENF—the Combined Federal Campaign.


The Combined Federal Campaign encourages federal employees to designate a portion of their paycheck to a charity of their choice. Once enrolled, the CFC takes care of the rest!

"It's not something for which I have to say, 'Oh, I better write a check and put it in the mail,'" Upton explains. "It's already taken care of. I don't have to think anything more about it!"



Charlotte Upton of Marion County, Ala. Lodge No. 2684

Upton works as a part-time employee of the US Postal Service, where she serves as the CFC Chairperson in her office. Remember, she thrives when she's busy! Yet, Upton still welcomes ways to make her busy life easier.

"I'd highly encourage any Federal employee who's involved with the Elks to give through the Combined Federal Campaign," she says with enthusiasm. And move quick—the enrollment period for 2009 ends December 15, 2008! 

To learn more about participating in the Combined Federal Campaign, contact your Federal employer, visit www.opm.gov/cfc, or contact Donor Services Assistant Christine Wagner at the Elks National Foundation at 773/755-4856.

2007-08 ENF Annual Report, *Heroes*

The 2007-08 Annual Report, *Heroes*, highlights volunteers from each of our programs and the difference they make in their communities. To read the report, including financial information and donor honor rolls, please visit our website at www.elks.org/enf and click on "Who We Are."



ENF Makes *Hard Choices* Easier for Students

Every day, more than 11,000 American children try alcohol for the first time. Studies show that young people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin drinking at 21. With underage drinking starting younger and younger, how do we teach children about the dangers of alcohol before it's too late? The ENF and Elks National Drug Awareness Program have found fun and exciting solutions.

Elks to the Rescue

Since 2006, the Elks National Drug Awareness Program has teamed with Marvel Entertainment and the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to produce a comic book featuring Elroy the Elk, the Fantastic Four and Spider-Man in a battle against underage drinking. The partnership was met with immediate success, and has expanded incredibly over the past two years. The comic book, *Hard Choices*, is designed to educate fourth- through eighth-graders about the perils of underage drinking.

The comic also features the Elks Drug Awareness Program Heroes Essay Contest. Students can compete for the grand prize and the chance to appear in a Marvel comic simply by writing a short essay about the great things they can accomplish by staying away from drugs and alcohol. In the pilot year, 500,000



comic books were shipped to elementary schools in Lodge communities across the country.

"We were very impressed with both the scope and dedication of the Elks Drug Awareness Program," says Marvel Senior Vice President Bob Sabouni. "We have come to realize the motto Elks Care, Elks Share is more than a marketing line."

Hard Choices proves to be an effective tool in drug prevention because it teaches valuable lessons to kids in an enjoyable format. The comic stars characters known by both children and parents, helping to break the ice on a difficult subject. This year, Marvel distributed 800,000 *Hard Choices* comic books to students all over the country, and a digital version is available online through the Elks Drug Awareness Program website, www.elks.org/dap.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the Elks Drug Awareness Program to make positive connections with

Continued page 8

IRA Rollovers Are Back!

On October 3, President Bush signed the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008, which extended an excellent charitable planning opportunity for 2008-2009.


If you are over 70½, you are eligible to make an IRA charitable rollover to the Elks National Foundation. The good news is that your IRA distribution to charity will be similar to other IRA rollovers—it will not be included in your Federal taxable income.

Five reasons to consider donating to the ENF through your IRA:

1. **Convenience**—It is a simple and easy way to make a gift.

2. **Standard Deduction Benefit**—With an IRA charitable rollover, you may take the standard deduction. Since the IRA rollover is not on your return, it may reduce your taxes.
3. **Lower Tax on Social Security**—Because of an IRA distribution, you may be paying tax on 85 percent of your Social Security. Using the IRA charitable rollover may lower your income, so only 50 percent of Social Security is taxable.
4. **No Giving Limits**—With an IRA charitable rollover, you may give more than the usual deductible amount of 50 percent of income.
5. **Lower Income Level Saves Tax**—People with higher incomes often

lose part of their charitable deductions and other tax benefits. Using an IRA charitable rollover for part or all of your IRA-required distribution may lower your income and reduce your taxes.

Your IRA charitable rollovers during 2008 or 2009 could be \$1,000, \$5,000 or any amount up to \$100,000. We recommend you discuss the benefits of an IRA rollover with your CPA or tax advisor. 

For more information on the benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover gift, contact your financial advisor. To discuss making a planned gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Christine Vaccarello at christinev@elks.org or 773-755-4956.

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

WE SALUTE the following members of the 2008-09 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$500 or more to the Foundation from April 1 through September 30, 2008. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit www.elks.org/enf/annualrecognition.cfm.

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Bequests

The Elks National Foundation honors the following remarkably generous people who, from April 1 through September 30, 2008, left bequests to the ENF. Though they are no longer with us, their legacy to the future will continue to help expand our philanthropy. To learn more about how you can benefit from leaving your legacy, contact your financial advisor and visit elks.giftlegacy.com.

- Mrs. Marion J. Creith Plymouth, MI, Lodge No. 1780
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- Distinguished Member (DM) (\$500)
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- Permanent Benefactor (PB) (\$2,000)
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- Silver (SL) (\$10,000)
- Gold (GD) (\$20,000)
- Platinum (PL) (\$50,000)
- Diamond (DA) (\$100,000) + Denotes deceased members


CUMULATIVE GIVING LEVEL KEY: The two-letter notation following a donor's name refers to his or her cumulative giving level, based on total donations from a donor since inception of the Foundation. For more information on cumulative giving levels, visit www.elks.org/enf/IndividualRecognition.cfm. To view your own giving history, visit www.elks.org/enf/personalgivinghistory.cfm.

Lees Summit *Continued from page 1*

we were able to build trust and provide positive role models to our youth."

And it seems like their efforts worked. "I think we all thought police officers are kind of stiff, mean people," said Hunter Roberts, 13. "But they joke around with you and have fun, too. If you stay out of trouble, they're your friends just like everyone else."

A GREAT FIRST STEP

Thanks to the success of this year's program, the Elks hope to continue the Junior Police Academy in the future. This year, several businesses partnered to provide supplies and meals for the students, and the Elks are confident they will increase involvement next year. And, of course, they're excited the Promise Grant is worth up to \$500 in reimbursement this year! 

The ENF awards Promise Grants to the first 250 Lodges that pledge to host an event that helps build the character and competence of youth in their community. To find out more about Promise Grants and to download an application, visit our website, www.elks.org/enf/community/PromiseGrants.cfm.



Students learn about police work via first-hand experience.

HARD CHOICES

Continued from page 3

elementary and middle schools," says Drug Awareness Program National Director Kent Gade. "There is no cost to get involved!"

Stay Tuned

Always searching for innovative ways to spread the anti-drug message, the DAP and Marvel recently launched a new partnership with Total Recall, an online tool that improves memory and speed of learning. Total Recall instructs students to read the online digital Marvel comic and answer the accompanying questions to reaffirm the underage drinking message. This summer, the Total Recall Program was tested in San Diego elementary and middle schools,

and due to its success will be a permanent feature on the Marvel digital comic page.

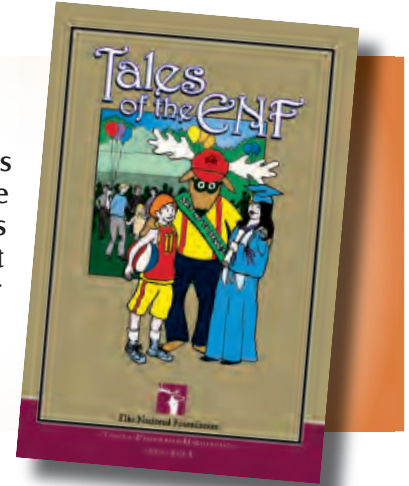
"The 2008 distribution is currently happening at thousands of schools across the country," says Sabouni. "Last year we added the digital version and this year, Total Recall. I'm certain we will have a few surprises in 2009. Sorry, I can't

resist a cliffhanger. I do work in comics after all!" 

In 2008-09, the Elks National Foundation will distribute \$688,750 to completely fund the Elks National Drug Awareness Program. For more information on the Drug Awareness Program and the Hard Choices comic book, visit www.elks.org/dap.

Tales of the ENF

The 2007-08 Youth Programs Highlights Book, *Tales of the ENF*, offers a glimpse into the programs and opportunities the ENF provides for youth throughout the country. To read stories about our program recipients, please visit our website at www.elks.org/enf and click on "Media/Brochures."



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Heartbeat is the Elks National Foundation's official newsletter. Published three times a year, its purpose is to inform generous donors and friends about Foundation activities. For more information about featured *Heartbeat* articles or to suggest items to be included in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*, please contact Communications Specialist Anne Reardon at 773/755-4864 or anner@elks.org.