

HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Spring 2009 · Issue 22



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It's never too early to consider the well-being of your family. The best way to make sure they are provided for is by preparing your will.

Take it to the Food Bank 4

Throughout the country, food banks are suffering from severe shortages. Find out how Lodges are addressing this need with help from the Community Investments Program.

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

A NEW CHAPTER: SPREADING THE JOY OF READING

"Chapter One" These words printed on the opening page of a brand-new novel always promise an action packed adventure. Sadly, this eye-opening chapter does not exist for many young children whose families cannot afford books.

Kyle Baldwin of Fairfield, Calif., a 2008 Most Valuable Student Scholar, has always had a passion for reading. In fact, Baldwin would rather read than play video games. Through participating in a 4-H project to build local library bookshelves, Baldwin realized that many children never have the opportunity to read.

"In the process of organizing this project, I realized literacy was an issue in our community," he explains. "When I was told some kids grow up never owning a book, I was shocked."

In 2006, determined to spread the joy of reading to less fortunate children, Baldwin and his younger brother, Brady, opened the first chapter of My Own Book, a nonprofit organization designed to give new books to children who otherwise would not experience the excitement of owning a book. The My Own Book team collects brand-new books through drives or donations. They then take these books to schools where they read the children a story and let them select their very own book, personalized with a name plate.

Since founding My Own Book, the Baldwins have used their nonprofit organization to distrib-

ute more than 16,600 books. Through their website, www.myownbook.net, they have established new chapters in multiple states, and are hoping to spread My Own Book nationwide.

Today, with the help of his ENF scholarship, Kyle is halfway through his freshman year at Bryant University in Rhode Island.

"I am impressed with the Elks' generosity and true desire to help others," says Kyle. "They inspire me to get an education and become a contributing member of society."

Kyle, a business major, is opening yet another chapter of My Own Book near Bryant University.

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Kyle helps an eager student personalize his book with a name plate.

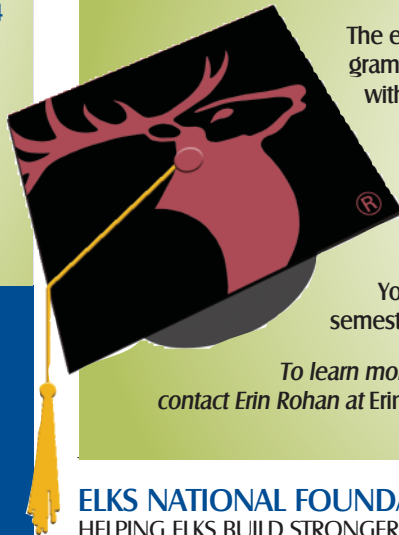
THE [YOUR NAME HERE] MVS SCHOLARSHIP

The enrollment period for the ENF Most Valuable Student Named Scholarship Program is under way. This program offers a unique opportunity for you to connect with one student's four-year journey through college.

"The Named Scholarship Program allows me to attach a name with where my money is going," explains Named Scholarship Sponsor and former MVS Scholarship recipient Jon Gattman. "The ENF is my favorite, most meaningful way that I spend my money. It really makes me feel very good inside to know people are benefiting from it."

Your student's scholarship will be named in your honor, and you will receive semester updates from him or her, as well as the opportunity to respond.

To learn more about the Most Valuable Student Named Scholarship Program, please contact Erin Rohan at ErinR@elks.org or 773/755-4858.



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OF DEBITS AND DRYWALL

Though he has been on the road and away from his home and Lodge for almost two years, Robert Becker never worries about donating to his favorite Foundation. Why? Because Becker is a member of the ENF Recurring Gift Club.

A Little Adds Up to a Lot!

Becker joined the ENF Recurring Gift Club in 2005. "It's just so easy!" he explains, "It's like any other bill that is directly debited from your checking account. I don't have to think about it."

Through the Recurring Gift Club, the ENF automatically debits a donor's bank account or charges a credit card on a recurring basis each month for a set donation amount. There are no checks to write or coupons to mail. As Becker says, "It makes donating easy!"

"Plus, if I give a small amount each month, it totals to a significant

Through the ENF Recurring Gift Club, Robert Becker's small monthly donations add up to something big!

contribution at the end of the year," says Becker. "This way, I know by giving just a little each month, I am making the difference I want."

Becker has always been interested in fraternal

organizations, not only as a place for a businessman like him to socialize, but for all the good deeds they perform throughout the community. When the opportunity to join the B.P.O.E. presented itself, Becker jumped at the chance and joined Parkersburg, W.V., Lodge No. 198.

Now Becker and his wife Christine, a former school teacher, call Edwardsville, Ill., home. An active member of Granite City, Ill., Lodge 1063, Becker enjoys everything the Elks have to offer. Even after 26 years, he still gets excited when he talks about all the ways the ENF makes a difference.

While Becker prides himself on being a committed member of his Lodge, his exciting lifestyle sometimes limits his involvement.

Time to Hit the Road

After serving 28 years as a United States Marshal, Becker decided to retire in 2005 and hit the road with his wife, touring the country in their motor home. After traveling for almost a year, they missed a more rooted life and took to long-term volunteer projects.

Currently, you can find Becker and his wife living in Eastern Kentucky, working with the Christian Appalachian Project. He joins people of all ages to help fix deteriorating homes.

"It provides a sense of self-fulfillment by proving our own skills," says Becker, "but it is also great to be




Robert Becker and his wife Christine deeply believe in the influence and impact of the ENF.

able to give back to people who have no other way of getting repair work done."

While residing in the Appalachian Basin, Becker tries to visit Ashland, Ky., Lodge No. 350 as much as he can. It is 50 miles away, but he enjoys frequenting the Lodge, as well as the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland.

While on location, Becker doesn't have to worry about forgetting to donate.

"I know it's taken care of and that I am supporting the ENF without having to think about it," Becker says.

As a member of the Recurring Gift Club, he can rest at ease knowing his generous contributions are put to work by the ENF! 

Donors who join the Recurring Gift Club have their name listed on our online honor roll and receive a special welcome gift. To learn more about participating in the ENF Recurring Gift Club, please contact Marcee Northey at MarceeN@elks.org or 773/755-4854.

NEWS FROM THE ENF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The ENF Board of Trustees met on February 12, 2009, in Savannah, Georgia to review the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. To view the 2009-10 Grants and Appropriations, visit www.elks.org/enf/appropriations.cfm. At the October meeting, the Board announced that the Foundation will move to a total return spending policy for the endowment fund. This means, as of April 1, 2009, that even in this terrible economy, we should be able to maintain or increase spending in 2009-10. It's great news for our program recipients, who will benefit immensely!

WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

We all know it is important to have a will to protect our assets after we're gone. For many of us, however, creating a will seems to fall by the wayside—work, family, Lodge activities, and the daily grind keep us busy enough! If you haven't drafted a will yet, you're not alone—approximately 70 percent of Americans do not have one.

It's time to stop making excuses. Writing and updating your will is one of the most significant things you can do for your family's future, no matter what your age. Still not convinced? Here's how not having a will could affect your family and your estate:

1. The State, not you, will decide how your assets are distributed.
2. Most people think their spouse will automatically inherit everything. This is not true.
3. The courts, not your family, will be in control. Your money and your property (estate) will be distributed according to firm state laws, not your desires.
4. The courts can choose a stranger or someone whom you would not want to serve to handle the settlement of your estate, and it may be expensive.
5. If you have minor children, you may not have a

say in who will be granted custody of them, or how their inheritance will be distributed to them.

6. You will not have the opportunity to leave a charitable bequest to your favorite charities, like the ENF.

If anyone should have a say in how your assets are distributed, it's you! Creating a will opens many opportunities, including the option to make a special gift to your favorite charity. PGER Roger True is one of a number of donors who've included the Elks National Foundation in his will.

"I encourage everyone to review their financial status to see if a planned gift to the ENF is possible for them," he says. "Estate planning is a great option in this economy, because it doesn't have an immediate effect on personal finances, but it makes a big difference."


If you've decided to include the ENF in your will or estate plans, please let us know. You will be eligible for membership in the John F. Malley Society, reserved for individuals who've taken the initiative to include a gift to the ENF in their estate plans.

For additional information about planned giving and the ENF, please visit www.enfplannedgiving.org. To discuss making a planned gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Kate Keating Edsey at KateE@elks.org or 773/755-4866

A NEW CHAPTER

Continued from page 1

When not in class or managing his nonprofit, Kyle can be found learning about law in the Bryant Legal Studies Society, or organizing events for Bryant alumni as a member of the Student Alumni Association. He is keeping his options open for after he graduates, and is currently interested in working with the financial market, starting his own technical business or getting involved with the aeronautical and aerospace industry.

We can't wait to hear how this story unfolds! 

In 2008-09, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.296 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarships. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, please visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars.



Kyle (left) and Brady Baldwin, co-founders of My Own Book, spread the joy of reading.

TAKE IT TO THE FOOD BANK: LODGES FIGHT HUNGER

One in eight Americans does not have enough food to sustain a healthy lifestyle. This means that for almost four million people across the nation, hunger is a reality. And with the current economic climate, things are only getting worse.

Food Banks Running Dry

According to a recent survey conducted by Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization, food banks have seen a 30 percent increase in requests for assistance during the current economic downturn.

This increase in requests, combined with a decline in donations, has caused a crisis situation for many food banks. Seventy-two percent of food banks now report that they can no longer adequately meet the demand.

Elks to the Rescue

Many Lodges have stepped up to help solve this

“There are always people who need a little help, but now more than ever, the need is overwhelming.”

problem in their communities. By building on existing relationships and creating new ones, Lodges have become a great source for donations and volunteers for their local food pantries. Some Lodges use Gratitude Grants to make a donation to their local food pantry. With Gratitude Grants worth up to \$500 this year, a Lodge can really make a big difference in helping to stock the pantry shelves.

Wanting to do more than just make a donation, 12 of the 2009 Impact Grant recipients have created or enhanced food distribution programs to help feed the hungry in their communities.

A Smashing Success

In Chestertown, Md., Lodge No. 2474 came up with an easy way to make a big difference. Using a 2008 Impact Grant, the Lodge purchased food collection



Members of Greater Wildwood, N.J., Lodge No. 1896 show off a delivery of fresh produce they donated to the First Call for Help Food Pantry in Wildwood, N.J..

bins and placed them at locations throughout their community. Once a month, Lodge members collect the donations and bring them to the pantry.

By raising awareness and making donating easy, the Lodge increased the pantry's overall donations, allowing them to serve more clients. In the first six months of 2008, the pantry was able to serve an average of 347 clients a month, a 13 percent increase from 2007.

Best of all, now that the bins have been purchased, the project will continue at no cost to the Lodge or pantry!

Let Them Eat Fruit!

Having worked with their local food pantry for years, the Elks of Greater Wildwood, N.J., Lodge No. 1896 knew that the Impact Grant was a perfect opportunity to expand their partnership, especially in these tough economic times.

“Fresh produce, like many other necessities, is becoming prohibitively expensive for our clients,” explains Suzanne Nardi, executive director of the local United Way.

This need is what pushed the Greater Wildwood Elks to apply for an Impact Grant. Through their

LAST CHANCE FOR DONATIONS

The donation deadline for the 2008-09 fiscal year is March 31, 2009. We recommend mailing all donations by March 15 to ensure they arrive in our office on time. You can also donate online at www.elks.org/donate until midnight on March 31.

Impact Grant, the Elks have been able to provide fresh produce to the pantry clients on a regular basis.

“There are always people who need a little help, but now more than ever, the need is overwhelming,” explains PER Gordon Jones. “This program is not the answer to the problem, but we provide a helping hand when it is needed.”

Teach a Man to Fish...

The Elks of Carlinville, Ill., Lodge No. 1412 truly believe in the old adage that if you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day, but if you teach him how to fish, he will eat for a lifetime. That’s why they are using their Impact Grant to host classes teaching food pantry clients how to create nutritious meals on a budget, in addition to donating nutritious food items to the pantry.

Since the food pantry provides families with many of the same staples each month, classes will focus on recipes that revolve around these items



PER Ray Clarke (from left); Jim Fouss, chairman of The Community Food Pantry of Kent Co.; and ER Robert Raleigh unload food donations collected by Chestertown, Md., Lodge No. 2474.

and tips on how to “stretch” meals in a nutritious manner.

Get Involved!

There are a lot of easy ways to help your local food pantry, many of which won’t even cost the Lodge a dime. Why not hold a canned-food drive at the Lodge? Has your Lodge met the GER’s per-capita goal? If so, you can use a Gratitude Grant to donate \$500 to your local pantry so that they can buy the items they really need. Start helping to feed the hungry in your community today!

To find a food pantry near you, visit www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx.

The Elks National Foundation will invest up to \$1.37 million this year in local communities through Gratitude Grants, Promise Grants and Impact Grants. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit www.elks.org/enf/community.

The new Hoop Shoot website, at www.elks.org/hoopshoot, is more intuitive and includes exciting new features.

THE ROAD TO SPRINGFIELD

Continued from back cover

We hope you are able to join us on April 25 in Springfield, Mass., to cheer on these NBA hopefuls! If you can’t make it, be sure to visit the website, www.elks.org/hoopshoot, after April 27 to see the final results.

In 2008-09, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$737,514 to fund the Elks National Hoop Shoot Free-Throw Program. For more information on the Hoop Shoot, visit www.elks.org/hoopshoot.

THE ROAD TO SPRINGFIELD

Lebron James is shooting 76.9 percent from the line this year. That's not bad for the NBA, but it wouldn't get him very far in the Hoop Shoot!

Started in 1946, the Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest is open to boys and girls, ages 8 to 13. They compete in at least four levels to qualify for the National Finals: the Lodge, District, State and Regional Contests. Once the 72 national finalists are determined, the Elks send them with their families to Springfield, Mass., where the winners of the competition will receive a trophy and have their name inscribed on a plaque at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

This year, the Hoop Shoot Finals will be held on April 25, 2009. Along with the



2009 HoopShoot guest speaker, Ty Rogers, sinks the game-winning shot against the Drake University Bulldogs in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year.

many activities planned throughout the weekend, we're excited to announce Ty Rogers as our guest speaker. The 1995 Getty Powell winner will tell about his exciting buzzer-beating shot that advanced the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers to the second round of the NCAA tournament last year.

Along with the exciting news of the finals, the Hoop Shoot has unveiled a brand-new look to its website, www.elks.org/hoopshoot. The new site has great pictures, timely news stories, and new features such as Tips from the Pros. While you are browsing the new site, take time to send a good luck message to the Hoop Shoot national finalists, www.elks.org/hoopshoot/greetings.cfm. Before the contest, the ENF will compile the messages in a booklet and present them to each contestant when they arrive.

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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 anneer@elks.org.