

a Wheelie Good Christmas!



Christmas is the season for giving. No one knows this better than the Elks.

Throughout the country, Lodges are organizing food drives for the needy, providing holiday meals for the elderly, and making Christmas baskets for families.

Riding in Style

Last year, the spirit of Christmas overtook Cleburne, Tex., Lodge No. 811. For the second straight year, the Lodge used a \$500 Promise Grant to purchase bicycles and hold a party for disadvantaged children in their community. They contacted the local school counselors and teachers to identify children in need of an extra special Christmas present.

"We knew there were a lot of children who were not going to have a very big Christmas," says Project Manager Sharen Rotenberry. "This is something we could give them to help make it enjoyable."

Forty-five children were invited to the Lodge to enjoy a Christmas celebration. Along with receiving the bicycles, the children enjoyed hot dogs and treat bags which included fruit, candy, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as Elks Drug Awareness Program literature. Also, an old friend of the Lodge, Santa, even stopped by!

"All you have to do is see that look on the child's face," says Lodge member Tammy Basye. "It's indescribable what you feel in your heart."

Better Safe than Sorry

Safety was also very important to the Lodge. A Cleburne-area hospital donated helmets for all of the children. They also conducted a trauma prevention program during the party so the children would understand the importance of wearing helmets while riding bikes.

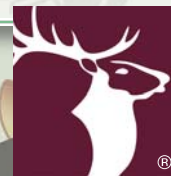
The day was one the lucky children and their parents are sure to remember. Parents were extremely grateful for the generosity of the Elks, the children enjoyed Santa and their new presents, and the local community was once again reminded of the kindness of the Elks.

Encourage your Lodge to promote the good deeds of the Elks this holiday season. Take advantage of the ENF's Community Investments Program!



"We are a benevolent and charitable organization," says Rotenberry. "A lot of people don't realize that."

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.



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Giving is Always in Season!

The **Community Investments Program** is the gift that keeps on giving to Elks communities. This year, the Elks National Foundation will invest up to \$1.375 million in local communities through Gratitude Grants, Promise Grants and Impact Grants.

Take the **Gratitude Grant** component. So far, we've reimbursed 900 Lodges that have met the GER's \$4.50 per-capita goal!

Gratitude Grants are charitable reimbursement grants of up to \$500 available to any Lodge that meets the GER's per-capita goal. Lodges have used Gratitude Grants to distribute holiday gift baskets to needy families, fund a "Teacher of the Year" award, and host dinners for local veterans.

Meanwhile, the Foundation has already awarded all 250 **Promise Grants** for this year. That's the earliest they've all been claimed!

Promise Grants offer Lodges up to \$500 in reimbursement to host an event that builds the character and competence of local youth. This year's Promise Grant recipients will put on some exciting youth events, including a Junior Citizen Police Academy, a bowling event for disabled children, and a Most Improved Student competition.

Impact Grants are a way for Lodges to expand on the Promise Grants and Gratitude Grants, and really meet a big need in their

communities. This year, we awarded \$435,000 to 50 Lodges with big plans to make an impact in their community!

Through a competitive application and selection process, Lodges can receive Impact Grants of up to \$10,000 to address unmet needs in their own communities. This year, Lodges received Impact Grants for a variety of meaningful projects. They will partner with domestic violence shelters; provide job skills training for military spouses and wounded veterans; and provide a summer camp for children and adults with special needs. We expect the CIP to continue to grow as it keeps pace with the seemingly limitless generosity and imagination of the Elks!

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