

A Mighty Army

2017-18 Elks National
Foundation Annual
Report



Dear Friends:

At the 1927 Elks National Convention in Cincinnati, the Order elected a judge from Springfield, Massachusetts, to be its Grand Exalted Ruler. A year earlier, the Elks had completed our memorial to the members who died in World War I. As the Order entered its 60th year, John F. Malley, like the other delegates, beamed with pride.

“We have just built, on the shores of Lake Michigan, a monument of exquisite beauty,” Malley said in his acceptance speech.

However, Malley did not want the Elks Veterans Memorial to be the Order’s greatest achievement. He knew that beauty would fade with time, so he spent his year as Grand stumping for a new monument—one that would grow stronger with time. He wanted to build what he called “a more stately mansion ... with a dome so vast that it will cover the entire nation.” His monument “would unite the forces of the Order ... into a mighty army for the service of mankind.”

At the 1928 Convention in Miami, the delegates endorsed Malley’s vision. The Grand Lodge donated \$100,000 and told Malley to build his Elks National Foundation.

Today, it’s nearly impossible to reflect on the Order’s rich 150-year history without considering the Elks National Foundation. Malley’s vision has become a \$650 million engine that drives Elks volunteers in their tireless pursuit of stronger communities.

In this year’s Annual Report, we’re featuring four ENF-funded programs that are now woven into the fabric of the Elks: Scholarships, the Hoop Shoot, Veterans Service, and the one that completed Malley’s vision, the Community Investments Program. As you watch these videos, think back to the Order’s humble beginnings.



The Jolly Corks took their name from a trick they played to dupe people into buying them drinks. Two or three generations later, the organization they formed completed an architectural masterpiece. And we immediately followed by building a more stately mansion, designed to endure. Just look where we are now.

Thank you so much for enlisting in our mighty army. Together, we’re building stronger communities.

Sincerely,



Louis F. Sulsberger, Chairman
ENF Board of Trustees