



Honolulu, Hawaii, Lodge No. 616 used an Anniversary Grant to partner with the Coastal and Offshore Recalibration Experience to offer a five-day sailing and healing retreat for wounded warriors, which included visiting Pearl Harbor and the Lodge.

Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

The Ultimate Anniversary Gift

From the ENF, to the Elks

“We are here to lay the foundations of a more stately mansion, a temple of philanthropy with a dome so vast that it will cover the entire nation.”

IN THE ORDER’S 60TH YEAR, just two years removed from completion of its greatest achievement, the Elks Veterans Memorial, the delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention in Miami voted to build a new monument. This one would not only endure time’s ravages, but also grow stronger with time’s passage.

“We are here to lay the foundations of a more stately mansion,” promised then-Grand Exalted Ruler John F. Malley, “a temple of philanthropy with a dome so vast that it will cover the entire nation.”

The delegates bought Malley’s vision, and with a generous initial donation of \$100,000 from the Grand Lodge, directed him to build his Elks National Foundation and unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.

Of course, it would take time to build Malley’s monument. An editorial in the July 1928 edition of *The Elks Magazine* cautioned the membership

“against impatience for early results of any great consequence.” The first results were, in fact, modest: a couple of small scholarships and grants to just four of the state associations.

But these programs kept growing. Eventually the ENF began funding all the Order’s major national programs: the Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, Veterans Service.

It wasn’t until 2005, with the advent of the Community Investments Program, that the Foundation fully realized Malley’s vision. Since July 2005, the CIP has equipped the Order’s most valuable resource, its tireless volunteers, its mighty army, with funds to meet the needs of their communities.

This past year, in celebration of the Order’s sesquicentennial, the ENF gave the ultimate anniversary gift: the chance for every Lodge to do even more to serve their communities



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Warrington, Fla., Lodge No. 2108 planned and funded their annual Pensacola Homeless Veteran Stand Down with an Anniversary Grant. The Lodge provided food, water, clothes, and various supplies needed by veterans experiencing homelessness in their community.

through a \$1,500 Anniversary Grant. A total of 1,543 Lodges used these grants to host holiday parties, grow community gardens, feed students, prepare care packages for veterans experiencing homelessness, and so much more.

home-starter kits for clients of the center.

“Elks care, Elks share, and it was a great way to celebrate 150 years,” agreed project managers Brenda Kephart and Lynne Corl.

Wallace, Idaho, Lodge No. 331, for example, used its grant to create individualized care packages based on a wish list from veterans at a rehab center. These veterans asked for common items many people take for granted, like socks and gloves.

The incredible response to the Anniversary Grant—82 percent of the eligible Lodges used their grants—inspired the Foundation’s Board of Trustees to renew the offer for 2018-19.

“The Anniversary Grant was supposed to be for the 150th only,” said Board Chairman Lou Sulsberger, “but a hungry kid doesn’t care about that. Let’s jump-start the next 150 years.”

“Our Lodge was very excited about this project because it was the first time in several years that we were able to give back to area veterans,” said project manager Greg Malone.

The projects may change, and the names of the volunteers, but one thing that’s never going to change—not this year, or next, or in 150 years—is this: Wherever there’s an Elks Lodge with members who want to roll up their sleeves, lend their hands, and make a difference, the Elks National Foundation will be there with them.

And we owe that to John F. Malley’s vision and the delegates to the 1928 Grand Lodge Convention, who saw it.



John F. Malley shared his vision in 1928, and Elks across the nation have been making it a reality one day at a time ever since.

State College, Penn., Lodge No. 1600, meanwhile, stayed on theme. It used its Anniversary Grant to host a 1950’s “Sock Hop” in October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness

Month. Attendees created 150 care kits for the Center County Women’s Resource Center. These kits were a combination of school backpacks and

To learn more about Anniversary Grants and the Community Investments Program, please visit elks.org/cip.



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