Picasso said that every child is an artist. With help from a $2,000 Beacon Grant, Deale, Md., Lodge No. 2528 recently set out to prove it.

The Lodge gave nine middle-schoolers the opportunity to spend a day with the Muddy Creek Artists Guild, learning how to shoot compelling photos. Then, they turned the kids loose on the community with cameras and a checklist of 10 categories, challenging them to spend the next seven days finding and shooting examples of each. The categories ranged from nature to nautical themes, from community to country.

While they were shooting their subjects, the students also connected with members of the community, meeting people like the antique shop owner and a local fireman.

The project culminated in an art show at the Lodge. Each child selected two prints to present. The young photographers talked about their photos and answered questions from prospective buyers. The pieces sold for a total of $560—all of which the Lodge used for charitable purposes.

*see Art, continued on page 5*
Four college campuses, four Lodges and 405 miles in four days—Elks Scholar Fellow Jenna and CIPsters Colleen, Chelsea and Jocelyn packed it all into the #ScholarCIPMegaTrip. The group visited four Impact Grant Lodges and held three Elk scholar meetups. The meetups at the University of North Carolina, Duke University and High Point University showcased not only the beauty of North Carolina, but also the passion for service and fellowship that runs deep in every Elks scholar.

At Hickory, N.C., Lodge No. 1654, Project Managers Art Drumheller and Carole Anderson and a hefty crowd of Lodge members were on hand for the visit. The Lodge’s Helping Hands Soup Kitchen project serves meals at the Lodge one Sunday a month while the town’s regular soup kitchen is closed. The group toured the facilities used to store food, tents, toys and other items given to families in need.

The next stop was 30 minutes down the road at Morganton, N.C., Lodge No. 1852. When our team arrived at the Lodge, Project Manager Eddie Hicks and his crew were already diligently packing bags full of food for the End Hunger on Weekends program. It takes a laser-focused army to pack more than 200 bags of food for kids in need, and the Morganton team has it down to a science—they open the Lodge doors, pull Eddie’s SUV right up to the entrance, and create an assembly line from table to car!

Who needs GPS when you have Jocelyn?
Q I want to increase the amount of my monthly recurring gift, but I don’t have the time to call in. Is there a way that I can update my gift online? —Busy in Boise

A Dear Busy: Have we got good news for you! Some exciting changes are happening on the ENF website. Fidelity Club members now have a personal service center where they can update their credit card information and change their gift amount with the click of a few buttons. We will send information on this online portal directly to the members of the Fidelity Club. Interested in beginning a recurring gift and joining the Fidelity Club? For more information, check out enf.elks.org/FidelityClub.

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at enf@elks.org.

ANNIVERSARY GRANTS IN ACTION

Quincy, Ill., Lodge No. 100 likes to live by the motto “Elks Care, Elks Share”… with groceries.

Lodge members put this motto into action by purchasing groceries for families in need, utilizing an Anniversary Grant in partnership with their local grocery store. Twenty-three families received groceries through this project.

“The project relieved financial burdens for the families—they were so grateful that it brought tears to their eyes,” recalls Project Manager Steve Labs.

The Lodge made an impact in the community in celebration of the Elks’ 150th Anniversary. For more information about the grants, visit enf.elks.org/AnniversaryGrant.

Nora Jones of Asheville Lodge acts as a personal shopper for a local student. The Elks Clothesline for Kids Impact Grant project provides children in need with brand-new clothing.

The next day, Project Managers Rick Rice and Nora Jones from Asheville, N.C., Lodge No. 608 greeted the barnstorming crew at an outlet mall, along with a bus full of middle and high school students ready to shop. These students were chosen by their teachers to participate in Elks Clothesline for Kids. Shopping is a big deal for teens who might not always have the chance to choose their own clothes. Many rely on hand-me-downs or donations.

The trip concluded at Pendleton, S.C., Lodge No. 2861. Walking into the fire station where the Lodge meets was like walking into an #ElksFamily reunion. The crew enjoyed a potluck and heard from parents whose children participated in the Lodge’s On a Mission summer camp for middle-schoolers.

The barnstorming adventure in the Carolinas was equal parts invigorating, inspiring and fun. Want to learn more? To read our journal from the road, visit enf.elks.org/ScholarCIPMegaTrip. For even more from the trip, visit elksnationalfoundationblog.org for blog posts from Jenna and the CIPsters. Visit enf.elks.org/Midday and listen to Episode 40: Carolina on Our Pod.
Everyone has a story, and when we heard this year’s top 20 Most Valuable Student scholarship winners share theirs, we knew you had to hear them, too. “The Future Looks Like…” web film series pulls back the curtain and shows you why these students not only deserve their scholarships, but also your attention.

After Ameena Razzaque lost her grandmother to cancer two years ago, she created Empowerment Through Inspiration, a program where volunteers write encouraging messages inside homemade cards. They then distribute the cards while conversing with nursing home residents.

“It means a lot to me because it’s connected to my grandmother,” Ameena says. “Whenever I do something with it, I always remember her and her spirit, health and generosity.”

Sponsored by San Antonio, Texas, Lodge No. 216, Ameena said she can’t wait to make a lasting impact on the world. She is studying neuroscience at Dartmouth College.

“It means so much to me, and it’s because of Elks and the Foundation giving me this opportunity to really shine,” Ameena says. “A huge thank you.”

Jackson Nichols is going to make a difference, too. For Jackson, music is an escape. But it’s also the foundation of a cryptographic code he’s developing that one day will stump artificial intelligence.

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Sponsored by Prescott, Ariz., Lodge No. 330, Jackson is studying music and theoretical math at Pepperdine University, which he said would not be possible without the Elks.

“I’d like to start my own non-profit for helping low-income, high-achieving...
kids go to college,” says Jackson, “and pay it forward to these people who need the help and don’t always have it.”

To watch Jackson, Ameena and 18 other incredible stories, visit us at enf.elks.org/TheFutureLooksLike. Your support helps give these students the opportunity to follow their passion and change the world, one story at a time.

For 2017-18, the Elks National Foundation appropriated $4.55 million to fund ENF scholarship programs, which ensure a bright future for our nation. As important members of the Elks family, Elks scholars have many social and service opportunities to connect with the Elks and one another. Visit elks.org/scholars for more information about our scholarship programs, and for ways Lodges can get involved with Elks scholars.

Art, continued from page 1

“The art show was so positive for everyone in attendance,” says Project Manager Donna Marks. “The members were so proud of this achievement, and the students were delighted to showcase their art to their families and friends.”

The Lodge hopes to expand the project in the future to include other forms of art. Because every child is an artist.

Through Beacon Grants, the Elks National Foundation gives Lodges the opportunity to develop an ongoing, charitable, Elks-driven community project. These $2,000 grants are available to all Lodges. Find out more about Beacon Grants and the Community Investments Program at enf.elks.org/BeaconGrants.
Emergency financial assistance can mean the difference between housing and homelessness, according to a University of Notre Dame study published last year. The Elks have now made that difference for nearly 750 struggling veterans.

Through the Elks National Veterans Service Commission’s Emergency Assistance Fund, which is funded by the Elks National Foundation, the Elks now have granted nearly $1.6 million to stabilize these veterans, helping with expenses like rent, utilities and security deposits.

“The Elks have stepped in and provided services that just aren’t found [elsewhere],” says a V.A. social worker serving the Chicago area. “They’ve focused in on the veterans in a way that other organizations haven’t.”

“The Elks’ fund has helped us help vets with all sorts of issues,” adds another. “It’s had a dramatic impact on our population.”

Frequent notes from grateful vets have put a face to that impact.

“The Elks provided my family with critical housing assistance during a crisis,” an Army veteran from Washington, D.C., wrote recently. “They did it with compassion and unbridled commitment. … I want to join this wonderful organization.”

In July, the Foundation issued a third grant of $1 million to the Veterans Service Commission to help combat veteran homelessness. A fourth grant is scheduled for next summer. The Emergency Assistance Fund is now operating in seven of the eight urban areas designated by the Department of Veterans Affairs for increased focus by the Elks.

“We just launched in Seattle and Miami in September,” says Mary Morgan, the director of the Veterans Service Commission. The fund has been up and running.

Donavan and Sophie pose with the Hoop Shoot display at the Hall’s Center Court.

A SEAT IN THE HALL OF FAME

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame honors the game’s greatest moments and brightest stars—including the Frank Hise National Hoop Shoot Champions.

Thanks to the Elks National Foundation, the six winners from the 2017 National Finals have the opportunity to go on an all-expense paid trip to the basketball capital of the world to see their names on the Elks Hoop Shoot plaque in the Hall of Fame.

As the best-shooting overall winners, Sophie Phillips and Donavan Seamster scored courtside seats to the Hall’s 2017 Enshrinement Ceremony. They met basketball stars from the past and present, while representing the future of the game.

While being in the Hall of Fame is the crowning achievement of a long and storied basketball career, it’s just the beginning for the Hoop Shoot National Champions. To view trading cards and videos from the Hoop Shoot National Finals, visit elkshoopshoot.org.

Cocoa Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 2387 takes newly housed veterans shopping, allowing the veterans the chance to pick the supplies they need.
We salute the following members of the 2017-18 Foundation Fellowship who contributed $1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2017, through October 22, 2017. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit enf.elks.org/fellowship.

**FAITH ($1,000)**
- Saab Abood (HF)
- Edward J. Adams (GD)
- Nancy Alameda (PB)
- Raymond Alford (PB)
- Bernard H. Allen (GD)
- Dean A. Anderson Jr. (BZ)
- Stephen W. Barker (PB)
- Alan E. Berg (SL)
- David Bianchi (PB)
- Norman J. Biego (BZ)
- Ronald L. Binford (HF)
- Margaret Blais (HF)
- Joy W. Blanchard (PB)
- Frederick Bohning (HF)
- Charles A. Booth (GD)
- Dick Borgman (BZ)
- Richard E. Borton (PB)
- Peter T. Bourdon (PB)
- Charles S. Braden (PB)
- Alfred Bradford (HF)

**CHARITY ($10,000)**
- Thomas A. Mays (GD)
- John C. McAuley (GD)
- Darrel A. Stutesman (SL)
- Robert D. Clow (SL)
- Carol M. Fuller (SL)
- Robert Harroko (PL)
- Mark D. Poris (BZ)
- Jody M. Patterson (PL)
- Richard E. Stone (BZ)
- Linda E. Weigel (SL)
- John J. Williams (GD)
- John G. Wilson (SL)

**HOPE ($5,000)**
- John and Caroline Allman (PL)
- Shelly Clement (BZ)
- Frederick Bohning (HF)
- Margaret Blais (HF)
- Ronald L. Binford (HF)
- Norman J. Biegaj (BZ)
- David Bianchi (PB)
- Alan E. Berg (SL)
- Stephen W. Barker (BZ)
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- Carol M. Fuller (SL)
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- Richard E. Stone (BZ)
- Linda E. Weigel (SL)
- John J. Williams (GD)
- John G. Wilson (SL)

In Chicago, D.C., New York, Los Angeles and Loma Linda. “We plan to launch in San Diego in January.”

Morgan points to Welcome Home Kits for newly housed veterans as another growing part of the program. Most veterans exit homelessness with nothing. The Elks have changed that for more than 600 veterans.

“Lodges all over the country are helping out,” she says. “We’ve already given out more kits this year than in the previous two years combined.”

Watch our short film at enf.elks.org/OneLastStand. Learn more about the Emergency Assistance Fund at enf.elks.org/VetsEA.
Here’s a look at what’s inside this issue of Heartbeat.

**Building the Future Together, Today**

**Barnstorming the Carolinas**

**Housing and Homelessness**