



HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

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2016



2017



2018



GOTTA HAVE FAITH

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The Faith Sjöberg who stepped up to the Hoop Shoot free-throw line as a third-grader in 2012 isn't the same Faith Sjöberg who walked off the court for the last time as a competitor at the 2018 National Finals.

"My life wouldn't be the same if I hadn't participated in the Elks Hoop Shoot," Faith says.

After six years of competition, including three straight Finals appearances from 2016 to 2018, Faith's family agrees. Her parents, Kevin and Sue, were so moved by their experience, they decided they'd join the Elks when Faith aged out of the program. And, in August 2018, they did! They're now members of Presque Isle, Maine, Lodge No. 1954.

"Our family had the fortune of volunteering at the Lodge Christmas dinner last winter," shares Kevin. "After that experience, Sue and I knew this would be a great organization to be a part of."

Not only did the Hoop Shoot introduce the Sjöbergs to the Elks, it brought their family closer. And although Faith never took home a National Championship—third place in 2017 was as close as she got—the lessons she learned are bigger than any trophy and shinier than any medal.

see Faith, continued on page 2



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
HELPING ELKS BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

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Faith Sjoberg (left) and her father, Kevin, bask in her third-place finish in the girls 12-13 division at the 2017 Hoop Shoot National Finals at DePaul University in Chicago. Their experience with the Hoop Shoot inspired the Sjobergs to join the Elks.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 15
Most Valuable Student Application Deadline

NOVEMBER 16
Class of 2019 Impact Grant Announcement

DECEMBER 31
Grant Applications Close

2019 JANUARY 6-12
Winter Elks Scholar Service Trip in Biloxi, Mississippi

FEBRUARY 1
Legacy Awards Application Deadline

MARCH 10-16
Spring Elks Scholar Service Trip in Portland, Oregon

MARCH 31
Donation Deadline

APRIL 1
Grant Applications Open

APRIL 11-14
MVS Leadership Weekend

APRIL 27
Hoop Shoot National Finals

Faith, continued from page 1

“I think the lessons from the loss may take her further in her high school playing career, and life in general,” Sue says.

While Faith’s journey at Presque Isle High School begins—she was elected to be freshman class secretary and is trying out for the basketball team—so does her parents’ journey with the Elks. Kevin and Sue are looking forward to getting involved with their Elks community. The Sjobergs had no idea this is where they would be today after Faith competed in her first Hoop Shoot contest in 2012, but Kevin says it was worth it.

“After 30 competitions and a boatload of memories, what an incredible ride it was.”

And it’s still going. Faith and her parents will be volunteering at the Lodge, District and State Hoop Shoot contests.

The Elks have been developing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 46 years. In 2018-19, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$1 million to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit elks.org/hoopshoot.



SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!

Visit enf.elks.org/HBFall, and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!



DID YOU KNOW?

Since the Elks pledged to help end veteran homelessness in September 2015, the number of available Freedom Grants has exploded, from 180 to 300 this year. In partnership with the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, the ENF Board of Trustees has increased funding for the \$2,000 grants by 67 percent!

Lodges in the eight urban areas targeted by the V.A. for increased focus by the Elks—Chicago, D.C., Loma Linda, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Diego and Seattle—are eligible for additional grant funding of up to \$4,500.

Mary Morgan, the director of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, says that even beyond these two veteran-specific grant

opportunities, more Lodges are using Community Investments Program grants to target veteran homelessness.

“Since the Elks joined the fight, the number of Lodges using CIP grants to serve veterans has increased by more than 19 percent,” Morgan says.

“Our office has seen a dramatic, positive difference in the ways Lodges are using grants to serve veterans,” agrees Colleen Conrad, who manages the CIP. Last year, nearly 900 grants were used to serve veterans.

“More and more Lodges are helping veterans experiencing homelessness with meaningful supplies and support, for example, rather than holding general appreciation dinners,” Conrad adds.



Barre, Vt., Lodge No. 1535 serves local veterans by providing much-needed supplies at a standdown event. The project was funded with a Freedom Grant.

As the primary funder and partner of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, the Elks National Foundation is proud of its role in serving our nation's veterans. To learn more about the Veterans Service Commission, please visit elks.org/vets. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, visit elks.org/cip.



Operation Warm brings warmth to children in need during the cold winter months.

TAKE NOTE, GIVE A COAT

As temperatures drop, the need for warm winter clothes spikes for children from low-income families. While the demand for warm coats has never been greater, it has also never been easier to meet this vital need in your community. That's why the Community Investments Program is thrilled to announce a new project opportunity!

If your Lodge has not applied for grants yet, consider suggesting that it use an Anniversary, Beacon or Gratitude grant to partner with Operation Warm, a national nonprofit dedicated to providing hope, happiness and warmth for children in need through the gift of new winter coats. Remember, 2018-19 grant applications close December 31 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time.

Visit enf.elks.org/CIPresources for more information on Operation Warm and for great project ideas that can get coats to kids who need them most.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



The passion for serving veterans also burns at Edmond, Okla., Lodge No. 2578. The Lodge uses a Freedom Grant to partner with food pantries that cater to veterans facing food insecurity.



IT STARTED WITH A SPARK

THE GIFT OF TIME

Would you like to do more for the veterans in your community? Stewart Israel, the Veterans Programs Chairman for the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, says the most important thing we can give a vet is our time.

“What we do, and what’s important, it’s not just contributing money,” Israel says. “It’s having a face-to-face, one-on-one relationship with the vets.”

Israel has come up with 140 ways to serve veterans. Visit enf.elks.org/Vets140 to download his booklet. You can hear more from Israel and other Michigan Elks in this video: enf.elks.org/VetsTime.

The Elks National Foundation didn’t start a fire when it began funding Freedom Grants in 2011; the desire to serve veterans was already burning in Elks communities across the nation, like Green Bay, Wisconsin. After starting a relationship with their local Disabled American Veterans chapter, Green Bay Lodge No. 259 went to work.

“The Lodge takes special interest in serving veterans because that is what we, as Elks, have been mentored to do,” says Dave Crevcoure, the Lodge Secretary. “Serving veterans is the foundation of our Order.”

Green Bay Lodge started with a brat fry at their local grocery store. They used the money they raised to buy gas cards for veterans at the DAV. A few years later, once they were available, Green Bay applied for and received their first Freedom Grant, and they’ve gotten it every year since.

Using the Freedom Grant, the Lodge created an outreach program that serves low-income veterans and veterans experiencing homelessness. Every third Wednesday of the month, they host a lunch called “Soup for Vets.” Twice a month, they invite veterans to a complimentary dinner at the Lodge; last year, they added bingo to the dinner schedule to give Elks and veterans an opportunity to interact and wind down.

“The Lodge feels that we’re only beginning to impact the community, and we’re looking for ways we can do more,” Crevcoure shares. “There are many veterans who we could help.”

In addition to providing meals, the Lodge has a Heroes Closet stocked with

clothing, hygiene kits, food and more. Veterans can stop by and grab what they need, and the Lodge donates excess items to their local V.A. clinic.

Even with these ongoing projects and dozens of Elks volunteering their time, the Lodge wants to do more. As they continue to grow their community initiatives, Crevcoure says they're grateful for the assistance the ENF offers in helping them expand their efforts.

"The Freedom Grant is important to us in pursuing and developing our veterans' programs," Crevcoure says.

Green Bay Lodge is on a mission to "meet veterans needs and provide solutions to any problems they may have." While they've already made a difference in so many lives, the fire continues to burn.

The Elks National Foundation helps Lodges meet the needs of today's veterans by funding Freedom Grants of up to \$2,000. To find out more about Freedom Grants and the Community Investments Program, visit enf.elks.org/FreedomGrants.



Green Bay, Wis., Lodge No. 259 hosts a "Soup for Vets" lunch program. The Lodge also provides care packages and keeps a supply closet with clothing and hygiene kits so veterans can stop by and take what they need.



Lydia Tam is one of six Elks scholars to receive the Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship this year.

THE SURVIVOR IN TAM

This year, we awarded the Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship to six outstanding Elks scholars. Each will receive \$20,000 toward medical school. When you read their stories, you'll understand why they were chosen and why they're dedicating their lives to service as medical professionals.

Take 2013 Most Valuable Student scholar Lydia Tam. Her story is one of tenacity. At just 15 years old, she overcame a brain tumor through "incredibly taxing" cancer treatments. Now, Tam is studying pediatric neuro-oncology at Stanford University to become the doctor kids and families need to win difficult battles like hers.

Read about all six Weigel winners at enf.elks.org/weigelms.



ONE IN THE QUACKENBUSH

ASK THE ENF ...

Q I'm an officer in my Lodge, volunteer for everything, and donate regularly to the ENF. How do I claim a Legacy scholarship for my high school senior?

—*Helicopter Parent in Hawaii*

A Dear Helicopter: First off, we appreciate all you do for Elkdom. However, Legacy scholarships are awarded based on the merits of the student, not their Elk parent or grandparent.

Encourage your child to visit enf.elks.org/LegacyScholarship for more information and to apply. We will award \$4,000 scholarships to a total of 300 high school seniors who are the children or grandchildren of Elks. Winners are selected based on academics, leadership, and the core values of the Elks National Foundation.

This year's application is currently open and closes on February 1, 2019, at 11:59 a.m. Central Time. Visit elks.org/scholars for more information about all of our scholarship opportunities.

Quackenbush, *noun*: (Dutch) 1. Forest of the croaking frog; 2. Quacking duck. Used in a sentence: David Quackenbush stopped by the Elks National Foundation booth at the Elks National Convention to discuss his unique last name, what he admires about the Elks, and why he joined the Fidelity Club.

Thirty-five years ago, Quackenbush and his wife, Lorren, moved to Tucson with their two kids, opened A1 Watch Company, and settled down in their new town. Ten years later, Quackenbush followed in the footsteps of his father, who was an Elk, and joined Tucson Lodge No. 385.

Shortly after joining, Quackenbush consciously decided to get involved. He volunteered and served in a variety of positions including District Deputy and started donating to the ENF.

"I don't think everyone realizes the great things the ENF does for our children and for our Lodges," Quackenbush says.

He wanted to offer continued support for the Hoop Shoot, Community Investments Program and scholarships—his favorite ENF initiative—and the easiest way for him to do that was by joining the Fidelity Club.

"I don't even miss the money I donate," Quackenbush says. "It just goes out of the account and makes it very simple for me."

Without Elks like Quackenbush, it wouldn't be possible for the ENF to help students look forward, meet the needs of today's veterans, or build stronger Elks communities.

A gift through the Fidelity Club is worth at least two in the bush! Donors who join the ENF Fidelity Club, the ENF's monthly giving program, have their names listed on our website and receive a special pin. To learn more about participating in the Fidelity Club, please visit enf.elks.org/FidelityClub.



From left, Heartbeat editor Christine Robinson, David Quackenbush and Lorren Quackenbush discussed their passion for the Elks at the 2018 Elks National Convention.

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

We salute the following members of the 2018-19 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit enf.elks.org/fellowship.

(+ Denotes deceased member; * Denotes Named Scholarship donor; ^ Denotes ENF Trustee)

CHARITY (\$10,000)

Thomas A. Mays
John J. Williams

HOPE (\$5,000)

Mishell A. Clement
Robert D. Clow
Charles W. Lester
Harold E. Mattson
Raymond F. Ross Sr.*
Nester W. Tan
Linda E. Weigel

FAITH (\$1,000)

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John Allen
Donald E. Bardsley+
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Alan E. Berg
Norman J. Biegaj
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Roy B. Woolsey



Give Aleah's video a thumbs up at enf.elks.org/TheFutureLooksLike!

THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE ...

Aleah Hahn couldn't tell the difference between her tears and the blinding raindrops as she fought to drive a 34-foot sailboat through a storm on Lake Michigan. But when you believe in yourself and your community, you can get through anything.

Aleah's voyage is one of 19 incredible stories in this year's "The Future Looks Like" film series about the top 19 finalists in the 2018 Most Valuable Student scholarship competition. Visit enf.elks.org/TheFutureLooksLike to watch them all.

The Elks National Foundation helps students look forward. You can visit enf.elks.org/MVS to learn more about the Most Valuable Student scholarship competition.



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STAY CONNECTED!



Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read about the Elks' efforts to help end veteran homelessness ... and much more!



A 501c3 public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. *Heartbeat* is the Elks National Foundation's official newsletter. For more information about featured *Heartbeat* articles or to suggest items to be included in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*, please contact the ENF at 773/755-4728 or enf@elks.org.

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