

**The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks celebrated our 156<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 16, 2024. We are a charitable organization consisting of approximately 2000 Local Lodges nationwide. We are an exclusively an American organization that is dedicated to serving our country and our communities. The principles of our order are, Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.**

**Since February 16, 1868, The Elks have made more than \$12 Billion dollars in donations. Annually, the Elks award college scholarships across the nation totaling nearly \$5 million dollars. The Elks Community Investment Program also awards nearly \$16 Million towards enriching our communities.**

**The Florida State Elks Association programs include the Florida State Elks Association Youth Camp, Children's Therapy Services, Unmasking Autism, Veterans Services, Scholarships and the Harry-Anna Trust Fund.**

**Twin Cities Elks has served the Twin Cities of Niceville and Valparaiso since 1989. Since then we have contributed more than a million dollars back to our community in the areas of youth activities, Veteran services, etc.**

**In the past year alone, we once again made significant and lasting contributions to the Twin Cities community that included but are not limited to:**

- **Two C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarships \$12,500**
- **One Florida State Elks Association JROTC Scholarship \$3,000**
- **\$4000 donation of school supplies including 125 backpacks for local needy students returning to school**
- **\$3000 donation the Healing Paws for Warriors for our Veterans dealing with PTSD and other traumatic conditions**
- **\$2000 donation to One Hopeful Place to assist the Okaloosa County Homeless Community**
- **\$1000 donation to the Eglin AFB Fisher House for Families traveling for Medical Treatment at the Eglin AFB Medical Center**
- **We sponsored 22 of our community's 9-13 year old children for a week-long stay at the Florida Elks Youth Camp that was free of charge to them.**
- **We donated 450 Dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in our local elementary schools**
- **We have donated nearly \$1000 to the Niceville Wrestling Academy to support their youth intramural wrestling program.**
- **We sponsored 16 children in conjunction with the Guardian ad lit-am Angel Tree Program this past Christmas to ensure they would have a happy Christmas**
- **Once again this year we sponsored the Elks Americanism Essay contest promoting patriotism among our local elementary and middle school students. Four local students placed very highly at the District and one student placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at State Level competition levels.**
- **All these things and much much more.**