

Welcome to the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Convention Seminar!



Agenda



Introductions

It's been a while since we've seen you all at Convention!

Since we last saw you, Silvia Holman retired after working for the ENVSC for 25 years.

And we have been joined by some new staff members:

**Nadezh Mulholland,
Programs Associate**

**Rene Villalobos,
Programs Associate**

Information

We'll cover program updates and share strategies and ideas from some of our longstanding volunteers.

But first,
Celebration!



**Congratulations to the National
Veteran Service Volunteer of the
Year: Donald K. Tonachio
of Lacey, N.J., Lodge No. 2518**

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that veterans thrive by providing Elks volunteers with tools and resources through community service and engagement.

We know our members are busy. The purpose of the ENVSC is to provide Elks with the resources and the information needed to best serve the veterans in Elks communities.

To make the most our resources and your time, we aim to focus on serving veterans in need.

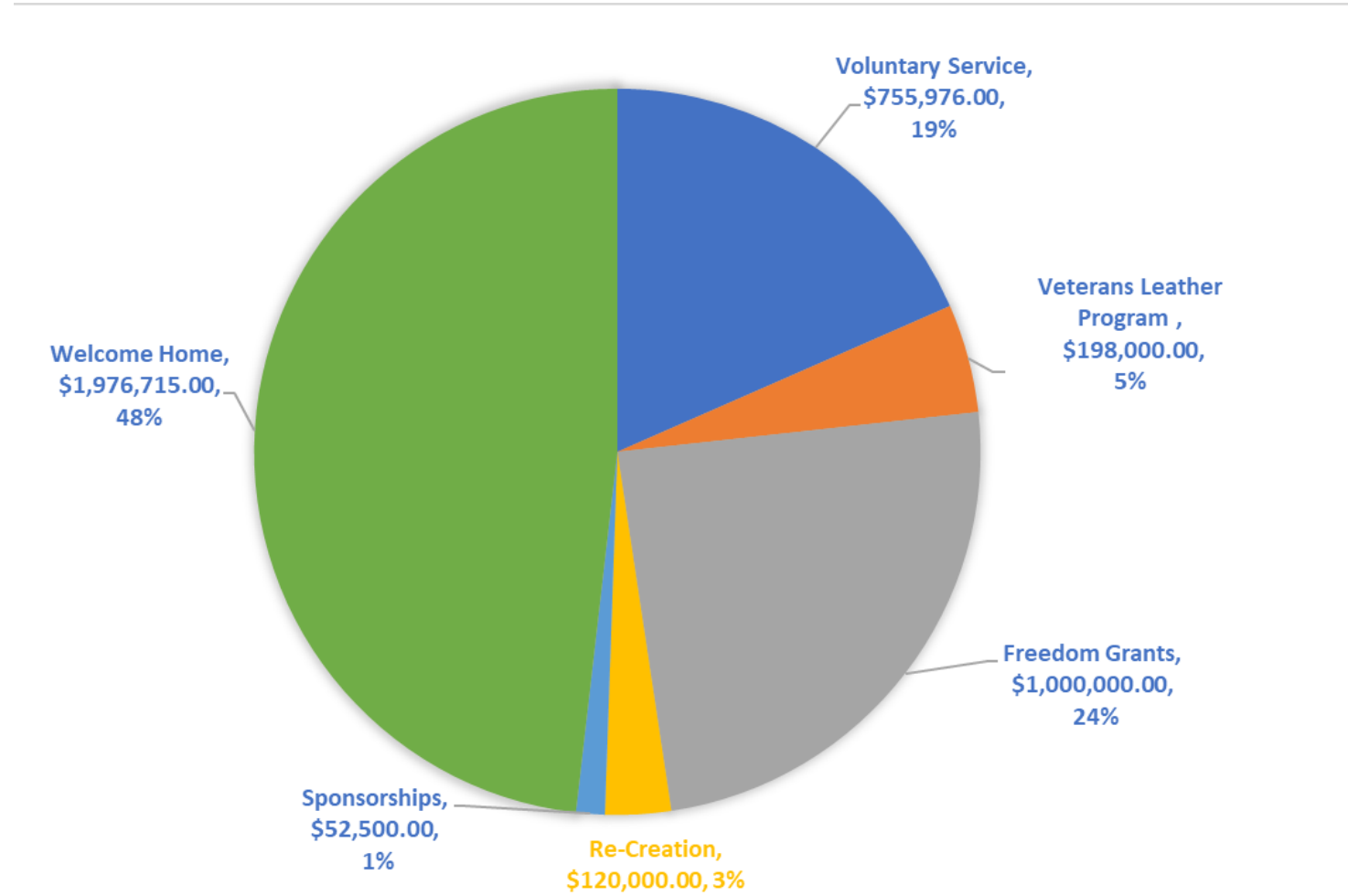
Our ultimate vision is a nation of strong communities meeting veterans' ever-changing needs.

ENVSC Overview

This is a snapshot of our largest programs.

Sponsorships includes support of several National Adaptive Sports Events for Veterans, as well as programs like Bugles Across America and Playing Cards for Veterans.

We also have several programs and partnerships which do not receive national funding, including Adopt-a-Veteran and Army of Hope.



Welcome Home

Elks sign a MOA with the VA Secretary's Office to join the fight against veteran homelessness.

We approve the first Elks Emergency Assistance Application from the Hines VAMC. We pay a \$1,088 security deposit to help a homeless veteran secure an apartment.

The Welcome Home Kit program increases to \$300 per kit, and up to \$400 for a kit with a bed

March 2016

October 2016

September 2015

March 2016

April 2019

The first Welcome Home Kit is submitted by Vacaville, Calif., Lodge No. 2638. We reimbursed up to \$200.

We award the first Focus Grant to Elgin, Ill., Lodge No. 737 to support a new housing facility for veteran families experiencing homelessness.

Welcome Home



At the request of the VA, our program offers additional resources in areas of high need. This includes Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Los Angeles, Loma Linda, San Francisco, Seattle, Miami-Dade, Tampa-Orlando, Las Vegas, and Phoenix.



Welcome Home Kits

Most formerly homeless veterans move into new homes with nothing. Here's how to get started.

- 1. Find out what the veteran needs. Start with a standard list of what a new home would need, and then tailor the kit to the needs and preferences of the veteran.*
- 2. Shop for the items. Look for deals. Ask Lodge members if they have items to donate. Hold a supply drive to collect common items.*
- 3. Assemble and deliver the kit! Deliver the kit to the veteran or project partner. Stay in touch with the veteran if you can.*
- 4. Submit your receipts to the ENVSC online. The ENVSC will reimburse your Lodge up to \$300 for each Welcome Home Kit you provide, and up to \$500 for each kit that also includes a bed.*



Tips from the Experts

- **Forming great relationships with other organizations that provide referrals , local or with the VA and always staying persistent with the work you do.**

~Hopkins, MN Lodge No. 2221

- **After identifying and meeting with organizations that help house veterans, I created a checklist. It starts the conversation about the kinds of things we can purchase and allows input from the veteran receiving the Kit.**

~Hickory, NC Lodge No. 1654

- **I try to keep an eye out for items I buy a lot of for veterans and look for sales. There are some stores that offer discount pricing to Veterans or active-duty military so if the Lodge has someone to help with the shopping who is a Vet that can really help with the cost.**

~Allegheny, PA Lodge No. 339

Focus Grants

Lodges in the 12 areas of focus are eligible for additional Focus Grant funding of up to \$10,000 for large-scale, Elks-run, direct service projects.

Here are some examples:

- Food baskets and monthly dinners for newly housed veterans.*
- Provide furniture and home supplies for veterans moving into permanent housing.*
- Monthly cooking workshops, meals, and support at a veterans housing facility.*
- Stock and manage a food and hygiene pantry at a veterans housing facility.*



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Good Partnerships = Good Projects

"We've been working with U.S. Vets for so many years that a lot of the veterans there know who we are and so they're willing to reach out more. In the beginning the veterans were a little nervous but now they seem more comfortable.

We started with the dinners at U.S. Vets and we'd sit with the veterans and talk with them. And then we moved on last year to the off-site events."

-Fiona Engler, Westchester, Calif.,
Lodge No. 2050

Elks Emergency Assistance Program

Run out of the ENVSC office in Chicago, this program provides emergency financial assistance directly to veterans to help them exit or prevent homelessness.

Veterans registered with and receiving services from the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 12 areas with the highest number of homeless veterans can apply for one-time monetary assistance to prevent homelessness or secure a home.*

Uses include rent, security deposits, and utilities. Veterans must be referred by a VA social worker.

**Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Los Angeles, Loma Linda, San Francisco, Seattle, Miami-Dade, Tampa-Orlando, Las Vegas, and Phoenix.*





In Her Own Words

"After receiving the good news that my application was approved, I cried tears of joy. I felt so relieved and like so much pressure was lifted from my shoulders. What your program has done for me is tremendous and now I am able to thrive."

Simply by being an Elk, you help us house veterans. Thank you.

The Elks' Impact

Welcome Home Kits

- + Since the start of the Welcome Home Kits program through May 31, we have provided 7,816 kits to help veterans transition into permanent housing.
- + Volunteers from 237 Elks Lodges have provided kits for veterans across 40 states.
- + In total we have spent \$1,810,300 on kits, for an average cost of \$232 per veteran (not including the value of donated items.)

Focus Grants

- + 221 Grants have been awarded to Lodges in the 12 areas with the highest number of homeless veterans have received grants
- + Lodges serve an average of 2,500 homeless veterans each year
- + Lodges can apply for between \$5,000 and \$10,000

Emergency Assistance

- + Since the Elks Emergency Assistance Fund started, we have helped 3,049 veterans stay or become housed.
- + The average amount of assistance given to a veteran is \$1,640 (with a \$2,500 maximum).
- + Over the life of the program, 41% of bills paid have gone to rent, 30% to utilities, 15% to security deposits, and 14% have gone to special requests.

Good News!

2010-2020 Accomplishments



Nearly 50% reduction in Veteran homelessness since 2010.



82 communities and three states—Connecticut, Delaware and Virginia—have effectively ended Veteran homelessness.



850,000 Veterans and their family members permanently housed, rapidly rehoused or prevented from becoming homeless since 2010.



Just short of **37,000** Veterans experiencing homelessness.



Thank you

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

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