



Flat Rock Elks Newsletter

January 2024

Flat Rock Elks 365 Dinner Dance

Less than 2 weeks away

Here is a check list of things to remember:

- > Pick up a Pink Bank at the Elks (Full Bank or \$5 Gets you in the door)
- > Donate a Gift or Basket to be raffled.
- > Bring a Dish to pass.
- > Buy tickets for the "Solo Fire Pit" (\$10 each 3 for \$20)
- > Bring a few extra \$'s to bid on the 365 Tie.
- > Bring your "Dancing Shoes" Todd Estes will bring the music.
- > **Take a few minutes to read about 365 (Especially New Members)**
- > **There are a few pages attached that will help explain all about 365.**



Elks Care - Elks Share



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365 and The Michigan Major Project

The question "What does 365 mean?" has come up many times. First, let's talk about how 365 got its name. The name comes from the number of days in a year. The thought of it stems from taking a coin every day and putting it into the pink banks that many of you filled up and have brought to the Lodge and brought today. At the end of the year (365 days), the bank is full and all of the monies that come from them are given to the Michigan Major Project which serves Special Needs Kids across the state of Michigan.

Over the last two years, the Major Project started a new program called Marching Forward. This wonderful program provides services to Special Needs Adults in the same way. It was primarily started so we could continue the same type of assistance to the Kids that we have helped over the years as they became adults. Marching Forward has become a HUGE success and the requests we have gotten for assistance have far exceeded what we thought. This is a wonderful, wonderful thing!! The paperwork needed is very minimal since we are dealing with Adults.

The Michigan Major Project was started in the 1950's and gets bigger and bigger every year, especially since we are now helping adults and we hope that trend continues. The donations that so many of you have graciously given will certainly help that cause. Here are just a few of the types of services your 365 money helps provide: Speech and physical therapy, learning aides such as computers, tablets and i-Pads (including the apps needed), summer camps for the kids and young adults, wagons, carts, bikes and so many more. Here is a picture of the Tinney family that needed a wagon for their severely autistic son. Now they can go on family walks and not be worried about their son escaping.



Working with the Michigan Major Project is not only rewarding but is also truly an honor! Knowing we helped a family and have done something for the greater good is part of what being an Elk is all about! Just so all of you know, the Flat Rock Lodge alone has been involved in giving close to \$30,000 in assistance over the last two Elk years!! That is an amazing number. Again, without your generosity these services could not be provided.

Everybody knows somebody, that knows somebody, that knows somebody needing the assistance of the services 365 and the Major Project. You can trust in the fact that the donations given by Flat Rock Lodge# 1731 do not go unnoticed. Please continue to donate to this all-important cause so we can continue to do the great works and services that these wonderful programs provide.

Fraternally,

Joe Morgan – Michigan Major Project Southeast District Commissioner



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Why Flat Rock Elk Members donate to 365 ?

What is 365 ?

Let's talk about inclusion. This will be a JOURNEY. A journey of beginning, to understand what families with special needs children work through and navigate each and ever single day. The Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission has been in the background for 65 years. Our only goal is to help children to live their best lives, achieving goals, have fun doing it, making lifelong friends and shattering obstacles!!!!

Flat Rock Elk Members,

Our lodge in the past has been one of the largest donators to 365 Michigan Major Projects. Your Elks Lodge has always been focused on children with special needs. With your donation support to 365 and ENF (Elks National Foundation) we are able to apply for grants that are used to support our local children from Jo Brighton Skills Center, The ARC Downriver and MI Cookie Project. Their one common goal is to work directly with children and adults within levels of intellectual and other development disabilities. With the help received from 365 Michigan Major Projects here are two examples of how your donations helped within our community this past year.

The Sting Rays Baseball Team was invited to play at the U.S.A. Special Olympic Games in Orlando, Florida. The String Rays were the first baseball team to represent the state of Michigan during this Special Olympic Event. The Flat Rock Elks presented a check for \$12,000 to the Sting Rays to help offset the cost of the trip to Orlando, and they brought home the GOLD.

Our lodge was able to acquire a cubby bed for a young boy named Wesley Steffey through the help from 365 Michigan Major Project. Wesley is a severely autistic child and his Mother Samantha informed us that this bed was needed to prevent him from harming his younger brother through the night. He is very comfortable in the bed and sleeps through the night much better now. If Wesley wakes up in the night, the bed sets off an alarm to the parents and a light comes on. The bed also allows Mr. & Mrs. Steffey to get a good night's sleep which they have not been able to have. Cubby Beds cost thousands of dollars depending on the needs of the child.



CONGRATULATIONS!
USA Team Michigan
Downriver Stingrays
on winning
THE GOLD



Hello,

The Elks information was on the cubby bed website. It says that you may be able to help my family in need. I have been trying my hardest to get a cubby bed (special needs bed) for my son with autism. both of my insurances declined us. My son is going to be four in March. He's nonverbal and has a problem with eloping. He wakes up in the middle of the night and I worry about his safety. He was climbing into my younger sons crib and hurting him. With that said, he sleeps in my bed. For two years now my son gets into my bed and my husband sleeps on the couch. This bed would not just keep my kids safe, but would also give my husband and I restful night's sleep. Thank you for your time,
Samantha Steffey



Cubby Bed was acquired with the help from Brian Marvaso and Joe Morgan



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**Flat Rock Elks 365 Dinner
Michigan Special Projects
For Children's Charities
Saturday - January 20
\$5.00 or Pink Bank**



Doors open at 5:00 pm

Dinner served at 6:00 pm

**This is a "Pot-Luck Dinner"
Please bring a dish to pass. "Cash Bar"**

Gift Baskets are needed. (Please donate).

There will be Raffles and 50/50's!

Entertainment

Todd Estes



365 NECK TIE

Is back up for auction



**Solo Stove
Raffle**

Tickets

\$10.00 ea.

Or

3 for \$20.00



**Solo Drawing
at the 365 Dinner**



**Pink Banks Available
at the Elks Lodge.**

Contact Jeff Weiler for donations or information
Email: jeffweiler@att.net or call 734-558-0123