



# Cindy Duffy

*2024 - 2025 Tennessee Elk of the Year*

I, Eddie Wilson, Exalted Ruler of the Elizabethton Elks Lodge, wish to put forth the nomination of Cindy Duffy, whom I affectionately refer to as "my angel." Cindy Duffy holds the position of chairperson for all initiatives concerning drug awareness, children, veterans, and flood relief within our lodge. The responsibilities associated with these roles are considerable, yet Cindy manages them with remarkable ease. She effectively leads all concurrent projects. Within our lodge, her contributions extend beyond these duties; she is an essential element of the foundational structure that supports our organization.

Cindy Duffy is an active participant in various events organized by the Tennessee and Grand Lodge, often alongside her husband. He is a Past Exalted Ruler (PER) of the Elizabethton Elks Lodge and plays a key role on the membership committee. Many of you may have seen or will see Cindy representing our lodge during one of our most significant years for volunteer work. When Hurricane Helene struck, Cindy stepped up to guide our lodge through challenging times, both metaphorically and literally. She wasn't asked to take charge; her instinct to lead took over, and she began forming teams, seeking resources, networking, and soliciting donations, among many other initiatives. Cindy answered the call to action, illuminating the path through the obstacles we faced. She consistently seized opportunities to coach, mentor, and support others. Thanks to her unwavering leadership, our lodge achieved an incredible 750% increase in volunteer hours, and that remarkable leader is Cindy from the Elizabethton lodge.

I would like to present Cindy Duffy for consideration as a nominee for Elk of the Year through this application. Cindy is an exceptional member of our lodge and embodies the true spirit of what it means to be an Elk. She consistently demonstrates the qualities of servant leadership in her daily contributions to our lodge. Her genuine passion for assisting others and positively impacting their lives is evident. Furthermore, her efforts have significantly enhanced our lodge's reputation within the community. Cindy Duffy is actively involved in numerous workstreams at the Elizabethton Elks Lodge, where she has achieved remarkable success in her leadership roles. One of her most significant contributions was her guidance during the Hurricane Helene flooding that affected our area in late September. Cindy consistently approaches her leadership with kindness and emphasizes the importance of team development, even when providing constructive feedback is necessary. She exemplifies natural leadership qualities, having not only propelled our lodge to notable achievements within the community but also established connections with lodges and disaster relief organizations nationwide to secure assistance, resources, and funding. Her dedication has resulted in substantial volunteer engagement and successful fundraising efforts. Cindy collaborated with our senior center to assist 80 elderly Veterans with providing them with care packages with necessities. Cindy orchestrated a campaign aimed at providing blankets, footwear, socks, and hygiene items to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center located in Johnson City, TN. Furthermore, she collaborated with the Senior Center to host a breakfast event for veterans in our community. While managing these veteran-focused initiatives, she also maintained her responsibilities at the disaster relief center at the lodge. Additionally, she fostered a partnership with Child for Hope. She secured resources for displaced pregnant women, toddlers, and newborns. Notably, one of the beneficiaries was trapped in a tree for around eight hours during the flood

while eight months pregnant. We were able to provide her with essential supplies for her newborn. Cindy organized our annual easter egg hunt for the children in our community, attracting more than 150 participants. The eggs were filled with candy and various prizes. We also included two Easter bunnies and offered a variety of other activities for the children, such as the chance to examine an actual police car and capture photographs with the officer, all in support of our drug awareness initiative.

Cindy not only guides our members in our efforts to enhance our community, but she also makes it a point to connect with them on a personal level. Almost every week, I hear stories of her sharing meals with fellow members, going on motorcycle adventures, participating in social gatherings, and engaging in various activities. Additionally, she is an active member of one of the dart teams that play at the lodge. Cindy truly loves spending time with everyone, and our members appreciate her in many ways. Some admire her leadership and look up to her, while others consider her a wonderful friend and trusted confidant.

Cindy Duffy concluded her career at Walmart in 2024, where she distinguished herself as a leader in fundraising and charitable initiatives. Throughout her tenure, she achieved unprecedented success in both areas. Additionally, she was an active member of the Elizabethton Elks Lodge #1847, where she simultaneously spearheaded similar activities. Recognizing her significant contributions, Walmart honored her with the prestigious Helen Walton Award, which is presented annually to the team that demonstrates exceptional commitment. In 2024, Cindy Duffy was the sole recipient of this accolade nationwide. She opted to allocate a portion of the award's proceeds to benefit both the Elizabethton Elks Lodge and the local animal shelter. Cindy collaborated with the "Shop with a Cop" initiative and supported the Elizabethton Police Department and Carter County Sheriff's Office in acquiring over 100 toys for children during the Christmas season. Throughout her time at Walmart, she engaged with the Children's Miracle Network on various fundraising efforts, successfully establishing and achieving fundraising objectives. In anticipation of this year's Thanksgiving, she collaborated with Walmart to create and distribute food boxes to approximately 80 families impacted by Hurricane Helene, ensuring they could enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. This year, for the Elizabethton Elks Lodge Kids Christmas event, with Cindy's guidance we were able to provide gifts to 521 children. We additionally organized a Christmas breakfast for 155 children along with their families. Children had the opportunity to meet with Santa and his elves, sharing their Christmas wishes with him. Cindy took the initiative to collaborate with Walmart for our "Stuff the Bus" campaign, successfully filling 250 backpacks with essential school supplies. We have also provided the nurses' stations across Carter County with necessary supplies. We also enhanced our assistance to the Appalachian Banner Academy Autistic school by supplying \$1500 in essential materials, which encompassed art supplies, sensory games and items, backpacks, office supplies, science kits, and additional resources. Furthermore, Cindy partners with Isiah House to deliver essential items for foster children as needed. During our flood relief efforts, she played a pivotal role, leading initiatives that benefited over 11,000 individuals. Cindy also worked closely with Hampton High School to replenish the agriculture and physical education department in the aftermath of the floodings. She coordinated with the Teamsters disaster relief team from Virginia to secure additional supplies. Our lodge was the recipient of over \$30,000 in toys, the Teamsters made four extra trips to deliver supplies. Moreover, she established a partnership with Drawbuckets from Michigan to acquire generators, heaters, sleeping bags, and other vital supplies, cleaning supplies, tents, pet food, and other vital supplies, including a shipment of kitchen appliances. If you keep up with our Facebook page or follow Cindy on social media, you'll often come across her updates about our lodge. She dedicates her personal time to celebrating achievements, rallying volunteers, and sharing important news about our lodge. Cindy is your go-to person for all the latest happenings here. When we share updates about the fantastic work happening at our lodge, you can expect to hear from Cindy. We frequently turn to her during our meetings for insights on our lodge's activities because her pride in her work allows her to recall statistics and details effortlessly. This clearly shows that she not only values her contributions but also takes pride in the outcomes they produce. Cindy truly leads the way in recognizing our successes and achievements.