

Indiana Elks donate \$600 to Alice Paul House

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Indiana Elks Lodge #931 officials donated \$600 to the Alice Paul House on Tuesday, Feb. 3. The donation came from a portion of the Elks' December 2025/January 2026 charitable contributions. From left are Indiana Elks Trustee/Fundraising and Entertainment Chair Diane Dalessio, Elks Exalted Ruler Marie Phillips, APH House Executive Director Audia Boyles and APH Administrative Coordinator Whitney Carmichael.

Nathan Zisk/Gazette

The Indiana Elks Lodge #931 recently donated \$600 to the Alice Paul House as part of its ongoing efforts supporting local community organizations.

The Feb. 3 contribution was a portion of the Elks' December 2025/January 2026 ticket sales. As a nonprofit, the Elks donate 60% of all small games of chance proceeds back to the community. Between January 2025 and 2026, the Elks donated more than \$35,000 to local causes, according to Elks Trustee/Fundraising and Entertainment Chair Diane Dalessio.

She said she selected APH because she wanted to support the organization's comprehensive services assisting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, Title 18 crimes and juvenile offenders.

ADVERTISING

"We try to (donate funds to) whatever agency can use it most," Dalessio said, "and the Alice Paul House is all about helping people who sometimes are too afraid to seek help. So, it touches my heart."

APH Executive Director Audia Boyles said the donation will support APH's trauma-informed advocates who provide programming, counseling and 24-hour response to victims. She said with federal and state funding often remaining stagnant, individual and community support is vital to APH's core services.

"This is an amazing donation," Boyles said. "It's one of our larger fundraiser donations from a non-profit entity, or a separate entity within our community, and it really does go far in helping us."

Some of those core services include safe residential emergency housing and crisis intervention, at no cost to clients. Boyles said every penny is stretched to support a staff of trauma-informed experts.

Partnering with the Elks also helps APH educate the public that it has grown beyond its origins as a domestic violence shelter for women — providing comprehensive services for "almost every victim within our community," according to Boyles.

Established in Indiana in 1981, and having moved once since its inception, APH has provided sheltering, victim advocacy, crisis support, counseling, referrals and more at no cost to the victim for more than four decades.

APH's on-call advocacy program is also available 24 hours a day. Advocates provide both legal and medical services and work in tandem with local police departments and medical institutions like Indiana Regional Medical Center. Other APH services include safety planning, compensation assistance, individual counseling, group counseling and educational programs and events.

"It's very important for our community to know their resources, and by partnering and receiving donations such as this from the Elks, the word of mouth spreads much quicker and much easier," Boyles said.

"We really thank the Elks for their support of Alice Paul House, and we hope to partner with them in the future for other activities."