

## ADOPT-A-HAVEN

This project is for Lodges that can identify an emergency shelter or transitional housing facility that serves veterans in their community. It can be difficult to transition out of homelessness, but Elks can help provide positive social and material support!



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The grant must be used to provide support such as Elks-led landscaping/painting/maintenance projects, providing dinner service for at least one week, running a workshop to teach a skill at the facility, or holding regular social events for veterans, like game or movie nights.



#### STEP 1 Get Started

Contact the facility's activities director or social services representative to assess real needs. Working with the staff will help ensure that your activity has the greatest, most lasting impact.



#### STEP 2 Recruit Volunteers

Let the activities director know that the Lodge is coming at least two weeks in advance. Since visitors may be rare, the activities director will probably add your visit to the calendar of events so that residents can look forward to it. Work with the Lodge's Veterans Committee to see which members would like to volunteer and schedule them accordingly.



#### STEP 3 Guide for Visits

Be a friend. Ask questions. Listen to the veterans' thoughts and concerns. Visit regularly. Send cards. Check in with phone calls. Invite veterans to be guests at Lodge meals and events. Remember birthdays, special events and holidays. Elks can coordinate a wide array of activities including hosting arts and crafts, planning a barbecue with musical performances, or even delivering toiletries to residents.



#### STEP 4 Things to Consider

Cards, small gifts, and donations of necessary supplies are common. Please clear all gifts with the facility beforehand. Additionally, many stores may offer a discount for a charitable project if you ask.