

ADOPT-A-HAVEN



Hamilton, Ohio,
Lodge No. 93

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Partner with an emergency shelter or a transitional facility specifically for veterans. 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

Adopt-a-Haven projects must work with emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities specifically for veterans. Contact the facility's activities director or social services representative to assess needs. Working with the staff will help ensure that your activity has the greatest possible impact.



STEP 2 Make it a Success

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 Make it Your Own

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 events, planning a barbecue with musical performances, or even delivering toiletries to residents.

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!