



The Elks National Convention is a family affair, bringing together Elks from across the country. These Elks from Visalia, Calif., Lodge No. 1298 arrived at the ENF Booth with smiles and donations for the supply drive.

## THE WARMTH OF COMMUNITY

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This year, weather wasn't the only thing bringing the heat in Atlanta. From July 2-6, the Elks National Convention warmed up the city with benevolence and cheer.

In the Exhibit Hall, the ENF booth featured some of the great things Elks accomplished in the past year, and Elks from across the country stopped by to chat with ENF staff and decorate their credentials with ENF accolades.

Staffed by the Regional Directors and their spouses, the Hoop Shoot Booth allowed Elks to get some Hoop Shoot swag and test their grit at the line by making a free throw.

And that was all before the Opening Ceremony even started.

Past National President and ENF Board Chair Jim McQuillan kicked off the Charities at Work section of the Opening Ceremony with a reflection on the past year.

"Your generosity last year was incredible," said McQuillan. "We used to think that

*see Convention, continued on page 2*





Celebrity sighting! 2022 Hoop Shoot National Champion and Getty Powell Award winner Brendan Smith—sponsored by Marietta, Ga., Lodge No. 1657—signed autographs at the Hoop Shoot booth.

*Convention, continued from page 1*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER 1:**  
Legacy Awards application  
opened

**OCTOBER 7:**  
ENF Board Meeting

**NOVEMBER 14:**  
MVS Scholarship application  
closes

\$7 million was a fundraising bridge too far. But last year, you blew past that bridge. For the first time, we raised more than \$10 per member.”

McQuillan passed it over to Past National President John Amen, the chairman of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, to share how Elks serve veterans. Then, ENF staff took the mic to talk about the Hoop Shoot, the ENF Scholarship programs, and the Community Investments Program—and premiere new films about each.

“We’re so proud of the work the Lodges are doing with our grants,” said ENF Assistant Director Debbie Doles. “For those who aren’t taking advantage of all the available grants, I urge you to take heed of what Gus Holstein and Heather Beal said at the end of that [CIP] video: find a need in your community that’s not already being met, and use our grants to do something about it.”

To view the films and hear all that Gus and Heather have to say, please visit [enf.elks.org/Conv22Films](http://enf.elks.org/Conv22Films).

“When we pair our resources with passionate and dedicated Elks volunteers,” said Doles, “the result is powerful.”

Educational opportunities included ENF seminars and an ideas exchange for Elks to talk with one another and ENF staff about CIP grant projects, equipping volunteers with the tools they need for another year of building stronger communities.

“Listen, last year was remarkable,” said McQuillan. “From a fundraising perspective and from a program perspective, it was our best year yet. But I have a hunch that this year will be even better.”





No CIP grant project is garden variety—especially South Orange, N.J., Lodge No. 1154's community garden. Members of the community get their hands dirty together, all while harvesting produce to benefit local food pantries.



## GREEN THUMB GRANTS

Not only are well-maintained community gardens stunning, but they also offer improved access to nutritious food, increased physical activity, and better mental health.

South Orange, N.J., Lodge No. 1154 has been using Community Investments Program grants to run a community garden for more than a decade.

"We started out at a small scale," says Grants Coordinator Bob Donnelly, reminiscing on the garden's inaugural year. "The hard part was filling it all up with soil."

A garden that started with only a few beds now has 31 plots and yields a whopping 2,000 pounds of produce annually—all of which is donated to food banks through a local nonprofit, Rent Party Pantry.

From gardening seminars to comedy night fundraisers, the South Orange Lodge is constantly buzzing, and its effect on the community is clear.

"The Saturday morning harvests are just beautiful," says Chris Dickson, a Lodge member and the founder of Rent Party Pantry. "There's an energy that is tangible when our volunteers work together."

The South Orange Lodge's garden will reap benefits for years to come.

*Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit [elks.org/CIP](https://elks.org/CIP).*

## GIVING BACK

To thank the city of Atlanta and the hardworking local Elks Support Committee for their hospitality during the 2022 Elks National Convention, the ENF donated \$10,000 to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Over the past 100 years, this pediatric healthcare facility has helped kids access the life-changing, specialized healthcare they need, and it has grown to become one of the top children's hospitals in the United States.

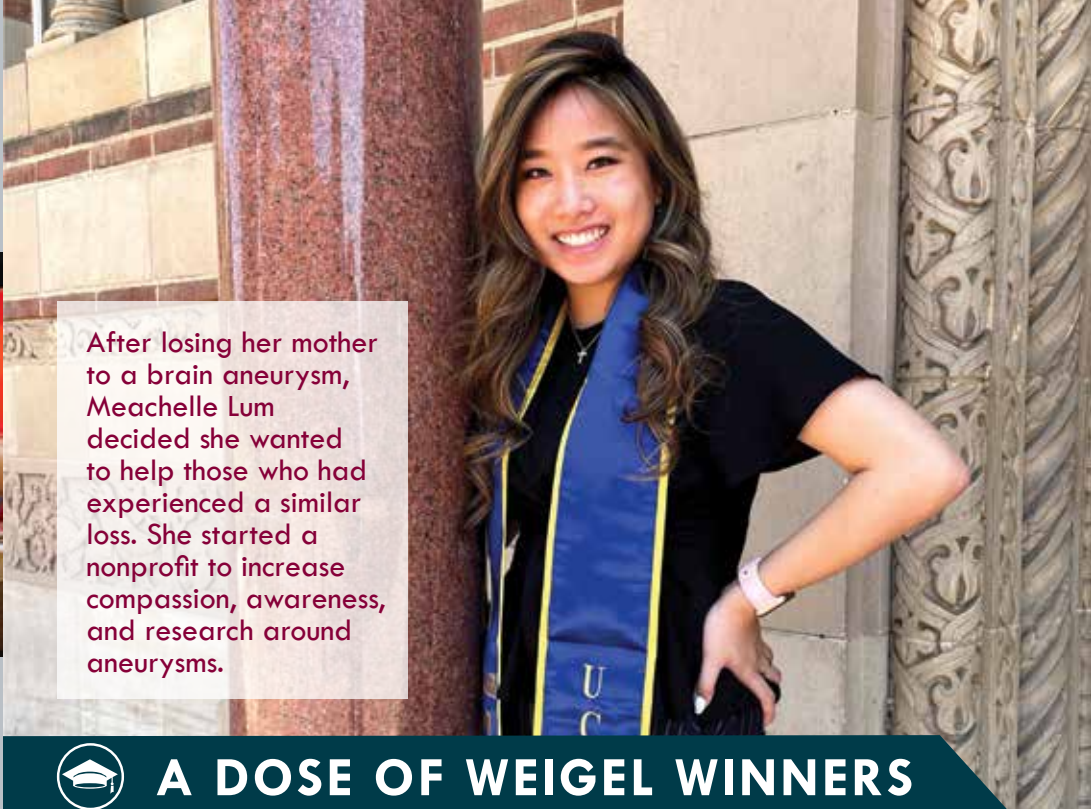
"We invest in kids because they're the future of our country," says ENF Director Jim O'Kelley. "We fund programs that build grit, encourage healthy decisions, and improve access to a college education. Giving back to the youth of Atlanta through this donation aligns perfectly with our values."

The check was presented at the Opening Ceremony, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Program Coordinator Emily Crowley thanked the Elks for their support.

No matter where they are, Elks always care.



Scholars worked with Elks to pack hygiene kits for Atlanta-area veterans.



After losing her mother to a brain aneurysm, Meachelle Lum decided she wanted to help those who had experienced a similar loss. She started a nonprofit to increase compassion, awareness, and research around aneurysms.



## A DOSE OF WEIGEL WINNERS

### JOINING THE #ELKSFAMILY

Elks weren't the only ones bringing the heat in Atlanta; a team of Elks scholars was in town, too. Composed of Top 20 Most Valuable Student scholars from 2022, the Atlanta Elks Scholar Service Trip met up with members of the Scholar Advisory Board for service and sun.

They served at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Bridging the Gap Community Outreach, and Truly Live Well Urban Farm.

They also served side by side with Elks in the Convention's Exhibit Hall. Together, they wrote thank-you notes for veterans and packed 1,000 hygiene kits,

*continued on facing page*

From the icy touch of a stethoscope to the tight squeeze of a blood pressure cuff, doctor's offices can feel scary and intimidating. The warm, smiling faces of the 2022 Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship winners will be the medicine to make that fear go away.

Nick Hakes, a 2018 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Ravenna, Ohio, Lodge No. 1076, plans to continue his education at the University of Alabama Birmingham School of Medicine, where he intends to specialize in Military Trauma Surgery.

"I want to be [on the front lines] where the trauma is so I can have the greatest impact," Hakes says. "Deploying will allow me to directly promote the bold, responsible practice of battlefield medicine so that the military is always ready to 'fight tonight.'"

Hakes has already started making a difference by instituting a stroke awareness program in Akron, Ohio, and creating a closet of clothes at Stanford Hospital so that discharged patients will have something other than paper-thin scrubs to wear home.

Meachelle Lum, a 2018 MVS scholar sponsored by Livermore-Pleasanton, Calif, Lodge No. 2117, is also making a difference before even stepping foot in medical school. Her nonprofit, Lum AVM, researches brain aneurysms, encourages stroke awareness, and supports individuals who have lost a loved one because of an aneurysm.

Lum will continue her education at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she plans to study psychiatry—the perfect convergence of her interests in neuroscience and mental health. Being a physician will combine Lum's empathy with the ability to treat patients, allowing her to create individualized treatment plans.



“Not every patient will have a positive prognosis,” says Lum, “but as the leader of a medical team, I will take the time to understand each individual for the story they tell, not just the symptoms they list on a page.”

Lum and Hakes are two of the 20 scholars selected to receive a 2022 Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship.

Hakes says it best: “One person practicing the Elks’ virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity can make the world a better place, but when the effort is multiplied, so is the impact.”

*After losing her husband, Gunther, to a staph infection in November 2009, the late Lee Weigel wanted to improve the quality of healthcare in our country. To realize that goal, she partnered with the Elks National Foundation to endow the Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship, which helps Elks scholars pursue careers in medicine. For more information, visit [enf.elks.org/WeigelMSS](https://enf.elks.org/WeigelMSS).*

**Nick Hakes feels most useful caring for the most vulnerable, which is why he plans to study Military Trauma Surgery.**



which were donated to the Atlanta V.A. Medical Center.

When the scholars weren’t serving, they sampled Atlanta, experiencing the Skyview Ferris Wheel, the Ponce City Market, and the aquarium.

ENF scholarships are more than just a financial award—they are a gateway to community. Over the weekend, the scholars connected with one another and met Elks from across the country, forever becoming part of the #ElksFamily.



**SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!**

Visit [enf.elks.org/HBSummer](https://enf.elks.org/HBSummer), and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!

## ASK THE ENF...

**Q** There seems to be many opportunities for Elks scholars to connect with Elks, and I would love for my granddaughter to become part of that network. How does she become part of the #ElksFamily?  
—Connecting in Concord

**A** Dear Connecting,  
Thanks for your question! There are two opportunities for your granddaughter to become an Elks scholar. Applications for the 2023 Most Valuable Student Scholarship are open until November 14; MVS scholarships are awarded based on academics, leadership, service and financial need. All high school seniors who are United States citizens are eligible to apply. There is also a unique opportunity for the children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks: the Legacy Awards scholarship. The 2023 Legacy Awards application opened on September 1 and closes on February 6, 2023. Make sure your granddaughter applies before the deadline, and spread the word to other high school seniors in your life! You can find more information at [elks.org/scholars](https://elks.org/scholars).

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at [enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org).

## SUPPLY DRIVE SUCCESS

When help is requested, Elks always answer the call. At the Elks National Convention this year, the ENF asked Elks to donate new or gently used children's books or new pairs of socks to benefit children and veterans in the Atlanta area, and Elks showed up.

In total, Elks donated 1,028 books and 30 hampers full of socks. The books were donated to Children Read Atlanta, and the socks were donated to the Atlanta V.A. Medical Center and Seven Bridges, a nonprofit serving veterans experiencing homelessness. Atlanta-Northlake, Ga., Lodge No. 81 facilitated the sock donation.

Elks who donated were entered into a raffle to win a bonus \$2,000 CIP grant for their Lodge. Due to the incredible generosity, the ENF chose five Lodges instead of just one.

The winners were:

Camillus, N.Y., Lodge No. 31  
Green Bay, Wis., Lodge No. 259  
Faribault, Minn., Lodge No. 1166  
Alhambra/San Gabriel, Calif.,  
Lodge No. 1328  
La Fayette, Ga., Lodge No.  
2018



ENF donors are always on the ball, and this year they were inside the football-shaped College Football Hall of Fame for the annual ENF donor event at Convention.



## SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

“He could...go...all...the...way!”

Every year at the Elks National Convention, the ENF puts on its foam finger and cheers on the Foundation's donors with a special Donor Event.

This summer in Atlanta, guests gathered for a night of live music, food, friends, and fun at the College Football Hall of Fame—a location as awe-inspiring as the ENF's supporters.

The evening started with dinner and an awards presentation. The 2022 Hoop Shoot Getty Powell winners and the top two 2022 Most Valuable Student scholars received trophies for their respective achievements. Jay Little-Cunningham—a top 2016 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Canton, Miss., Lodge No. 458—and member of Seattle, Wash., Lodge No. 827, was presented with the Alum of the Year award.

After dessert, guests could explore the Hall of Fame with special badges that worked in tandem with the interactive exhibits to customize the experience, putting their favorite team at the forefront of the tour.

The ENF is so grateful for its supporters, and celebrating them was the perfect start to Convention. Next year's celebration is sure to be a winner! Secure an invitation by planning a gift to the Foundation or reaching the Faith level in the Foundation Fellowship, the ENF's annual giving recognition program, by giving more than \$1,000 this fiscal year.

# FIDELITY CLUB HONOR ROLL

We thank the members of the Fidelity Club, who give automatic, monthly donations to the ENF. As of August 2022, these sustaining donors have given 150 or 200 Fidelity Club gifts to the Foundation.

To learn more about the Fidelity Club and see the complete honor roll, visit [enf.elks.org/FidelityClub](https://enf.elks.org/FidelityClub).



## A SUSTAINING GIFT

From New York to Florida, Deborah and Brent Reedy have witnessed the good their Lodges can do with CIP grants. As members of the Fidelity Club, the Reedys helped Jacksonville, Fla., Lodge No. 221 become eligible for a \$500 bonus on its Gratitude Grant this year, increasing the Lodge's community impact.

"It's so meaningful to me to help people in our community," says Deborah. "Being a part of the Fidelity Club gives me great pleasure."

August marked the second annual Fidelity Club Month, a month dedicated to celebrating sustaining donors. Fidelity Friday videos allowed donors like the Reedys to share what the Fidelity Club means to them.

"When your wife is the ENF Fundraising Chair at your Lodge, you're automatically enrolled," laughs Brent. "She said we have to lead by example, and we decided to sign up. It's so easy."

Take their word for it: the Fidelity Club is a giving program that constantly gives back.

Check out Brent and Deborah's video and more at [enf.elks.org/FidelityFridays](https://enf.elks.org/FidelityFridays).

### 200 GIFTS

Joseph C. Basil  
Robert P. Becker  
Donald R. Checchi  
William B. Williams  
Ronald R. Wilson

### 150 GIFTS

Vickie M. Acton  
Teddy G. Acton  
Allan M. Barnes  
Bob Barrett  
John F. Beckman  
Philip G. Beers  
Earl T. Bouchard  
Richard H. Bower  
Thomas W. Bright  
S. Andrew Buechman  
J. Randall Buechman  
Charles E. Buechman  
Kevin E. Campbell  
Nancy Campbell  
John T. Carr  
W. Cooper Colwell  
Emmett W. Darbyshire  
Gerald L. Delker  
David W. Demert  
Joyce R. Dominick-Schaefer  
Kathy Easterday  
Shirley Echternacht  
David M. Edwards  
Ron Engels  
Lance M. Erickson  
Daniel J. Evans  
John C. Folcik  
Terri L. Frank  
Frank H. Frazier  
Carola J. Fuller  
Angelina M. Gossett  
Marilyn A. Griffiths  
Cecilia P. Hall  
Beverly A. Hamby  
Michael Hefley  
Barbara R. Henderson

Martin T. Hill  
James L. Horne  
Robert A. Jamtaas Sr.  
Edward C. Johnson  
Peter C. Kells  
Charlene A. Klinger  
Wayne A. Klinger  
Kathleen L. Kuttler  
William R. Lenk  
John H. Lesh Jr.  
William D. Lewis  
Dennis K. Linsley  
Kathleen A. Linsley  
Egon Lippert  
Richard L. Lull  
Mark Madden  
Geraldine Madden  
Herbert F. Mann Jr.  
W. Wilson Martin Jr.  
Leon E. McCreary  
Margaret McDonald  
Toni L. Miller  
Gregory Mosciobrocki  
Daniel J. Nelson  
Charles A. Nolan  
Theodore J. Nulty  
Judy M. Numbers  
Richard O'Brien  
Joseph D. Paulus  
Sue G. Powers  
William R. Reed  
Kathleen A. Reid Thompson  
Wayne A. Reyes  
Mark R. Ridgwell  
Howard B. Rourke  
Richard G. Simms  
Brian M. Skonieczny  
David T. Sparks  
Arlene M. Stricker  
Barton A. Tanner  
Natalie A. Thibeault  
Mark Thompson  
James E. Warren  
Robert M. Wheeler  
Frederick W. Yates



A 501c3 public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. **Heartbeat** is the Elks National Foundation's official newsletter. For more information about featured *Heartbeat* articles or to suggest items to be included in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*, please contact the ENF at 773/755-4728 or [enf@elks.org](mailto:enf@elks.org).

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## STAY CONNECTED!



**Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read about the Atlanta Elks Scholar Service Trip ... and much more!**

