

Elks are using CIP grants to foster a love for arts and sciences while supplementing classroom education. Through engaging activities, Elks prove that learning can be fun.

## COVER TO COVER

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From books to biology, grammar to geology, Elks Lodges are using Community Investments Program grants to create memorable, hands-on experiences to interest kids in learning.

Wallingford, Conn., Lodge No. 1365 used a Gratitude Grant to take kids all around the world through the power of reading. Partnering with the Spanish Community of Wallingford and Youth and Family Services, the Wallingford Elks set up seven stations—each based on a different continent—that provided facts about that part of the globe. Additional stops on the trip included the Drug Awareness van, a face-painting station, reading corners, and a food and beverage stand.

When kids arrived, they were given a passport, a backpack, and an Elk tour guide, who led them around to collect passport stamps, school supplies and knowledge.

“The Elks volunteers were happy to be doing something different that engaged the youth in our area,” says Laurene Goode-Gade, the Grants Coordinator at the Wallingford Lodge.

The local elementary school helped the Lodge identify books appropriate for different reading levels in both Spanish and English, and they advertised the event in both languages in hopes of reaching a larger portion of their community.

“It was an opportunity to embrace differences and to let children know that the Elks

*see Grants, continued on page 2*





Interest in STEM took flight in Rensselaer, New York, when Lodge No. 2073 invited local organizations to the school for demonstrations. The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York brought live birds of prey for the kids to observe.

*Grants, continued from page 1*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### JANUARY 3:

Hoop Shoot registration opens

### JANUARY 3-7:

Winter Elks Scholar Service Trip in Tampa

### JANUARY 17:

Beacon, Gratitude and Spotlight Grant application deadline

### FEBRUARY 6:

Legacy Awards application deadline

### MARCH 31:

Fiscal Year End

### APRIL 13-16:

MVS Leadership Weekend

### APRIL 21-23:

Hoop Shoot National Finals

welcome all members of our community without prejudice,” says Goode-Gade.

The Lodge also donated 50 fidget blankets to the local school to help kids focus during class and gave every child a book so they could continue reading from home.

“Reading opens the door for children,” says John Owen, the Grants Coordinator of Bedford, Va., Lodge No. 2844.

The Bedford Elks used a Beacon Grant to purchase composition books with early-reader pages, school supplies, and other reading materials for children at the local school. The students can then bring the supplies home in Elks-provided tote bags to share with their siblings and parents, encouraging the value of education at home.

Establishing an interest in science can inspire a child to become an astronaut, a math teacher, or a person who looks at the world with wonder. Elks are up and “atom,” using CIP grants to show the spectacular side of STEM.

“Science is such an important part of our lives,” says Greg Collins, Grants Coordinator of Rensselaer, N.Y., Lodge No. 2073. “It involves true independent thinking and an open mind. It requires interpreting data. And perhaps most important, there is an element of wonder and creativity. It inspires the scientist to dream a bit.”

From June to August, the Rensselaer Elks used a Beacon Grant to help host events at the East Greenbush Community Library. An egg-incubation project taught about the life cycle of birds; a meteorology study showed the

science behind tornadoes and thunderstorms; and the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York brought live birds of prey to demonstrate their features and behaviors.

“It is wonderful to see the children’s excitement about the programs that we helped bring to life,” Collins says. “It has been extremely rewarding so far, and we have more planned for the future.”

Metuchen, N.J., Lodge No. 1914 is also looking forward to the future of its CIP grant project. The Lodge sponsors robotics teams at a local middle school.

Teams compete as part of a worldwide organization known as the First Lego League, where they use Legos to build robots that compete to complete the most tasks in a set timeframe. Afterward, the students discuss features of their robot with a group of judges.

“The hope for the teams is that they have fun, and that they associate technology with fun,” says Jerred Cook, the Lodge’s Grants Coordinator.

This is the second season of the program. In 2021, one team (the Electric Mushrooms) was close to advancing to the world championships.

“By getting involved in new programs, we are telling our story to young families about the great work Elks do every single day,” says Cook.

These Lodges get an A+ for their use of CIP grants.

*The Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$16 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. 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).*



Kids buckled up for a day of adventure with Wallingford, Conn., Lodge No. 1365 as they traveled the globe with the power of reading.



Representatives of the Scholar Advisory Board served and smiled together at the 2022 Elks National Convention in Atlanta.

## CONTINUE THE LEGACY

The ENF is proud to offer a scholarship exclusively for the children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks. Current high school seniors who fit that description are eligible to apply for one of 350 competitive, merit-based Legacy Awards. The \$4,000 scholarships provide recipients with a community of like-minded peers and opportunities to serve in the name of the Elks.

“Being chosen as a Legacy Awards recipient was very special to me,” says Macy Freeman, a 2019 Legacy scholar. “Not only did it help me pay for my undergraduate degree, but I also had the opportunity to work for several years with a local Elks Lodge, and that was the true gift.”

For 2022-23, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$1.4 million to fund 350 Legacy Awards scholarships. If you know any Elks children who are high school seniors, encourage them to visit [enf.elks.org/leg](https://enf.elks.org/leg) for information.

# ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION'S WELCOME HOME PROGRAM

So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks vows never to forget them. The Elks uphold that promise every day as they work through the ENF-funded ENVSC to aid veterans in their communities through the Welcome Home Program. The Welcome Home Program has three main parts: Welcome Home Kits, Focus Grants, and the Emergency Assistance Fund.

## Welcome Home Kits

Most veterans transitioning out of homelessness move into their homes with nothing. Elks help veterans establish their homes with Welcome Home Kits. Since the beginning of the program, the ENVSC has provided 8,420 Welcome Home Kits to veterans. More than 240 Elks Lodges in 40 states have collectively spent \$1,991,714 on the kits.

Each kit is worth an average of \$237, but up to \$500 can be granted for kits that contain a bed.

Any Lodge can make Welcome Home Kits. Read more at [enf.elks.org/WelcomeHome](http://enf.elks.org/WelcomeHome).

Kits include items for all parts of the house:



### Kitchen

Pots, pans, utensils, dishes and food



### Bathroom

Towels and toiletries



### Bedroom

Small furniture, linens and even a bed



### Upkeep

Laundry basket, detergent and cleaning supplies

## Focus Grants



Up to \$10,000, Focus Grants are available to Lodges in the 12 metropolitan areas with the greatest number of veterans experiencing homelessness (Chicago, New York, Seattle, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Los Angeles, Loma Linda, San Francisco, Miami-Dade, Tampa-Orlando, Las Vegas, and Phoenix) to help veterans exit or avoid homelessness. Since 2016, the ENVSC has awarded \$1,783,754 to fund 240 Focus Grant projects.

# Emergency Assistance Fund

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly increased food and housing insecurity for all Americans. Near the end of 2021, more than 20 million households reported having too little to eat, and 10 million households were behind on rent. For many Americans, getting sick and missing a shift could be the difference between having a safe and stable place to live and facing homelessness.

The ENVSC's Emergency Assistance Fund helps to bridge that gap in the 12 metropolitan areas with the greatest number of veterans experiencing homelessness. Veterans can receive \$2,500 in one-time assistance. The average amount provided is \$1,651 per veteran. Since the EAF launched in 2016, the Elks have granted a total of \$5,430,796 to assist 3,289 veterans.

**Assistance can be used to cover several essentials that help keep veterans housed. Since 2016, the funds have gone toward:**



## Rent

makes up 41% of grant funding



## Utilities

make up 30% of grant funding



## Security Deposits

make up 15% of grant funding



## Misc.

14% of EAF funds support other housing-related issues, like urgent repairs or moving expenses





Red Alert! Fresno, Calif., Lodge No. 439 hosts events aimed at different age-groups to educate kids about the dangers of drug abuse.



## PREVENTION REQUIRES EDUCATION

### HOOP SHOOT SERVES

The Hoop Shoot may be best known as a free throw contest, but it's much more than a competition. As a year-round, grit-building program, the Hoop Shoot also teaches kids to give back and serve their communities through the Service Scorecard. For fans and participants alike, the Service Scorecard provides a blueprint for serving the community and offers the opportunity to win prizes.

"The Service Scorecard is an opportunity for everyone," says Youth Programs Manager

*continued on facing page*

Every October, communities across the country recognize Red Ribbon Week by spreading awareness of the dangers posed by drug abuse. Elks Lodges do their part by using Community Investments Program grants to augment the educational efforts of the ENF-funded Elks Drug Awareness Program.

Fresno, Calif., Lodge No. 439 uses a Beacon Grant to hold three events that aim to discourage substance abuse. Each event targets a specific age-group, gearing its message to the challenges faced by teenagers, pre-teens and young children.

For sixth- through eighth-graders, the Lodge invites a representative from the district attorney's office and a school psychologist from the county office of education to the local middle school to discuss drug abuse and its negative outcomes, and advise parents on how to recognize substance use and abuse in their children.

Third- through fifth-graders are invited to an event at the Fresno Lodge, complete with information booths, educational games, and crafts related to staying drug-free. A local police officer talks to the kids, and the department's K-9 unit demonstrates its drug-detecting abilities.

"We wanted to give the kids an opportunity to have fun while learning," says Susan Good, the Fresno Lodge's Grants Coordinator. The Lodge invited the DAP's mascot, Elroy T. Elk, to connect with the younger kids.

Finally, preschoolers and kindergartners at three elementary schools learned how to develop coping skills and empathy. Based on methods developed by a

local organization called Solely Sunshine, the Fresno Lodge hoped to impart skills that reduce anxiety and fear, which can keep kids from turning to drugs in the future. Each child also received a book featuring those lessons.

Other Lodges use CIP grants to support local drug abuse prevention projects. Natick, Mass., Lodge No. 1425 donated its Gratitude Grant to the Natick Opioid Taskforce. The taskforce includes members from the town's education and health departments, the police department, and community service groups, all working toward preventing opioid overdoses.

Plenty of Elks Lodges live the spirit of Red Ribbon Week year-round. From helping adults recover from addiction to educating kids on why it's important to avoid drugs, Elks practice and promote drug-free living in their communities with CIP grants.



*Hi, I'm Elroy, the mascot of the Elks Drug Awareness Program! Through the DAP, youth learn the importance of making healthy choices. Did you know that in 2022-23, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1 million to fund the DAP, helping create constructive and collaborative solutions to youth substance abuse? To read more, visit [elks.org/DAP](https://elks.org/DAP).*



Kindness persists when Hoop Shoot assists! During the 2022 National Finals, kids participated in a night of service where they wrote thank-you cards to veterans.

Makenna Cannon, "all for a chance to win a \$100 donation to the local charity of your choice and some Hoop Shoot swag!"

Lodge Contests are underway, and participants have started on the road to the National Finals. We're excited to announce that the Wintrust Arena is the tentative home of the National Finals through 2026! Help pack the stands, and get an exclusive deal by registering early. Early Bird registration opens January 3.

The Elks have been developing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 50 years. For 2022-23, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1.4 million to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, including registration, visit [elks.org/hoopshoot](https://elks.org/hoopshoot).



Elks National Foundation Director Jim O'Kelley thanks the 5,000 Fidelity Club members from the bottom of his heart.

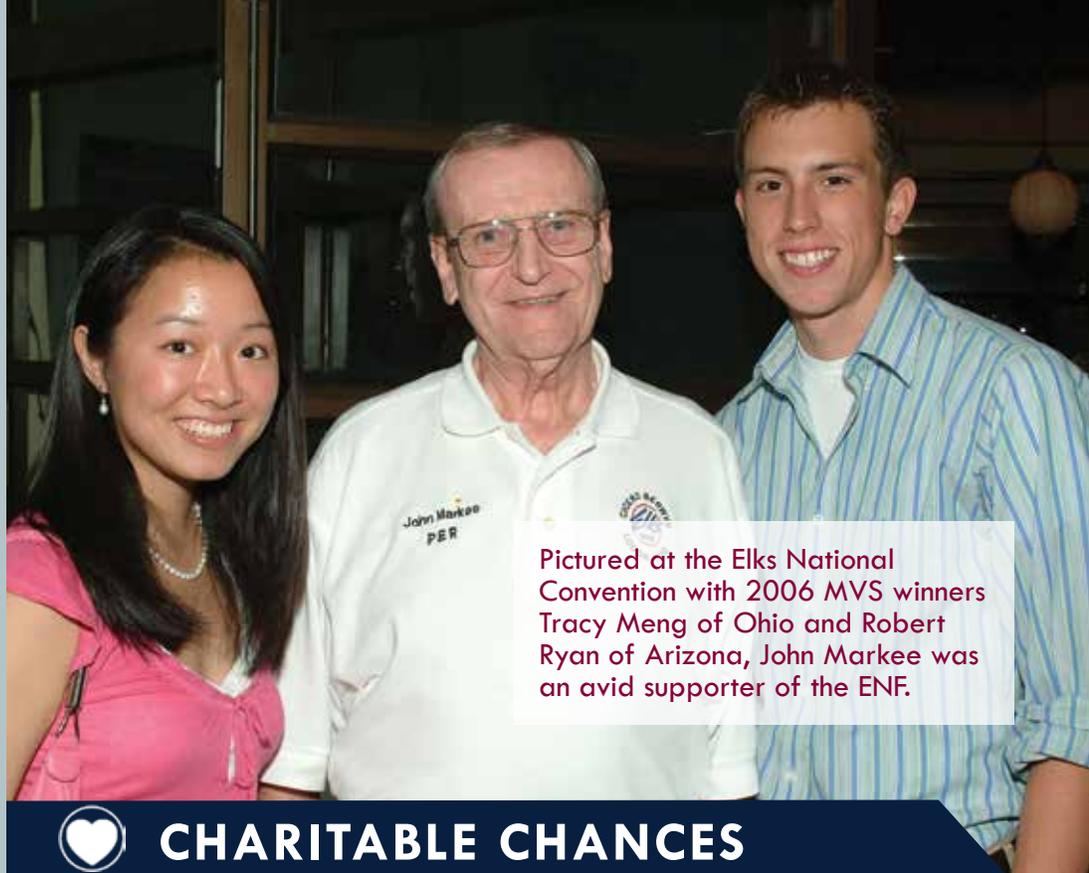
## REACHING 5,000

Four years ago, the ENF set a goal to grow the Fidelity Club by 150 percent in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Elks; at the time, the sustaining giving program was 2,000 donors strong.

Today, with more than 5,000 Fidelity Club members, we have surpassed that goal!

Like so many goals dreamt up for the Elks National Foundation, we reached this milestone thanks to the dedicated support of Elks volunteers and donors.

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Pictured at the Elks National Convention with 2006 MVS winners Tracy Meng of Ohio and Robert Ryan of Arizona, John Markee was an avid supporter of the ENF.



## CHARITABLE CHANCES

John Markee lived and breathed philanthropy. As a child, Markee volunteered at the YMCA, where he taught hundreds of kids how to swim. Into his 70s, Markee refereed more than 200 basketball games a year at the local school. For more than 40 years, Markee worked for the Boys Club of Cicero and volunteered with Brookfield, Ill., Lodge No. 1510.

Markee was constantly helping to build stronger communities.

“I’ve always been philanthropic with my time,” Markee said in an interview in 2003. “There are things that need to be done, and I just get involved with them. If a program looks good to me, I jump in. I don’t think you should let a day go by without doing a good deed.”

Markee’s good deeds are too plentiful to count. His favorite thing was putting resources and opportunities into the hands of people who didn’t have them, and he liked that the Foundation supported all kinds of people—veterans, people with disabilities, and, especially, kids.

“I met so many kids through the Boys Club,” Markee said. “There are good, intelligent kids out there who could be world leaders if they only had a chance. The Most Valuable Student program is designed to find those kids. It finds those kids who otherwise would never get in the front door.”

To ensure that he could continue making a difference long into the future, Markee decided back in 2003 to join the John F. Malley Society by including the ENF in his estate plans.

John Markee passed away in 2020. In October 2022, the ENF received a check from his estate for more than \$2.1 million.



Markee, pictured here at the 2009 donor event in Portland, valued ENF programs because they give people chances.

“I can leave a legacy that will help give young kids a chance,” Markee said back in 2003. “It will help young kids get an education and become leaders in whatever endeavor they choose to pursue.”

John Markee left us two years ago, but he’s still building stronger communities and giving young people a chance.

*Leave your legacy. For additional information about ENF planned giving, please visit [ENFPlannedGiving.org](http://ENFPlannedGiving.org). To discuss planning a gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Kate Keating Edsey at [KateE@elks.org](mailto:KateE@elks.org) or 773/755-4866.*



*To celebrate reaching our Fidelity Club goal, we asked volunteers and program participants to tell us what the ENF means to them. Check it out by scanning the QR code!*

The Fidelity Club is the ENF’s monthly giving program. Fidelity Club members give an automated, regularly scheduled donation through their checking account or credit card. Through their sustained giving, Fidelity Club members help grow ENF-funded programs month after month and year after year.

Thank you for helping us reaching 5,000. Now, onward to 10,000!



**SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!**

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

## ASK THE ENF...

**Q** I give a donation to the Elks National Foundation at my Lodge every month. I would sign up for the Fidelity Club, but I don’t want to give out my credit card information. Is there a way I can still receive Fidelity Club recognition?  
—Anxious in Shreveport

**A** Dear Anxious,  
Fidelity Club recognition is reserved for donors who give an automatic, monthly donation through their credit card or checking account. The ENF prides itself on using safe and reliable software to keep donor information private. The Fidelity Club is a secure and trustworthy way to donate to the ENF. Giving through the Fidelity Club is easy, eco-friendly, and convenient, and Fidelity Club donors receive a special sticker for their membership card, a Fidelity Club pin, and their name in the Fidelity Club Honor Roll. Learn more at [enf.elks.org/FidelityClub](http://enf.elks.org/FidelityClub).

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

# FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

We salute the following members of the 2022-23 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2022, through November 1, 2022. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit [enf.elks.org/fellowship](http://enf.elks.org/fellowship).

(+ Denotes deceased member; ^ Denotes ENF Trustee; > Denotes John F. Malley Society;  
\* Denotes Fidelity Club; # Denotes Loyalty Club; < Denotes Named Scholarship donor)

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## BEQUESTS

The Elks National Foundation honors the following remarkably generous people who, from April 1, 2022, through November 1, 2022, left bequests to the ENF. Though they are no longer with us, their legacy to the future will continue to help expand our philanthropy. To learn how you can benefit from leaving your legacy, contact your financial adviser and visit [enfplannedgiving.org](https://enfplannedgiving.org).

Joe E. Archuleta ..... Arlington-Fairfax, VA, Lodge No. 2188  
 Glenn O. Creyts ..... San Benito, TX, Lodge No. 1661  
 Mary D. Kuhlman ..... California  
 John E. Markee Jr. .... Brookfield, IL, Lodge No. 1510  
 Dominick Minelli ..... Lakewood, CO, Lodge No. 1777  
 Robert J. Whiteley ..... Ballard (Seattle), WA, Lodge No. 827

## JOHN F. MALLEY SOCIETY

The John F. Malley Society honors individuals who plan gifts to the Foundation. We sincerely thank the following members who joined the Malley Society between April 1, 2022, through November 1, 2022. For more information about the Malley Society and stories about Malley Society members, visit our website at [enf.elks.org/MalleySociety](https://enf.elks.org/MalleySociety) or contact Kate Keating Edsey at 773/755-4866.

John D. Amen PGER  
 Susan H. Amen  
 Kimberley Coronado  
 Warren I. Grody  
 James C. Rothe  
 Lynn Rutherford-Snow  
 Anthony and Mary Voulgaris  
 Robin Zimmerman

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## STAY CONNECTED!



Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read about how Elks Lodges recognized Red Ribbon Week ... and much more!

