



The Elks National Convention in Austin brought together Elks, ENF volunteers, and ENF program participants dedicated to helping build stronger communities—one connection at a time.

## THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE ELKS IN AUSTIN

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Every year, herds of Elks travel to the Elks National Convention to celebrate Elksdom, and the ENF is there to show that Elks build stronger communities—no matter where they are.

This year in Austin, members of the Scholar Advisory Board and Hoop Shoot Alumni Advisory Board demonstrated our commitment to service by volunteering with local nonprofit organizations like the Central Texas Food Bank and Sammy's House, a child development center.

“We had such an incredible day seeing Austin through the eyes of these organizations that do so much for their communities,” said Program Relations Associate Libby Willkomm. “I am so grateful our students got to make a difference in Austin in the name of the Elks!”

At the Convention's Opening Ceremony, we showcased the impact Elks have had on their communities this past year, as well as new milestones.

“Our Foundation wasn't built by a few people giving a lot,” said ENF Board of Trustees Chairman Mike Smith. “It took a lot of people giving a few dollars—whatever they could afford. Now, this past year, you threw the slow-and-steady formula out the window. You gave more, and more of you gave, and just two years after crossing the \$7 million mark for the first time, y'all donated more than \$8 million.”

*see Austin, continued on page 2*





Members of the Elks Scholar Advisory Board and Hoop Shoot BackBoard served at Sammy's House, a child development center, where they did yardwork, organized the facility, and assembled an adaptive swing.

*Austin, continued from page 1*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER:  
ENF Month

OCTOBER 1:  
ENF Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 12:  
MVS Scholarship application  
deadline

JANUARY 22:  
Beacon, Gratitude and Spotlight  
Grant application deadline

FEBRUARY 3:  
Legacy Awards application  
deadline

ENF staff then shared some of the touching stories that have come from ENF-funded programs over the past year.

El Paso, Texas, Lodge No. 187 uses an Impact Grant to provide essential hygiene items to the members of its community—and has provided more than \$600,000 worth of supplies over the seven years of the program. Ainsley Weaver, a 9-year-old from Ohio, went from not knowing how to shoot a basketball to being a Hoop Shoot National Champion and Getty Powell Award winner, all in the span of two years. Former Elks scholars Sean Loosli, Bryce Caswell, and Jay Little Cunningham are beacons of support for current Elks scholars, attending the Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend in Chicago to provide guidance.

*"We are building stronger communities," said Smith. "We are unleashing gritty kids. We are empowering the next generation of leaders. This is what we do as Elks."*

These stories are only the beginning of the differences Elks and the ENF have made over the past year, but at the Convention, we also looked toward the future. We hosted three seminars that equipped Elks to continue serving their communities.

Throughout the weekend, we took many moments to serve, show gratitude, and plan for the future. As we look ahead, one thing is certain: Elks will continue building stronger communities—together.



## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

For the fourth year, the ENF asked Convention attendees to shine a spotlight on service by donating new socks or new or gently used children's books to benefit people in the Austin area.

In total, 401 Lodges participated in the drive, filling 18 boxes with children's books and 35 large laundry bags with socks. Participation in the Spotlight on Service Drive was the largest it has been since the inaugural year in 2019.

To ensure that the impact of this drive continues long after the Convention, every Lodge that donated was entered into a drawing to win a bonus \$2,000 Community Investments Program grant.

The winners of this grant are Taunton, Mass., Lodge No. 150; Ashland, Ore., Lodge No. 944; Boonton, N.J., Lodge No. 1405; Desert Hot Springs, Calif., Lodge No. 2639; and Lamar, Mo., Lodge No. 2800. Congrats to them and thanks to all who participated! The real winner was the Austin community.



**SUPPORT THE GREAT  
HEART OF ELKDOM!**

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

Identical twins Jolie (left) and Maislin (right) Bogart received Legacy Awards scholarships, went to the same college, and now are both proud recipients of the Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship.

## HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, DOC

As Jolie and Maislin Bogart grew up, they were inseparable. They played the same sports, led the same student organizations, and even received the same scholarship—the 2019 Legacy Awards scholarship, for which they were sponsored by Lakewood, Ohio, Lodge No. 1350.

“Our father has been an Elk for years and has brought us to the Lodge many times,” says Jolie. “Being involved with the Elks has been very special and has taught me to give back to the communities that have given me so much.”

The Bogart twins took these lessons to heart. While attending Ohio University and volunteering at their local Lodge, they realized their passion for serving the community. Now, they will explore that passion in medical school with the aid of the Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship.

“I am able to credit my accomplishments and, consequently, my acceptance into medical school to my selection to receive the Elks Legacy Award,” says Maislin. “I will be extremely grateful for this award for the rest of my life and am excited to receive the Weigel Medical School Scholarship.”

As they strive to make their #ElksFamily—and their biological family—proud in medical school at Case Western Reserve University, the Bogart twins will not forget the difference that ENF scholarships have made in their lives.

*After the late Lee Weigel lost her husband, Gunther, to a staph infection in November 2009, she wanted to improve the quality of healthcare in our country. Lee 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).*





Even though schools only operate for part of the year, Elks Lodges use Community Investments Program grants to keep their communities learning year-round. Blue Springs, Mo., Lodge No. 2509 uses an Impact Grant to teach health and safety lessons.



## A NEW SEMESTER AT ELKS UNIVERSITY

### SPREAD THE WORD!

Class is in session, and ENF scholarship applications are open! We need your help to spread the word. If you have a child or grandchild who's starting their senior year of high school—or know other Elks who do—encourage them to apply.

Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships available to the children or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks. The application is open until February 3, 2025.

The Most Valuable Student scholarship is open to all high school seniors, even those not related to an Elks member. The ENF will award 480 scholarships

*continued on facing page*

To most students, August is a time to prepare for the new school year. For some Elks Lodges, though, school is always in session.

Community Investments Program grants can be used to educate the Lodge community on a variety of subjects, from maintaining physical health to mastering a new art form. Ohio River Valley, Ohio, Lodge No. 231 sought to tackle one of the nation's most prevalent issues: inadequate nutrition and food access.

With its Beacon Grant, the Ohio River Valley Lodge hosts around 60 high school students each week for a cooking class. Lodge members design a menu, purchase the food items and cooking supplies, and teach an after-school program.

After the weekly lesson, the participants eat the fruits of their labor together in an effort to include a social benefit along with the physical benefit that healthy food brings. In November, the students cook a Thanksgiving dinner for their classmates and families.

"The Cooking Club meets an immediate hunger need, but it has the added perk of educating children to be self-sufficient and prepare meals at home," says Grants Coordinator Mary Carolyn Nichelson.

Blue Springs, Mo., Lodge No. 2509 receives an Impact Grant to provide important health and safety lessons. The Lodge organizes CPR classes for various community groups—so far this year, certification classes have been held at high schools, martial arts studios, libraries and churches. Along with the CPR certifications, the Lodge also hosts Safe Sitter classes, both for young children who want to learn the responsibilities of babysitting and first-time grandparents, as well as Stop the Bleed classes, which teach how to treat a



# ASK THE ENF...

**Q** I already give a monthly, sustaining gift through the Fidelity Club. What else can I do to help?  
—Keen in Keene

**A** Hello Keen,

Thank you for your generous gift! Sustaining support like yours is support the ENF can count on and is critical to continuing the ENF's mission of helping Elks build stronger communities. To answer your question, we encourage you to spread the word about how you give! By telling fellow Elks about the Fidelity Club, you are building stronger communities, unleashing gritty kids, and supporting the next generation of changemakers. The Fidelity Club is flexible, safe, and the easiest way to give to the ENF—every Elk deserves to know about it!

Show them the sticker on your membership card and your pin with attachment. Mention that you were invited to an exclusive event at the Convention where you could mingle with the Board of Trustees. Then tell them to go to [enf.elks.org/fidelityclub](https://enf.elks.org/fidelityclub) to learn more and get started. You can also help by sharing our content on social media. It's easy to do and may help someone learn more about the ENF, which is the first step toward getting involved.

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

bleeding emergency. Since the start of 2024, more than 700 members of the Blue Springs community have been CPR-certified.

Some Lodges focus their lessons on the arts. According to a PBS study titled “The Importance of Art in Child Development,” art classes help kids develop their decision-making skills, inventiveness and cultural awareness.

With its Beacon Grant, Green Cove Springs, Fla., Lodge No. 1892 hosts an event where kids can take art and music lessons. Elk volunteers lead painting and origami classes and show attendees how to play the kalimba. At the end of the event, the children can take their art materials and musical instrument home to continue practicing.

“It is important to give children an outlet for expressing themselves,” says Grants Coordinator Tracy Carroll. “Each child will receive an instrument, art and painting supplies, craft and activity items, as well as a book, to take home to continue building their opportunities for self-expression.”

If your Lodge has members with special skills or knowledge, consider using your CIP grants to share them with the community. “Elks University” is always looking for new teachers—enroll today!

*For 2024–25, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$16.3 million to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through CIP 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).*



More than financial aid: ENF scholarships are an invitation to join the #ElksFamily.

worth \$4,000, and the Top 20 finalists will receive \$30,000 scholarships. Applications close November 12.

Find the applications and guidelines at [elks.org/scholars](https://elks.org/scholars). Follow the ENF on Facebook for handy graphics you can share on social media! Thanks for your help!



Shhh ... don't share the password! ENF donors—including the then-soon-to-be National President Doug Schiefer and his wife, Julia—dined and danced at Speakeasy in Austin for the annual donor recognition event.



## THE CAT'S OUTTA THE BAG

### BAGELS WITH THE BOARD

As Fidelity Club donors spread the cream cheese, the ENF spread the word about the great work being done with their donations at the second annual Bagels with the Board reception.

With plates of bagels and fruit and warm cups of coffee, Fidelity Club donors mixed and mingled with members of the Board of Trustees, the Elks Scholar Advisory Board, and the Hoop Shoot BackBoard. The top two overall competitors from the 2024 Hoop Shoot National Finals were also in attendance to claim their trophies.

Visit [enf.elks.org/FidelityClub](https://enf.elks.org/FidelityClub) to learn more.

Only certain ENF donors knew the secret password to the Foundation Fling. These cat's pajamas donned their glad rags and snuck into downtown Austin to Speakeasy on the Saturday before the Elks National Convention commenced.

Attendees cut a rug as a lively duo covered greatest hits across the decades. In true Texan style, a barbecue buffet offered a taste of the city, and food and drink brought together donors from across the United States, who all had one thing in common: a deep commitment to building stronger communities.

The password to this exclusive event was available to donors who reached the Faith level of the Foundation Fellowship last fiscal year, donating at least \$1,000 to the ENF over the year, or to donors who have planned a gift to the Foundation.

"There's no better way to kick off a Convention than to spend an evening with fellow Elks who love the Foundation," says GER Doug Schiefer from Bucyrus, Ohio, Lodge No. 156. "It's always a great time meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones over a shared love of charity."

To view photos from the event, visit [enf.elks.org/Speakeasy24](https://enf.elks.org/Speakeasy24). If you want to ensure you get the password for next year's soiree, find out more information about the Foundation Fellowship at [enf.elks.org/FoundationFellowship](https://enf.elks.org/FoundationFellowship).

We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City!



# FIDELITY CLUB

We thank the members of the Fidelity Club, who give automatic, monthly donations to the ENF.  
As of August 2024, these sustaining donors have given 200, 150, or 100 Fidelity Club gifts to the Foundation.  
To learn more about the Fidelity Club and see the complete honor roll, visit [enf.elks.org/FidelityClub](http://enf.elks.org/FidelityClub).

## 200

Bob Barrett  
Joseph C. Basil  
Robert P. Becker  
Thomas W. Bright  
Charles E. Buechman  
Donald R. Checchi  
Gerald L. Delker  
David W. Demert  
Shirley Echnernacht  
David M. Edwards  
Lance M. Erickson  
Daniel J. Evans  
Carola J. Fuller  
John E. Fuller  
Marilyn A. Griffis  
Beverly A. Hamby  
Michael Hefley  
James L. Horne  
Edward C. Johnson  
Charlene A. Klinger  
William D. Lewis  
Richard L. Lull  
Herbert F. Mann Jr.  
Margaret McDonald  
Gregory Moscirocki  
Richard O'Brien  
Joseph D. Paulus  
Kathleen A. Reid  
Thompson  
Brian M. Skonieczny  
Arlene M. Stricker  
William B. Williams  
Ronald R. Wilson

## 150

Southern Westchester  
Lodge No. 707  
Judith A. Abbott  
Vickie M. Acton  
Teddy G. Acton  
Michael Archer Sr.  
Susan L. Avis  
Laurie R. Ayala  
Patricia A. Baccus  
Rick Baccus  
Theodore A. Balash  
Allan M. Barnes  
Robert Barron  
Charles J. Barnicki Jr.  
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Wayne Becraft  
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Earl T. Bouchard  
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Edna M. Brady  
Michael C. Bratz  
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Diane R. Bristow  
Howard W. Brown  
Pamela L. Brude Roe  
Deborah K. Brunner  
Karen K. Buchanan  
Michael D. Buchanan  
Sabina S. Bye  
Kevin E. Campbell  
Mike W. Campbell  
John T. Carr  
Paul Chastant  
W. Cooper Colwell  
Andrew J. Constantine  
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Emmett W. Darbyshire  
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Jerry E. 'Gene' Day  
Vernon DeMars  
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Daniel J. Fauskee  
Robert J. Ferone Sr.  
Michael A. Flaniken  
Ronda F. Fleming-Hays  
John C. Folcik  
Thomas W. Fraker  
Anthony Frank  
Terri L. Frank  
Frank H. Frazier  
Charles R. Gibbs  
Robert P. Gradoni

Ulises D. Gregory  
Timothy A. Grothe  
Donald Gumm  
Richard W. Hanatow  
Gregory L. Heimgartner  
Barbara R. Henderson  
Bruce Henry  
Martin T. Hill  
Joanne W. Hollingsworth  
- Jacob  
Robert E. Hollis-Brau Sr.  
Michael G. Holmes  
Charles R. Horton  
Shubert Huto  
Robert D. Jackson  
Richard E. Jacobs  
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Susan Jaggard  
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Wayne A. Klinger  
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Mark Madden  
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Alvin E. Nagel  
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Tarra Johnson  
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Laurie L. Julius  
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C. Michael Melton

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Lyle D. Miller  
Marclie Millor  
Ralph R. Minsky  
Susan Mitchell  
Sandra L. Mittelstaedt  
Lysa Molnar  
Ronnie D. Monsour  
Glenn W. Montague  
Al Montano  
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Dianna Morrison  
Jana L. Morse  
Kurt G. Mueller  
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F. Paul Neunder  
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Michael Northey  
Marcee R. Northey  
Bradley G. Norton  
Sydney A. Nunez  
Trudy E. Nuzum  
Robert O'Brien  
Walter L. O'Brien  
James W. O'Kelley III  
Howard G. Olsen  
Jacqueline A. Orovcecz  
William Oskin  
Deborah Oskin  
David I. Ott  
G. Scott Pace  
Janet Pageau  
William L. Pageau  
Elliot H. Palefsky  
John B. Payne  
Roslyn Peggins  
Randy D. Pelley  
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