**It’s No CIP-rise…**

Year after year, Elks produce creative solutions for the unique needs of their communities. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Community Investments Program helped Elks implement those solutions with 4,266 Beacon, Gratitude, and Spotlight Grants—the most in the program’s history.

Eighty-three percent of Lodges received at least one grant, on average, receiving 2.8 grants per participating Lodge. Louisville, Ky., Lodge No. 8 used its grants to assist flood relief efforts, build beds for children in the foster care system, and fight hunger due to the pandemic.

Rock Hill, S.C., Lodge No. 1318 used its grants to provide beds and mattresses to a men’s shelter and support a local soup kitchen. The Lodge helped the kitchen serve food for eight weeks, assisting more than 170 daily visitors.

The Rock Hill and Louisville Lodges aren’t the only ones passionate about providing access to nutritious food. More than $5.5 million in CIP grants was utilized to fight food insecurity. Beacon Grants alone accounted for 671 projects aimed at increasing food access.

Other Lodges used CIP grants to aid individuals living in households below the poverty line, provide COVID-19 relief, and support youth. More than 78 percent of Spotlight Grants were used to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, and more than 50 percent of Beacon Grants were used to support youth. From Mid Westchester, N.Y., Lodge No. 535, which facilitated art and music classes for students with disabilities to Pratt, Kan., Lodge No. 1451, which partnered with Operation Warm to provide 200 elementary school students with new coats, shoes and books, Elks’ youth projects came in all shapes and sizes.

“[Lodge members] never thought about how the coats and shoes could become more than a physical warmth, but an emotional warmth,” says Linda Stelzer, the Pratt Lodge’s Grants Coordinator, “that these items might give the confidence to socialize and succeed.”

These projects are only a sample of what Elks have accomplished in their communities this fiscal year. A record-breaking number of grants creates an impact that can’t be quantified. Additionally, CIP grants are now open for the 2023-24 year! Ask your Secretary or Grants Coordinator how you can help make a change in your community.

*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***.