**CIP Turns 20**

Twenty years ago, Carrie Underwood gained national fame by winning American Idol, *Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith* ended the Star Wars franchise for good (or so we thought), the Chicago White Sox weren’t historically bad (and won a World Series to prove it), and the Community Investments Program was born.

When the CIP debuted in 2005, each grant was worth $200, and we approved applications from 695 Lodges. A lot has changed since then, but one thing remains the same: the CIP’s commitment to helping you build stronger communities.

This year, to commemorate the CIP’s anniversary, the base level of the Gratitude Grant will increase from $2,000 to $3,000. Every Lodge that meets the per-member-giving goal of $5.00 will have $1,000 more to support community needs; Lodges will be eligible to receive a total of up to $5,000 through additional bonuses.

With the Beacon, Spotlight, and Gratitude Grants, Lodges can receive up to $11,000 to use in their community to help fight hunger, prevent veteran homelessness, or address other needs.

Now that’s a reason to celebrate! Follow the ENF on social media, and be on the lookout for more as we celebrate 20 years of the CIP.

*For 2025-26, the Elks National Foundation allocated nearly $18 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***.