

ANNUAL
2019-20
REPORT



Meeting the needs of today's veterans

Coming Together for Veterans

It started with a bang and ended with a pandemic. In 2019-20, we began the year with our largest budget ever. We increased the number of Freedom Grants to 325, we extended the Welcome Home program for 2 more years, and we continued to grow and enhance the longstanding Voluntary Service Program.

Altogether, our volunteers served more than 1 million veterans in 2019-20, in ways big and small. When veterans were hospitalized and recovering, Elks were there. When veterans were living in a home away from family, Elks were there. When veterans were exiting homelessness and finally moving into a home, Elks were there.

Elks were there to host events, bring supplies, provide assistance, and offer friendship. And sometimes, to offer the simple knowledge that someone cares, someone remembers.

As we closed down the year, everything seemed to change so quickly. Our volunteers struggled with how to serve veterans from afar, to keep everyone safe, but continue to be there.

Elks adapted, changed, cancelled and rescheduled events. Instead of a Stand Down, Elks walked into the community to directly hand out supplies. Instead of a visit, Elks bought iPads and taught veterans to FaceTime. Instead of hosting Bingo, Elks had pizza and board games delivered to the veterans.

Because Elks are always there for veterans. The 2019-20 fiscal year was no different. We hope you enjoy reading about our work this past year.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission operates thanks to a generous grant from the Elks National Foundation. The Commission members and I are very grateful to the ENF for their continued and generous support. We extend special thanks to Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt and the Grand Lodge staff, as well as to the Grand Lodge Sponsors for their assistance. And we are of course indebted to our volunteers, without whom none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,

David R. Carr, Chair

John D. Amen, Vice-Chair

Ronald L. Hicks, Secretary/Treasurer

Paul D. Helsel, Past Chair

James L. Nicholson, Past Chair

In 2019-20:

1,019,765

veterans served

143,056

Elks volunteered a total of
594,834 hours

16,764

military members and their families were helped through the Army of Hope program

21,660

veterans received ongoing support from Elks members through the Adopt-a-Veteran program

14,000

packs of cards were donated to veterans through the Elks Playing Cards for Veterans program

Voluntary Service

Every day, every week and every month, our Voluntary Service Representatives and Deputy Representatives interact directly with veterans in 349 facilities across the country.

Our Representatives visit these facilities an average of 2.5 times each month, to host activities, donate supplies and meet directly with veterans to offer friendship and support. Altogether, Elks volunteered more than 155,000 hours in veterans' facilities in 2019-20 alone.

These frequent visits allow our volunteers not just to meet the needs of the veterans, but to help identify these needs and brainstorm new activities and programs to serve the veterans.

636

Elks serve as
Representatives or
Deputy Representatives
in 349 facilities

155,628

Elks volunteer hours

49,106

veterans served each
month on average



Representative Darrell Quinley (in blue) serves lunch at the St. Michael's Veterans Center Stand Down, alongside other members of Grandview-Hickman Mills, Mo., Lodge 2088.

Our volunteers are so widely recognized and depended upon that one of them was chosen as a VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee Volunteer of the Year! Congratulations to H. Lee Davis of Essex, Md., Lodge No. 1866 for his award! Davis, an Army Veteran himself, has volunteered more than 4,000 hours at the VA over his 31 years as a volunteer.

“

I've known and worked with Lee within the Elks for about 30 years and there is no Elk more devoted to fulfilling the longstanding Elks Pledge – *So long as there are veterans, the Elks will never forget them* – than H. Lee Davis.”

– Paul Helsel, PGER



Voluntary Service Representative Leonard Mills distributes supplies at an outreach event for veterans in need at the Vancouver VA Medical Center.

Welcome Home



Arlington-Fairfax, Va., Lodge No. 2188 joined forces with five other Lodges throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area to provide furniture and household supplies to veterans. Here, a veteran and her family pose in front of the Welcome Home Trailer with volunteers from six Lodges.

Our Welcome Home program serves some of the most vulnerable veterans in the country by offering them support, access to housing and the home supplies they need to succeed.

In 2019-20, Elks provided 1,665 kits of supplies to veterans moving into new homes through the Welcome Home Kit program, giving each of these veterans a fresh start as they exit homelessness.

548

veterans safely housed
through Elks Emergency
Assistance

4,837

veterans served through
Focus Grants

1,665

Welcome Home Kits
provided

We also awarded 28 Focus Grants to Lodges in the 8 cities with the highest number of homeless veterans. Those 28 Lodges served an additional 4,837 veterans experiencing homelessness with home kits, meals and food baskets, educational programs and other needed services.

Through the Elks Emergency Assistance fund, we've also helped 548 veterans prevent or exit homelessness, thanks to assistance with things like rent, security deposits, and utilities. Each of these veterans received an average of \$1,507 in assistance, a small amount to ensure that a veteran and their family have a safe, stable place to live.

Redlands, Calif., Lodge No. 583 partnered with Lighthouse Social Service Centers to purchase and deliver Welcome Home Kits for twenty-five veterans. The veterans served had recently transitioned from homelessness to living in permanent supportive housing.



“

I LOVE LOVE LOVE the Welcome Home Kits. We make such an impact every month on these veterans, some with young families, some that have been homeless, some that have gone through a program and are getting their fresh start. The gratitude from them is sometimes overwhelming. It is awesome to be able to help so many.”

– Kim Coronado, Chula Vista, Calif., Lodge No. 2011

Veterans Leather Program

The Veterans Leather Program brings Elks and community volunteers together to collect hides for veterans.

Elks and volunteers in 12 states donated 17,234 hides to the Veterans Leather Program in 2019-20, which were finished and used for 3 purposes.

Some of this leather is turned into wheelchair gloves, and Elks across the country distributed 3,075 pairs of these gloves to veterans!

17,234

hides donated

10,620

craft kits distributed
by Elks

3,075

wheelchair gloves
donated

6,339 square feet of leather was donated directly to VA Medical Centers, so recreation therapists can plan creative projects focused on helping veterans recover.

And Elks donated more than 83,870 square feet of leather to Help Heal Veterans (HHV), which turns this leather into craft kits to help recovering veterans. In return, HHV helped Elks volunteers in State Veterans Homes and elsewhere hand out 10,620 craft kits directly to veterans in their communities.

We are indebted to Leather Program Chair Dennis McAleese and Vice-Chair Chuck Mudge for managing nearly all day-to-day aspects of this program and keeping things running smoothly.

★ ★ Top donors ★ ★



Missouri was #1 with
8,742 donated hides



Arkansas was #2 with
3,274 donated hides



Iowa was #3 with
2,927 donated hides

Members of Elk Grove, Calif., Lodge No. 2577 donate wheelchair gloves and other supplies to the VA.



Freedom Grants



Pratt, Kan., Lodge No. 1451 used their grant to plant a flower and vegetable garden for veterans at Kansas Soldiers' Home in Fort Dodge.

327

Freedom Grants

6,430

Elks involved

35,871

veterans served

48,033

Elks volunteer hours

In 2019-20, we awarded \$2,000 Freedom Grants to 327 Lodges to hold active, Elks-led projects that served veterans and/or military members in need.

These grants help Lodges connect directly with veterans and military members in their community, proving that local, grass-roots programs can identify and meet needs that national organizations cannot.

Every year, the excitement about this program seems to grow. In 2019-20, we gave out more Freedom Grants than ever before, and it still didn't seem like enough. The 327 programs we funded served tens of thousands of veterans and engaged thousands of Elks in direct service.



Boca Raton, Fla., Lodge No. 2166 used their grant to help provide dolphin therapy for recovering veterans. The Lodge also provides regular meals for the veterans in the program.



Adaptive Sports & Other Partners



Through targeted partnerships with veterans service organizations and nonprofit organizations, Elks are able to meet more of veterans' diverse needs.

Bugles Across America recruits, trains and organizes buglers across the country in support of their belief that veterans deserve a live rendition of Taps by a real bugler at their funeral.

Re-Creation USA provides live, therapeutic entertainment to veterans in VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes and other facilities across the country.

The James H. Parke Memorial Fund awards college scholarships to outstanding students who have served 100 hours or more at a VA facility.



Every year, Elks HQ staff and local Elks Scholars come together to volunteer and distribute supplies to veterans in need at the **Chicago Winter and Summer Stand Downs**.

The Elks sponsor 6 adaptive sports and arts events to help veterans rehabilitate, recover and thrive.



National Veterans Golden Age Games



National Veterans Wheelchair Games



National Veterans Creative Arts Competition & Festival



National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament



National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic



National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

Volunteers of the Year



ALASKA

Melissa Rae Greenhalgh

ARIZONA

William H. Santee, Sr.

ARKANSAS

Michael Burnett

Sheree L. Fahlberg

CA-HI

Robert Samaniego

Debbie L. Olson

COLORADO

Geffrey K. McDaniel

Mary G. Ragsdale

FLORIDA

Ken Fabiani

Judith A. Wise

IDAHO

George Paris

Sharon Howard

ILLINOIS

Barry Roberts

Carolyn S. Place

LOUISIANA

Darren L. LaBarthe

Gail Millet

MAINE

Vincent Trask

Judy Kennard

MD-DE-DC

Thomas M. Volatile

Mary C. Onley

MASSACHUSETTS

Raynor R. Metcalfe

Frances M. Minichello

MICHIGAN

Russel G. Hammond

MINNESOTA

James A. Huttner

Susan Huttner

MISSOURI

Dennis Carmack

Terry Carmack

NEBRASKA

Harry Montag

Luann Hamilton

NEVADA

Thomas Zogorski

Susan Buffamonte

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Raymond Greenlaw

Jennie Greenlaw

NEW YORK

Edward J. Baniak, Jr.

Mary M. Charleston

NORTH CAROLINA

Reggie Horton

Nancy Mazuco Brown

OKLAHOMA

James A. Pivec

Debbie Tennison

OREGON

Michael J. Smith

Dorothy E. Britto

RHODE ISLAND

Wallace DeSouza

Regina O. Kingsborough

SOUTH CAROLINA

Steve Cinader

Catherine Lyman Hilton

TEXAS

Barry E. Hohlfelder

Deborah F. Hydrick

UTAH

Robert D. Pagnani

VIRGINIA

Lynette Kyle

WEST VIRGINIA

Robert L. Delbrugge

Jamie E. Webster

Congratulations to the 2020 National Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year, Gary Drumheller of Sun City, Ariz., Lodge No. 2559!



Gary works tirelessly for the veterans. Gary's devotion to the veteran community is second to none and his performance is above and beyond any expectation."

– Bill Hudson,
PER of Sun City Lodge

In Memory

of the volunteers we lost

2019-2020

THOMAS F. BOGGS

Baton Rouge, La., Lodge No. 490
Deputy Representative at Louisiana
Veterans Home-Jackson

KERRY D. DALTON

Bangor, Me., Lodge No. 244
Deputy Representative at Togus VA
Medical Center

DONALD. J FASSNACHT, SR.

Lafayette, Ind., Lodge No. 143
Representative at Indiana Veterans
Home & Past State Veterans Chair

FRANCIS L. MEIER

Worthington, Minn., Lodge No. 2287
Deputy Representative at Minnesota
Veterans Home-Luverne

ROY D. MARKHAM, PDDGER

Lake City, Fla., Lodge No. 893
Deputy Representative at Lake City VA
Medical Center

THOMAS E. PROCTOR

Dublin, Ga., Lodge No. 1646
Representative at Dublin VA Medical
Center

KENNETH J. STAHL

Sheridan, Wy., Lodge No. 520
Deputy Representative at Sheridan VA
Medical Center

DAVID H. STRATTON

Grand Rapids, Mich., Lodge No. 48
Deputy Representative at Grand Rapids
VA Medical Center

A.J. SULLIVAN

Randolph, Mass., Lodge No. 2130
Deputy Representative at Brockton VA
Medical Center

JEROME J. TICHY

Prescott, Ariz., Lodge No. 330
Representative at Prescott VA Medical
Center

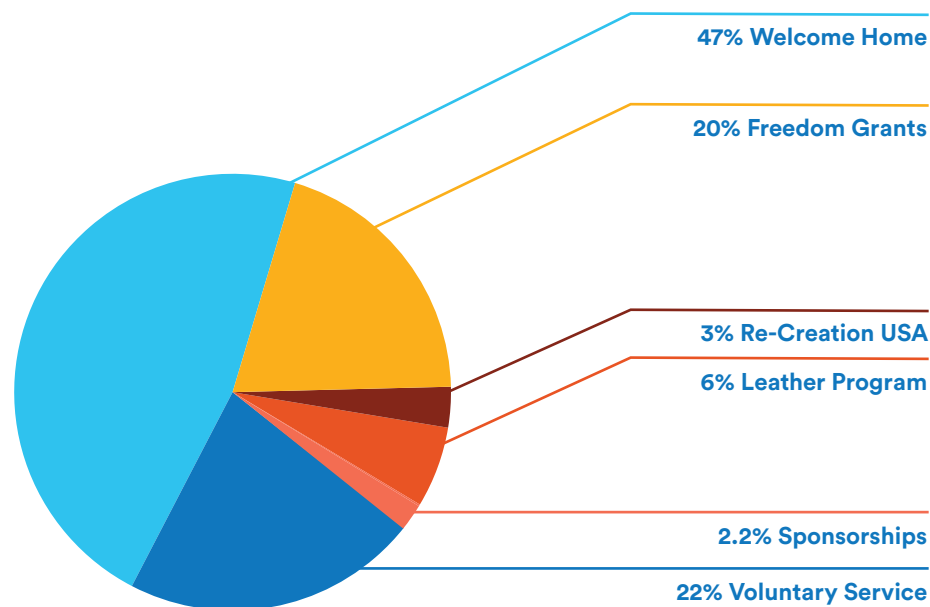
JAMES YERKEY

Alexander City, Ala., Lodge No. 1878
Deputy Representative at Alexander City
State Veterans Home



Financial Info & Impact

Financial highlights for 2019-20 were summarized from the Financial Statements of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, with the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by FK Advisors. The audit covered the period beginning April 1, 2019 and ending March 31, 2020. Complete financial statements, including all notes, may be obtained by contacting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.



REVENUE AND SUPPORT

\$3,298,070 appropriation from Elks National Foundation, Inc.

\$183,486 other contributions and in-kind support

\$3,481,556 total revenue and support



The Elks National Veterans Service Commission works with the Elks National Foundation, Elks State Associations and local Lodges to combine resources and do more for veterans.

In 2019-20:

Elks Lodges used **598** Elks National Foundation Grants to serve veterans and military members, amounting to an approximate additional **\$1.34 million dollars** to serve veterans and military members in need.

The Elks National Foundation awarded a total of **\$830,320** to Elks State Associations to fund veterans programs. States, Lodges and Elks from all over also contributed to their local projects.

Altogether, **300,479** Elks and friends volunteered **941,498** hours. The value of this service, both in time, in-kind and fiscal donations equals **\$41,286,657.42!***

*This includes hours volunteered, miles driven, and the value of time donated by Elks family members and friends at Elks events.



Lake Oconee, Ga., Lodge No. 2849 uses an ENF Impact Grant to improve the lives of Georgia War Veterans Home residents by planning ongoing outings, dinners and trips off campus.



The Colorado State Elks go all out to support the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic every year by greeting veterans at the airport, providing meals for the athletes, hosting events, installing wheelchair ramps and more.



 Elks National Veterans
Service Commission

 @ElksVetsService

 @ElksVets

Elks.org/vets

We believe
the more the Elks
are physically present, the
more people will acknowledge
our good deeds and perhaps want
to join us and become more involved in
their community and around the world.

- Jane Conner, Middlesex, N.J., Lodge No. 1488

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

2750 N. Lakeview Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614-1889
773-755-4736
vets@elks.org