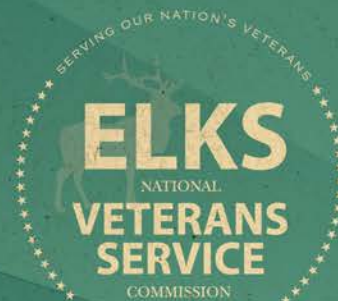


Greetings from the

ENVSC



★ The 2024-25 Elks National Veterans Service Commission Annual Report

IN 2024 - 2025



813,447

Elks volunteered 813,447 hours in service to veterans



357,061

357,061 Elks and friends volunteered to serve veterans through Elks programs.



50

Elks served veterans in all 50 states, and multiple US territories.



\$56,159,264

The total estimated value of Elks support for veterans, including time, in-kind and fiscal donations is \$56,159,264.

It was December 23 in the ENVSC office in Chicago, when we received a call from a veteran in Arkansas. He'd called everywhere seeking help. Someone told him that the Elks help veterans, and he found our number online. He was staying in a motel with his young son and daughter, recently evicted. They had only the clothes they were wearing. They were out of food and couldn't visit the local food bank again until January 1.

We reached out to an Elks volunteer in the state to see if he had any ideas. He drove 3 hours on Christmas Eve morning to visit this veteran and provide him with supplies. He also used his state veteran's coalition connections, who rallied to ensure the family had food, Christmas gifts, and a way forward.

We don't know who directed him to call the Elks, but we're glad they did. As we reflected on the 2024-25 year, we wanted not just to report on all that Elks accomplished in service to veterans, but to find a way to spread the word, because you never know when someone might need to know where to go for help.

As you flip through these pages, you'll notice that some are perforated: these are postcards! Tear them out, address them, and send them out into the world to spread the word about the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

A Message from the ENVSC Chair

I am so proud to serve as the Chairperson of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC). It was truly an honor to be part of this committee when I first joined as an advisor, and it continues to be one of the greatest privileges of my time with the Elks.

Over the years, I have personally witnessed the incredible impact the ENVSC has had on veterans across the country. In Minnesota, I've been involved in everything from hosting local dinners for veterans, to delivering food and household supplies, to assisting those in need within their homes. During my travels, I have also seen many other inspiring events nationwide—each made possible through funds provided by the Elks National Foundation (ENF).

In Minnesota, we proudly host Veterans Deer Hunts in the fall in partnership with the Disabled American Veterans. Similarly, a Turkey Hunt with the same mission is held at Camp Ripley—the third largest National Guard training base in the country. Both events are generously supported by ENVSC grants.

Through my position, I am fortunate to learn about the more than 400 facilities nationwide that receive ENVSC funding. Every month, Elks at these facilities directly support veterans—providing essentials like clothes, hygiene supplies, and hosting recreational activities like bingo and card games that bring companionship and joy.

One of our most meaningful initiatives is the Welcome Home Kits program, which helps combat veteran homelessness. These kits supply essential items for veterans moving into new homes or apartments and often include funding to purchase beds. This program represents a significant portion of our ENVSC funding—and for good reason. It is a true pride and joy. Last year, Elks delivered 4,252 kits. One Minnesota Lodge alone has distributed over 1,300 kits since inception. The smiles and gratitude we receive from veterans remind us why this work is so important.

These examples are just a small glimpse of what the ENVSC provides. None of it would be possible without the continued support of the ENF. On behalf of the entire committee, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the ENF Board for their ongoing generosity and commitment. Their support allows us not only to sustain our programs but to expand our impact year after year.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and God Bless.

Faternally,



Paul R. Ryan

Past Grand Exalted Ruler

2020-2021



★ STATE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

“

I've never met another individual that cares so deeply and has dedicated his life to veterans with his donation of time and willingness to continue to find new projects and ways to assist and make veterans lives better. Burton Jones is an inspiration to our Lodge and anyone who meets him.”

- Karah DeBord, ER at Middletown, Ohio, Lodge No. 257

“

Rita is a gifted veteran who stands as an inspiration for our Lodge. Her dedication is a credit to herself, veterans, and the BPO Elks of the United States of America.”

- Bob Stucker, MSgt USAF Retired/PER, Lodge Veteran Committee Chair at Greenville, South Carolina, Lodge No 858

ALABAMA

Sharon Gaydon
Donald P. Richey

ALASKA

Jacy Kern
Donald Tallman

ARIZONA

Chad Knutson
Eldora M. Engebretson

ARKANSAS

Joy Gunter
Patrick Lynch

CALIFORNIA-HAWAII

Donald T. Stewart, Jr.
Carrie Madrid

COLORADO

Nicholas Miner
Sandra Gomke

CONNECTICUT

Joanne Maxwell
Larry Robinson

FLORIDA

Karen Tracy
Robert Behm

IDAHO

Judith Wutzke
Manual Ortiz

ILLINOIS

Sharlene Huske
Gregory Huske

IOWA

Don Richardson

KANSAS

Beverly Aldrich

KENTUCKY

Rene True
Jodi Duce

LOUISIANA

James Aragon
Linda Sperandio

MAINE

Sarah Small
James Gehring

MD-DE-DC

Robert Keith Hurley, Jr.
James McCormick, Sr.

MASSACHUSETTS

Liz Hanlon
James F. Strojny, Jr.

MINNESOTA

Michael Opheim
Carrie Opheim

MISSISSIPPI

Tony L. Olson

MISSOURI

Kenneth Ronald Hooge
Fred Waldrop

NEBRASKA

Milt Schmidt
Linda Schmidt



The feedback we receive is fantastic, it makes your hair stand on end. The Elks are very well known, we received applause from the veterans when we walk in for Bingo night!”

- John Nuzzi, Representative at St. Albans VA Medical Center, New York



One veteran teaches music lessons to the other veterans receiving treatment at the hospital. He explained how he uses the musical instruments the Elks purchased earlier this year with the Boost Grant. He was extremely pleased with the musical instruments that are used on a regular basis.”

- Rene True, Representative at Lexington VA Medical Center, Kentucky

NEVADA

Steve Smith

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joyce Lebel
Judith M. Santin

NEW MEXICO

Shirley Clere
Tammy Seck

NEW YORK

John M. Nuzzi, Sr.
Sharon Harris

NORTH CAROLINA

John F. Corbett, Jr.

NORTH DAKOTA

Geri Langseth

OHIO

Burton Jones
Jennifer Rife

OKLAHOMA

Johnny Stamper
Jennifer Roberts

OREGON

Gail Gifford
Michael D. Williams

PENNSYLVANIA

Dennis Kline
Jackqueline T. Skorski

RHODE ISLAND

Barbara Andrade
William McMahon

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rita A. Cossio
Douglas L. Moses, Sr.

TENNESSEE

Jim Ford
Cynthia Hurtt

TEXAS

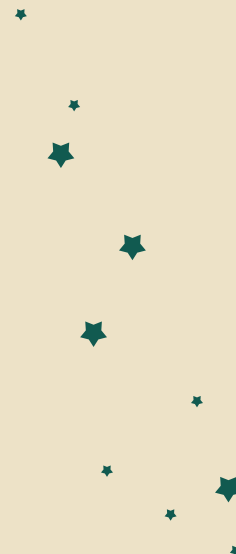
Leisa McLeod
Roy “Ed” Miller

VIRGINIA

Steven Johnson
Raymond Dameron

WEST VIRGINIA





Richard Maack



ACROSS THE COUNTRY

So many Elks from all across the country contribute to the successes noted in this annual report. Here are a few states and Lodges that went above and beyond in 2024-25.






AVERAGE MONTHLY VISITS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

	North Dakota	4.83
	Idaho	4.47
	Alaska	3.77
	New Mexico	3.74
	Florida	3.71

VETERANS LEATHER PROGRAM TOP STATES

	Iowa	3,545 hides
	Missouri	2,636 hides
	Nebraska	1,127 hides

WELCOME HOME KIT TOP STATES

	Washington	533 kits
	Florida	477 kits
	Texas	409 kits
	California	333 kits
	Minnesota	304 kits



Veterans from the Fargo VA Medical Center attend ‘Burger Saturdays’ at the Elks every week.



Volunteers from Cocoa Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 2387 go shopping with veterans to choose kit items.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDE STEADY SUPPORT.



727 Elks provided monthly,
ongoing support to veterans
in more than 400 facilities
nationwide through the Elks
Voluntary Service program in
2024-25.

Elks Voluntary Service Representatives and Deputy Representatives are a particularly impressive group of volunteers. When veterans are away from home, Elks make sure they feel welcomed, comfortable, and connected. Whether it's at a VA Medical Center, a Veterans Home, or a rehabilitation clinic, veterans know they can count on the Elks to be there consistently, with each volunteer visiting an average of 2.3 times each month. Last year, Elks served more than 744,842 veterans through this program.

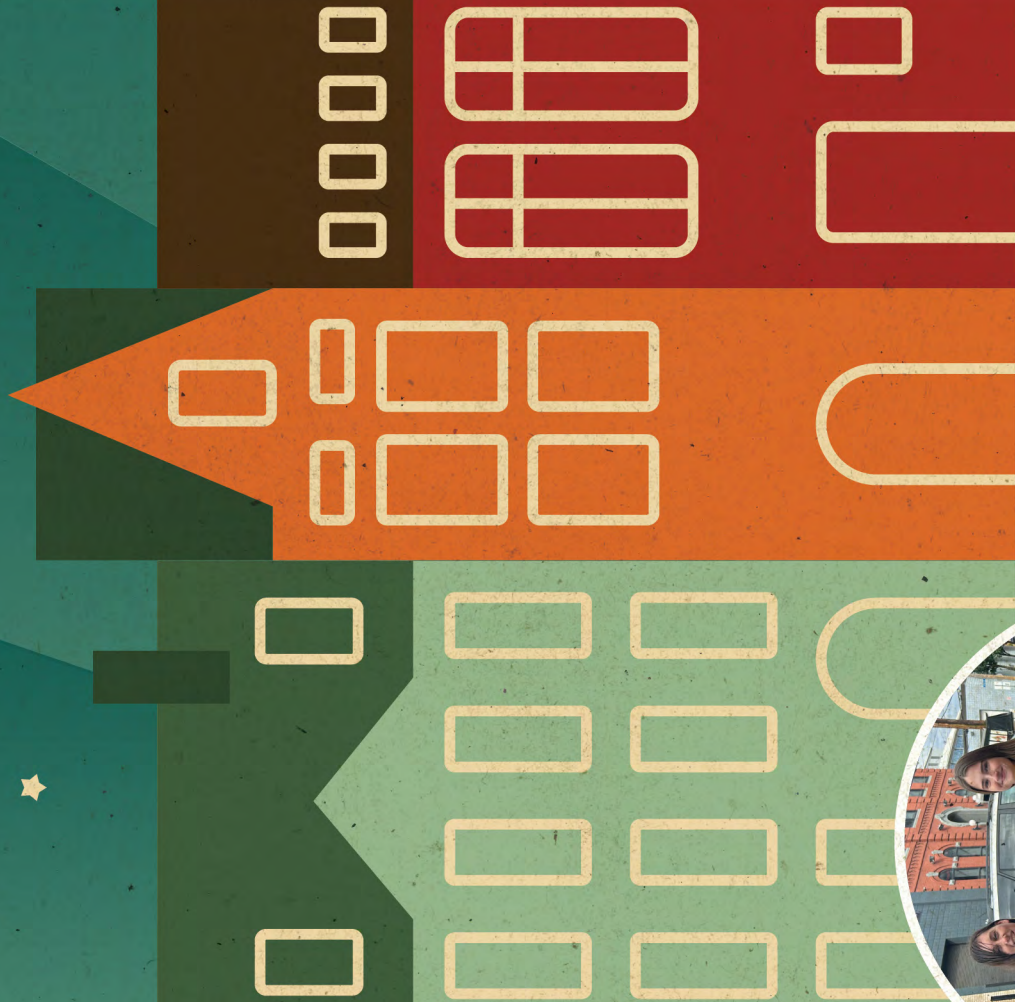
“The Bakes and Bites project at the Idaho State Veterans Home is greatly enjoyed and enriches the lives of the participants,” says Representative Judith Wutzke, who helps fund and run the event with Elks funds. “Conversation about wonderful childhood memories surrounding food happens at these weekly events.”

Send this postcard to someone you can always count on.

PLACE
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WELCOME HOME

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE A HOME WITH AN ELKS WELCOME HOME KIT!



In 2024-25, Elks gave 4,252
newly housed veterans a
fresh start with a Welcome
Home Kit.

These Welcome Home Kits included items like dishes, sheets and blankets, pots and pans, towels, toasters, and even food. Not only did participation in this program grow 25% from the previous year, but additional allotted funding ensured that more veterans than ever had a place to lay their head: 43.5% of kits also included beds for veterans and/or their children.

Lodges often include special touches with kits. Allegheny, Pa., Lodge No. 339 includes a note of support and a gift card with each kit. One note reads “Patrick, Hoping the items in this Welcome Home Kit make the move into your new place more comfortable, and these gift cards help pick up some extras. Thank you for your service! – Kate & Allegheny Elks”

Send this postcard to someone who always makes you feel welcome.

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FREEDOM GRANTS

ELKS OFFER LOCAL VETERANS KINDNESS AND RECOGNITION.



1,003 Lodges from all 50
states used Freedom
Grants to serve 108,249
veterans in 2024-25.

Last year, 12,445 Elks members volunteered 67,216 hours to meet the needs of veterans through Freedom Grants. Projects are tailored to local needs. Willoughby-Cleveland, Ohio, Lodge No. 18 purchased warm winter clothes for veterans, and Kingman, Ariz., Lodge No. 468 funded educational resources for veterans in a transitional housing program.

Raleigh, N.C., Lodge No. 735 held their annual adaptive fishing derby for veterans with disabilities. For many projects, it's not just the support but the remembrance that matters. "We arranged for a unique event where 60 veteran inpatients at the Brockton Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)., spread across three different wards—Hospice, Rehabilitation, and Long-Term Care—each received a personal, high-quality Prime Rib dinner accompanied by a variety of delicious desserts," writes H. David Cramer, Freedom Grant Project Manager Mansfield, Mass., Lodge No. 2633.

"Many of the veterans had not had the opportunity to enjoy a meal like this for some time, and seeing their faces light up with gratitude was incredibly rewarding for everyone involved. The event was a reminder that even small gestures of kindness and recognition can have a profound impact on someone's well-being, especially when they are in a vulnerable state."

Send this postcard to someone who showed you kindness when you needed it.

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ELKS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

OUR FUND OFFERS VETERANS STABILITY AND A FRESH START.



The Elks Emergency Assistance Fund helped 558 veterans exit or prevent homelessness in 2024-25.

In 2024-25, Elks partnered with VA Social Workers in the 12 cities with the highest number of veterans experiencing homelessness. Together, we provided 558 veterans with emergency financial assistance in the form of rent, security deposits and utility payments. Veterans received an average of \$1,659, showing that a helping hand at the right time can make a big impact.

One of those veterans was a young Marine Corps veteran who moved across country looking for a fresh start after dealing with service-connected health issues. Elks helped him pay a security deposit in April and months later, he sent a note of Thanksgiving.

“I’m a USMC veteran who had received a great financial help from the Elks. I just want to say thank you so much, and may God bless you and yours. I’m very grateful for your support. I’m doing well, I’m in school and have plans for the future.”

Send this to someone who believes in second chances.

PLACE
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FOCUS GRANTS

ELKS PROVIDE SUPPORT AND A SENSE OF BELONGING.



1,074 Elks volunteered
22,017 hours to run Focus
Grant projects that directly
served unhoused veterans
or veterans in transitional
housing in 2024-25.

As part of the Elks pledge to help end veteran homelessness, Lodges in the 12 areas with the highest number of veterans experiencing homelessness have access to additional grant funds through Focus Grants . Last year, 41 Lodges put in a remarkable amount of time to run these large-scale, hands-on projects. Though it is hard work, it’s work that makes a difference in veterans’ lives, at a time when outside support is truly needed.

Westchester, Calif., Lodge No. 2050 partnered with local nonprofit U.S. Vets to plan social activities and offer material support to veterans in transitional housing facilities. Elks also scheduled regular outings on the town; from basketball and hockey games to food truck fests and dinners at the Lodge.

“The trust built from these events encouraged veterans new to the organization to receive critical services as well as assisting them in getting involved with the outside community,” reports Project Manager Fiona Engler. “The Elks provided not only social interaction, but community and a sense of belonging which increased the likelihood of these veterans experiencing success.”

Send this postcard to someone who always makes you feel like you belong.

PLACE
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VETERANS LEATHER PROGRAM

GLOVES AND CRAFT KITS HELP VETERANS RECOVER AND THRIVE.



1,305 veterans received
wheelchair gloves, and 8,929
veterans received craft kits
from the Elks, thanks to the
Veterans Leather Program
in 2024-25.



The Elks Veterans Leather Program depends on an impressive network of support to produce high-quality leather that can be turned into wheelchair gloves, and into craft kits thanks to our partnership with Help Heal Veterans. Last year, Elks from 9 states collected 8,425 hides.

Elks distribute these gloves and craft kits at veterans’ facilities and adaptive sports events. This year, Programs Associate Rene Villalobos distributed gloves to veterans at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Events include power soccer, weightlifting, basketball, cycling and archery. The ENVSC sponsors several national adaptive sports events like this every year.

“As we helped fit the gloves to each veteran’s hands, we not only ensured their comfort but engaged in meaningful conversations about the mission of the Elks organization,” Villalobos shares. “These interactions gave me a deeper appreciation for the veterans’ courage and determination. Volunteering at the Wheelchair Games is not only a humbling experience but also a profound reminder of the impact that service and community can have on our veterans’ lives.”

Send this postcard to someone who challenges you to be your best.

PLACE
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THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER

HERE'S TO THOSE WHO SHOW UP FOR VETERANS.



Elks and their friends
volunteered 1,249,959
hours in service to
veterans in 2024-25.

Elk member and President John F. Kennedy once said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.”

Our volunteers truly mean it: last year, Elks and their friends volunteered 1,249,959 hours in service to veterans. Here’s an update from a new volunteer who hit the ground running in summer of 2024.

“August was an amazing month. The coffee station of course is going strong. Our Lodge also participated in two VA support events. First was the Northern Colorado VA Veterans Appreciation Day. Six volunteers including myself set up a table to inform veterans as to what the Elks do,” shares Carol Jones, Voluntary Service Representative at Fort Collins VA Clinic.

“We also gave out two pairs of leather wheelchair gloves, some leather craft kits, and over 100 challenge coins. We heard stories for hours from WW2 veterans to the War on Terror veterans.

The following Friday, we set up the booth again for the Veterans Plaza Golf Tourney. So many people had no idea what the Elks do, both VA staff and Veterans. We made a lot of connections and are finding more ways to get involved.”

Thanks to our new and longstanding volunteers, veterans know that the Elks will always show up for them.

Send this postcard to an outstanding volunteer.

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So long as there are veterans,

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

will never forget them.



The Elks National Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further, and promises service to our nation’s veterans and military members, with a special focus on service to those in need.

Our nation’s veterans have completed their service to our country. Now, it’s the Elks turn to serve.

This sentiment motivates Elks to be there for veterans, with whatever they may need.

Desert Hot Springs, Calif., Lodge No. 2639 ensured that veterans in their community felt connected, appreciated and supported through their Freedom Grant project. The Lodge partnered with community organizations to host a resource fair to provide local veterans in need with hygiene kits, haircuts, lunch, and an evening dinner filled with games and raffle prizes. Elks worked alongside organizations like Veterans Home-Based Programs and the Veterans Medical Center to pull off the event.

“These events remind us that honoring veterans should happen every day, not just on Veterans Day,” states Project Manager Maria Jimenez. “Their sacrifices and courage deserve our gratitude, respect, and unwavering support.”

Send this card to a veteran to share your gratitude for their sacrifice and service.

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PARTNERSHIPS

To do more for veterans, we partner with a few key organizations across the country.



The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the world's largest annual wheelchair sports and rehabilitation event solely for military veterans.



The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic provides nearly 400 profoundly disabled veterans with training and rehabilitation every year.



The National Veterans Golden Age Games encourages sports, fitness, and wellness programs for veterans ages 55 and beyond.



The National Creative Arts Festival promotes the use of creative arts to help veterans with their rehabilitation goals.



As members of the VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee, we support the James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to outstanding high school students who volunteer at VA facilities.



Bugles Across America rallies thousands of volunteers in all 50 states to play live Taps at veterans' funerals and memorial services each year.



The Playing Cards for Veterans program provides thousands of free playing cards to veterans in facilities across the country.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Quinley also received the 2025 Missouri State Fair Flag Retreat Ceremony award.

We're proud to announce that the 2025 National Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year is Darrell Quinley! In a stroke of serendipity, he received his award at the 2025 Elks National Convention, which took place in his hometown of Kansas City.

As the Missouri State Veterans Chair for the Elks organization, Darrell Quinley is tasked with guiding volunteers in his state and across the country in service to veterans in their communities. It's just one of the many titles he's held across Elksdom, including PER, Missouri Elk of the year, Missouri Veteran Volunteer of the Year, Lodge trustee, and more. Through it all, he's thoughtful, calm, and collected.

Quinley provides 16 Voluntary Service Representatives in 14 facilities with funding, guidance, and support to help them meet the needs of veterans wherever they are.

He himself is the lead volunteer at three of these facilities in the Kansas City area, where he visits veterans at VA Medical Centers, Veterans Housing Centers, and State Veterans Homes multiple times each week.

He leads by example. He stocks the food pantry at a veterans housing facility with fresh food and canned goods, he hosts summer barbecues for Veterans Home residents, he donates

winter clothes and plans a Christmas dinner for veterans unable to be with their families. He organizes art classes and gives holiday gifts to families staying at the Fisher House while their loved ones seek care at the VA. He provides gifts and supplies for new veteran mothers seeking care at the VA.

When Social Workers in the Kansas City area have a newly housed veteran in need of supplies, they call Darrell, who shows up with a Welcome Home Kit with dishes, pots, pans, bedding, and even a coffeemaker.

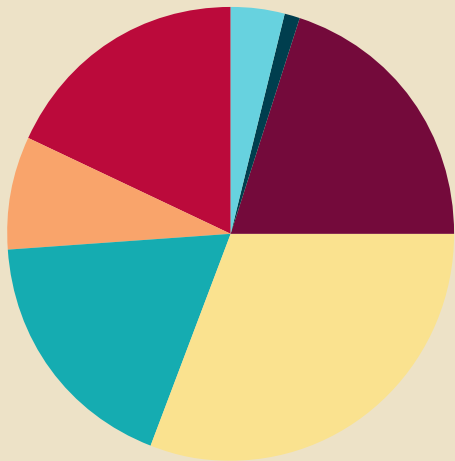
In addition to his work within the Elks, Darrell works with the Veterans Assistance League and is on the Board of Directors for the Missouri State Veterans Home.

His commitment does not go unnoticed by those around him. "During my time as an Elk, some of my brightest moments have been my interactions with PER Darrell Quinley, a US Marine. His devotion to helping veterans has been inspiring and admirable and he works tirelessly to assist veterans at all levels of Elksdom," shares Otto Sayles, fellow member of Grandview-Hickman Mills, MO Lodge No. 2088.

So much of Darrell's time is given in service to others, and we're thrilled to be able to honor him for all of his selfless work.

FINANCIALS

Financial highlights for 2024-25 were summarized from the Financial Statements of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, with the Independent Auditor’s Report prepared by CJBS Accounting. The audit covered the period beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025. Complete financial statements, including all notes, may be obtained by contacting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.



REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Appropriation from The Elks National Foundation, Inc.	\$5,625,253
Other contributions	\$140,051
Total revenue and support	\$5,765,304

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Veterans Leather Program	4%
Sponsorships & Other Support	1%
Freedom Grants	20%
Welcome Home Kits	31%
Emergency Assistance Fund	18%
Focus Grants	8%
Voluntary Service	18%

Jacki L. Brady

Toledo-Sylvania, Ohio, Lodge No. 53
Deputy Representative, Ohio Veterans Home Sandusky

Kenneth Bray

Newport, Kentucky, Lodge No. 273
Deputy Representative, Fort Thomas VAMC

Martin G. Caldwell

Mena, Arkansas, Lodge No. 781
Representative and Deputy Representative, Mena VA Clinic

William M. Dickinson

Reno, Nevada, Lodge No. 597
Deputy Representative, Reno VAMC

Clifford R. Fejfar

Lakewood, Colorado, Lodge No. 1777
Deputy Representative, Lakewood Veterans Court

Richard A. Gibbs

Shreveport, Louisiana, Lodge No. 122
Deputy Representative, Shreveport VAMC

Robert Giglio

New Hyde Park-North Shore, New York, Lodge No. 2107
Deputy Representative, St. Albans VAMC

Thomas Hagberg

Escanaba, Michigan, Lodge No. 354
Representative, Iron Mountain VAMC

Kathi A. Johns

Palmer, Alaska, Lodge No. 1842
Representative, Wasilla VA Clinic

Grant D. Lindholm

Palo Alto, California, Lodge No.1471
Deputy Representative, Palo Alto VAMC

Troy I. Magnuson

Superior, Wisconsin, Lodge No. 403
Representative, Superior VA Clinic

Norman L. Newkirk

Islip, New York, Lodge No. 2533
Deputy Representative, Northport VAMC

Dale E. Nielson

Grand Island, Nebraska, Lodge No. 604
Representative and Deputy Representative, Grand Island VAMC

“

Please understand that I am grateful and fully appreciate what you have done and what you are doing from the bottom of my heart. I don't have the proper words to express my gratitude. If I could do anything to help further your cause, or help convey any messages, please let me know. You, strangers, have helped me and thought of me when no one else did!”

- An Army veteran in Chicago writes to thank the Elks for emergency assistance, which prevented an eviction when a promised security deposit payment from another organization fell through.



JOIN US IN SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS!



Visit elks.org to find an Elks Lodge near you.
Learn more about our programs at www.elks.org/vets

VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL OUR WORK.



@elksvets



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

CONTACT US ANYTIME!



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Serving Our Nation's Veterans