



Elks National Foundation 2012-13 Impact Grant Application

Your Application

1. Contact Information

Lodge Name:	Hopkins, MN	Lodge Number:	2221
Primary Contact:		Project Manager:	
Name:	jody olson	Name:	Dedria Noll
Address:	po box 106 hopkins, MN 55343	Address:	2808 idaho ave s st louis park, MN 55426
Phone Number:	(952) 933-2221	Phone Number:	(952) 250-7864
Email:	jody.olson@genmills.com	Email:	dedrianoll@yahoo.com
Member #:	2915	Member #:	4253

Partnership Organization(s) Contact Information:

Teens Alone- Lydia Kihm Hope Street- Jim Scott TreeHouse-Rebecca Hopkins High School St Louis Park High School Minnetonka High School Mound-Wesstonka High School Orono High School Eden Prairie High School Wayzata High School

Please list the date of the meeting when this grant was discussed.

Meeting Date: **8/21/2012**

Tell us about your community.

Is your Lodge located in an urban, suburban or rural community? Please check the appropriate box.

Urban Suburban Rural (less than 25,000) Rural (less than 5,000)

2. Project Information

Project Title: **Teaming up for Teens** **Application Status:** Not specified

Identify the community problem your project will address. (This is the case for why your Lodge needs Impact Grant funds.)

Our "Homeless Youth"(1). Hopkins Elks Lodge #2221 is seated in the middle of the West Suburban Hennepin County Community. We have a growing group of youth who are homeless, at-risk, and precariously housed who continue to attend schools, are employed, couch-hop, and in many other ways struggle to remain in our community. An estimated 65-150 youth are homeless in any given year within the seven school districts of the West Metro Community, with the risk of more than 250 estimated to be at risk of homelessness.

Many of these teens hide their homeless situation. There are multiple reasons they are no longer able to live at home. Drug use, divorce and the introduction of a step-parent, abuse, neglect, or even being put out of the home due to sexual orientation, mental issues, or learning disabilities. These kids are eating, showering, and sleeping at school, friends homes, other families' homes, or even at strangers' homes. They also spend nights outside, seeking shelter wherever they can. They cling to their studies and hopes for a future while their security and home life crumble. We want to reach out to these kids before they are drawn into higher-risk areas or situations.

"Homeless Youth" means a person 21 years of age or younger who is unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care, or who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

State of MN Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, MN. Statutes, 256K.45

How will the Elks specifically address this need? If the Lodge has a partner in this project, we want to know exactly what the Elks will do, and not what the partner organization will do. (This is your project description.)

We would like to expand our ongoing efforts to assist these specific individuals in the following way:

To collect needed items, assemble and distribute approximately 100 care packages per month. Instead of delivering them to homeless shelters of which there are very few geared to teens, we want to get these into the hands of School counselors, churches, and area agencies geared to teens and to teens themselves at our Lodge for a monthly teen night. These teen nights will include special drives during heightened need times(winter clothing, holidays, etc.) Below is a description of both parts of this project.

Examples of items in the care packages:
Shampoo/conditioner Body Soap Deoderant Toothbrush/toothpaste Combs/brushes Socks Underwear Hats Gloves Lotion Sun Screen Bug Spray Laundry detergent Feminine products Note pads Pens/pencils Hair ties Gift Cards

Literature on all area programs that are available to them.

Our teen night would include a hot meal, and a bagged snack to go, entertainment such as movies, Wii games, etc. A featured speaker/representative from community partners geared for these teens. Occasionally these teen nights will feature special themes providing winter outerwear, school supplies, holiday help, or even haircuts.

What steps have you taken to gain widespread Lodge support for this project?

For the past three years we have held a teen drive for winter break. These drives have included care packages, coat drives, and holiday gifts. Every time our members have exceeded our expectations and continually increase participation. We have approximately 20% of our members waiting to participate, especially in regards to teen night. Enthusiasm is very high for this project.

How did your Lodge determine the need for this project?

Many articles have been published locally addressing this growing group of at risk teens. However, one of our members (Dedria Noll) had been attempting to provide care packages with family and friends out of her home for over five years. One of her friends (Pat Wright) introduced her to the the Elks, and she became a member soon after. Hopkins Lodge #2221 embraced that project and it has grown every year with the involvement of our members. Recently we have identified interested partners in the community, and truly see an opportunity with the help of this Grant to make this a true Elks Community Project.

Describe the aspects of the project that you believe are most important to the participants.

Our goal is to positively impact these youths by first meeting their most basic needs of food, hygiene and safety, along with specific contact information to housing, counseling, and health facilities. Most importantly to show them support and encouragement from their community, and letting them know they are cared about and not alone.

Given your Lodge's description of the project, please break down the project in terms of volunteer activities/duties/committees. How many Elks will be needed to complete each activity?

Dedria Noll and Patrick Wright have both expressed their commitment to this project. As a committee of two they will work together to oversee the totality of this project. Dedria will focus on organizing donations and care packages, Patrick will organize the Teen Nights.

In regards to Care Packages: Elk members will donate, collect, sort, and assemble care packages.

In regards to Teen Night: Lodge members will cook and serve meals Lodge members will organize and implement entertainment Lodge members will organize involvement of speakers

Lodge members will donate and hold fundraisers and drives for special events such as winter outerwear, school supplies, etc.

3. Proposed Goals & Objectives

To provide basic necessities and information of resources for help with family, shelter, and health to teens in our community who are dealing with homelessness and who are at risk.

We will work with local organizations such as Teens Alone, The Tree House, Hope Street, West Metro Teen Clinic, and local High Schools to provide care packages, seeking input to keep up on what are the most current needs for these Teens.

Continue to collect, assemble and distribute as many care packages as possible. Continue to hold drives to collect seasonal needed items.

Organize a monthly teen night to provide a hot meal, a safe environment, and activity along with providing information and support from the community.

Educate Elks and other community members about the needs of this specific group of youths.

Have informative and educational fliers posted at Lodges, libraries, schools, and churches. Will also distribute fliers to local businesses.

Include ongoing information and updates in our monthly publication of the Hopline.

Seek media attention and get information about the needs of the teens in our community and how they can help.

Provide a new avenue through the Elks into our community to support the teens and their unique needs at such a crucial time in their lives.

Use our Lodge, with the established kitchen, dining and host area, to serve up to 100 meals.

Continue to collect donations and provide care packages to approximately 100 teens per month.

Work closely with schools, community agencies, and commercial businesses to solidify a commitment to the teens of our community.

4. Plan for Success

At the end of the year, how will you know the project has helped the problem identified in section 2?

We really believe that any success we can make with these teens at this time in their lives will continue to breed success for them, our Lodge, and the entire community for years to come.

We will track the number of requests for care packages and the number of meals provided throughout the year.

We will also seek, monitor and report all feedback from the organizations that work with these teens, and most importantly, with the teens themselves by using suggestion and response forms.

What data will you collect to show the project's success? (For example, we will monitor the graduation rate at the high school we are working at. Or, we will improve the reading scores of the children in our education program.)

We will provide a yearly report showing monthly numbers of both packages and meals served, which will show monthly increase/decrease and new/returning teens.

Report feedback from community partners, especially the schools, and teen response forms.

This is an opportunity to raise your Lodge's profile and inspire new members to join a Lodge that's making a difference in the community. How do you plan to promote this in the community as an Elks-identified project?

We will promote this project to members and non-members through media, partners in the community that are tapped into teens and their families. We will encourage families in our community who have children and grandchildren by showing them how they can use this opportunity to strengthen their relationship with their own children. This will demonstrate that the Elks are dedicated to build better communities with stronger children, young adults, and families.

5. Budget Information

Budget Category	ENF Funds	Matching Share		Total Project Cost
		Cash	In-Kind	
Staff Salaries & Support	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies:	\$10000	\$10000	\$6800	\$26800
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$10000	\$10000	\$6800	\$26800

Budget Narrative

We will produce 100 Care Packages per month to be distributed. Each bag contains approximately \$18.00 worth of bought/donated items. That cost would be \$21,600.00 per year.

Our Monthly Teen Night will cost us approximately \$350.00 per month in food/goods for a maximum of 100 teens totaling \$4200.00.

One to three drives per year to target special needs like winter outerwear, holiday help, and school supplies would be estimated at \$1000.00.