



The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

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25 Lodges List



25 Lodges in 25 Days

The 2014 Impact Grant recipients will be announced on October 30. For 25 business days leading up to the grand announcement, we'll feature one of our current Impact Grant recipient's accomplishments. Elks are hard at work in communities across the country, donating thousands of hours to help those in need. Check back daily to learn how Elks are making a difference with Impact Grants. Together, donors, members and volunteers are working to build stronger, safer and better communities.

Day 25: St. George 'Dixie,' Utah, Lodge No. 1743

It's all in the name—St. George 'Dixie', Utah, Lodge No. 1743 is a success. The Elks' Pantry Partners for Success project reaches out to students at Millcreek High School, a local alternative school, and has made a world of difference for many of the students. Young parents are able to stay in school and get their diplomas, independent students have help setting up their homes, students in need don't have to worry about where their next meal will come from. The project has also helped to raise the graduation rate at the school, and students are taking pride in their work and their school. As for the Elks, their thousands of hours of volunteer time are not unnoticed. "The St. George Elks Lodge has been the leader in what has become a miracle," writes Millcreek



Principal Terry Ogborn. "Their commitment has been the springboard for many others to join the cause." As a matter of fact, the Elks have gathered so much support for this project that it is now funded entirely by the community. St. George Elks aren't the type to rest—they've already planned another project.

Stay tuned to the ENF webpage for the 2014 Impact Grant announcement on October 30 to learn more about St. George's new project, and the rest of the Lodges that will serve their communities with Impact Grants next year.

Day 24: Santa Barbara, Calif., Lodge No. 613

Veterans gather once a month at **Santa Barbara, Calif., Lodge No. 613** to enjoy food, fellowship and a little education. The Elks offer a free lunch to veterans in need, and each event features a speaker who presents on topics such as PTSD treatment, healthy living, and benefits and resources available to veterans. The Lodge also distributes needed supplies, and lets veterans know about other resources available—from free dental clinics to counseling programs to rehabilitation centers. The popular project offers more than that though—it gives veterans a safe space to talk about their problems. "These lunches make my life a whole lot better," one frequent visitor writes. "Being able to visit with others who have gone through the same is helpful. Thank you for the support."



Day 23: Ocala, Fla., Lodge No. 286

Veterans in need can count on the Elks at **Ocala, Fla., Lodge No. 286** for a home-cooked meal, a friendly face and year-round support. Each week, the Lodge prepares and delivers hot meals to 15 veterans with disabilities in the community. For many of these veterans, it's the only visit they receive all week. Elks do their best to be a support network for the veterans, visiting with them and identifying their needs. They prepare food baskets several times a year, and invite the vets to the



Lodge to meet with members and socialize. At these dinners, the Lodge also brings in educational speakers, and ensures the veterans are aware of the benefits and resources available to them. "Because of the ENF Grants, we will have an increase in membership next year," says Mike Mongelluzzo. "The public knows now that we do good things for the community, and that's important."

Day 22: Murrells Inlet, S.C., Lodge No. 2797

Thanks to **Murrells Inlet, Lodge No. 2797**, some people are actually happy to go to the dentist! Elks partnered with local dentists to start a new, free dental care clinic for community members in need. Each Thursday night, the clinic opens for business and Elks get things running by greeting patients, scheduling their appointments and helping them fill out the dreaded paperwork. They also handle the administration and publicity, and build community support. Since the clinic opened earlier this year, the clinic has already clocked 125 visits from community members, and expect to double that number before the year is up. The clinic, which has a full schedule each Thursday night, has made a real difference in the lives of those who visit. "That was a great dentist," a grateful patient writes in her comments. "Thanks for taking my teeth out!"



Day 21: Corvallis, Ore., Lodge No. 1413



Once a month, Elks at **Corvallis, Ore., Lodge No. 1413** open their doors for Sunday brunch, providing food, fellowship and support for local citizens in need. Residents are welcome to a warm meal, and any other supplies they may need—from socks and hygiene supplies to warm, dry clothes for the cold and wet Oregon weather. More than 100 Elks volunteer with the project, and they make a point to talk with every community members who comes by. These conversations have helped them to expand their outreach. When someone needed new glasses, they invited the Lions club to do vision screening. When someone else needed to look sharp for a job interview, the Elks brought in beauty school students to offer free haircuts. When another person needed new shoes, the Elks worked with Kmart to provide shoe vouchers for everyone. "Our impact in the community is strong," says Sharon deMontigny, one of the project's managers. "Members are happy and eager to pitch in, and we're always looking for ways to improve the project."

Day 20: Columbia, Mo, Lodge No. 594

Youth in need have a friend indeed in the Elks at **Columbia, Mo., Lodge No. 594**. Through the Backpack Buddy Program, the Lodge provides weekend backpacks full of nutritious food to 88 children at local schools. Each week, Elks split the duties between shopping, sorting, packing and delivering the packs to schools so children and their families have enough to get through the weekend. Strong support from the Lodge and community has helped the program to expand, and the Elks have plans to bring the program to rural schools in the area and spread awareness about good nutrition. The Lodge doesn't let up when school is out though—Elks send children home with food over each school break. Spring, summer, winter and fall, these children can count on the Elks year-round.



Day 19: Sandpoint, Idaho, Lodge No. 1376



Fore! Heads up and pay attention to the Junior Golf Program run by **Sandpoint, Idaho, Lodge No. 1376**. Now in its second year, the program continues to grow in popularity and in size. Elks taught 90 youth in need the fundamentals of golf over the six-week summer program. It wasn't all tees and greens though—youth also learned about drug awareness and Elks mentor taught the young golfers about honesty, sportsmanship and perseverance. The popular program has also helped the Lodge gain local attention. "Our Lodge is gaining members, and I think a lot of that has to do with our ENF grant projects," says Project Manager Lee Hoge. "We now get a lot of people commenting about what the Elks are doing to help the community." Sounds like this program is on par with success.

Day 18: Wadena, Minn., Lodge No. 2386

Elks at **Wadena, Minn., Lodge No. 2386** partnered with the school district to construct an educational greenhouse on school grounds. For the Elks, the greenhouse is a project that has finally come to fruition after a summer of setbacks and hard work. After helping to plan and purchase the materials, the Elks took charge of construction and lined up volunteers for the estimated five day build. The greenhouse proved more difficult than expected, but Elks rallied their troops, rose to the occasion and spent the next 45 days working toward their goal. The finished product

will raise awareness of healthy eating, and teach students how to grow their own garden. It will allow teachers to plan hands-on lessons in math, science, business and more. "We really appreciate the great effort by the Elks," says Superintendent Lee Westrum. "The greenhouse will be a great addition to the curriculum at the middle and high schools."



Day 17: Hillsboro, Ore., Lodge No. 1862



Elks at **Hillsboro, Ore., Lodge No. 1862** are teaming up with the local Family Resource Center to support children and families in need. The Elks are there to help with nearly everything in this far-ranging project. In addition to holding food, clothing and supply drives, the Lodge also purchases food for the pantry and built a garden on site to increase the fresh produce available to families. The Lodge gathered so much support for the project that they were able to buy school supplies for children this fall. Volunteers are always at the center sorting through donations and delivering food and supplies to families who are unable to drive to center. The partnership is such a success that the Lodge uses its Beacon Grant to partner with the center on a new, backpack buddy program for local students. Looks like the Elks are one of this center's best resources.

Day 16: St. Maries, Idaho, Lodge No. 1418

For middle school students in rural Idaho, there isn't much to do after school lets out. Now, thanks to **St. Maries, Idaho, Lodge No. 1418**, they have three new after-school activities to choose from. Elks partner with the local 4-H club to teach weekly cooking classes, coach a bowling team, and help run a robotics club. For a small program at a small school, it's had a big impact on local students. Parents report an increase in self-esteem as the children learn new skills, and some have even made the honor roll for the first time. "The project fills a large need for students who need an outlet for social skill building in the community," says Project Manager Helen Kevo. "The ENF grant has certainly made an impact on our community." Keep an eye out for the next big chef, athlete or engineer. He or



she may just come from small-town Idaho.

Day 15: Fond du Lac, Wis., Lodge No. 57

Express yourself! The Elks at **Fond du Lac, Wis., Lodge No. 57** reach out to at-risk teens in the community and channel their energy towards art. Each week at a local university, Elks hold the Open Art Studio program for teens in the community. The sessions often feature lessons from local artists, and always include free art supplies, a warm welcome from the Elks. The program has also expanded to include weekly sessions at a local juvenile detention center and will soon expand to three alternative teen living centers. “It means so much more than art to me,” one participant says about the program. “We can come here and do artwork, be around friends and not have to worry about anything. Everyone that I’ve brought loves it, and always comes back.”

Day 14: Sussex, N.J., Lodge No. 2288

For kids with disabilities, it can be hard to find a place to be comfortable and have fun. For their parents, it can be hard to find a place to relax and know their children are safe. Now children with disabilities and their families can enjoy time together, thanks to the Elks at **Sussex, N.J., Lodge No. 2288**. Elks hold monthly activities where children learn social skills and enjoy activities catered to them, and parents enjoy the ‘Elks coffeehouse’ and build relationships with families in similar situations. Monthly activities range from sports days and video game tournaments to movie nights and crafting parties. Word is spreading, and nearly 70 people attend each activity. One parent writes “I enjoyed the encouragement that Nicholas gets when he tries something new, and we both enjoy the songs by Joe Rocko, who makes it fun. This is a great moment for us; we both have fun and look forward to coming here. Thanks for all you do to put this together and make it fun, especially for my son.”



Day 13: Bridgeport, Conn., Lodge No. 36

For the formerly homeless veterans residing at Home for the Brave transitional shelter, visits from members of **Bridgeport, Conn., Lodge No. 36** are a time to relax and be with friends. Once a month, Elks visit the shelter bearing gifts of coffee, hygiene products, supplies and everything needed for a great barbecue. The barbecues are a hit with the more than 50 residents, and former residents often return to visit for the events. Elks always overcook, leaving enough food for residents to enjoy for a few more days. The rest of the month,



Elks prepare care packages for the residents, gather support and supplies from the community, and plan for special events like the popular Super Bowl party. The project has energized the Lodge, and members often bring friends and children to help out. "To say the Lodge is enthusiastic about the project is an understatement," says Project Manager Matthew Frankel. "The Lodge believes this to be the most noteworthy program we are involved in."

Day 12: Bristol County, R.I., Lodge No. 1860

Hunger is a real problem for many Rhode Island residents, and **Bristol County, R.I., Lodge No. 1860** is doing its best to tackle it. Elks work with local food pantries, churches and soup kitchens to deliver emergency food supplies, prepared food baskets, educational resources and more. Through donations, fundraisers, food drives and partnerships, the Lodge has been able to distribute more than \$90,000 in food this year so far. Additionally, the Lodge now runs "Health Cooking with Pantry Foods" classes at local food pantries. The classes are so popular that pantries and community groups are looking to duplicate the program in other parts of the state. Thanks to the Elks, many community members in need can now lead stronger, healthier lives.



Day 11: Hillsboro, Ohio, Lodge No. 361



For many students with disabilities, finding a job after high school can be tough. Thanks to the Elks at **Hillsboro, Ohio, Lodge No. 361**, these recent high school graduates now receive extra training, and a better chance at finding employment. Through the Impact a Life program, Elks teach the basics of finding and keeping a job—from practicing job interviews, to keeping a uniform clean to showing up on time. To help run the program, Elks have partnered with local restaurant and landscaping business owners. Altogether, 27 people participated in the program this year, and it's already a success. Business owners were so impressed with the students that they've already offered several of them employment. Now that's a program that works.

Day 10: Fayetteville, Tenn., Lodge No. 1792

At Fayetteville, Tenn., Lodge No. 1792, reaching out to at-risk youth is not only an Impact Grant project, it's

also great fun. Elks partner with the HELP program to run a mentoring program for juvenile offenders looking to change their ways. The program kicks off each year with a team-building camp, run by the HELP program. After the camp, the Elks take charge and run the year-long mentoring program to help youth stay on track. Elks and teens go canoeing together, attend sports games, plan field trips and organize team-building days. The program has already helped the teens improve their success in school, and all are now on track to graduate from high school on schedule.



Day 9: Osage Community, Mo., Lodge No. 2705



When schoolchildren in central Missouri are in need, it's School First Responders to the rescue! Otherwise known as the Elks of **Osage Community, Mo., Lodge No. 2705**, these School First Responders are there to help local students get the supplies they need to do well in school. From clothes, shoes and winter jackets, to notebooks, pencils and hygiene supplies, students know they can count on the Elks. Project volunteers work closely with teachers and school staff to respond quickly to students' needs, and help create a healthier, more stable learning environment. "Thank you very much!" write the first grade teachers at a local elementary school. "We really appreciate your kindness, generosity and support."

Day 8: Tahoe/Douglas, Nev., Lodge No. 2670

For women and children fleeing violence, arriving at a shelter is just the first step in rebuilding their lives. Luckily, residents at the Live Violence Free Shelter know they can count on the Elks to help. **Tahoe/Douglas, Nev., Lodge No. 2670** runs a much-appreciated support program at the shelter, and residents and staff are grateful for the Elks' presence. Elks pack lunches twice a month (just like mom used to do), and keep the emergency food pantry well-stocked with supplies. Volunteers also provide nutritional brochures and emergency food vouchers, and build support around the community. Elks spread a little sunshine by providing toys and games for children during holidays. Their presence is appreciated by the residents and the staff. LVF Executive Director Frank Blakeney writes to the Lodge, "Thank you so much for your ongoing support. Live Violence Free considers you one of our strongest allies."



Day 7: Hilo, Hawaii, Lodge No. 759

Many Hawaiians working to stick to a healthy diet can now say aloha to fresh, homegrown fruits and vegetables, thanks to **Hilo, Hawaii, Lodge No. 759**.



Elks partner with local health organization Hui Malama Ola Na 'Owi to help community members with diabetes lead healthy lifestyles. Elks pitch in to help these community members grow their own backyard gardens. Volunteers get together each Saturday to build and deliver garden beds, soil, fertilizer and seedlings to program participants. Elks have constructed and delivered 32 gardens already this year for the popular program. Their efforts are already paying off—Hui Malama Ola Na 'Owi reports that access to abundant and affordable produce has helped 100 percent of the participants to improve their eating habits since the program began.

Day 6: Cahaba Valley, Ala., Lodge No. 1738

Undergoing medical treatment can be difficult and stressful, for patients and their families. Luckily, patients at seven dialysis treatment centers in Alabama can count on the Elks for extra support. Already this year, Cahaba Valley, Ala., Lodge No. 1738 has provided hundreds of patients with care kits full of helpful supplies like socks, healthy snacks, blankets and more. Elks also reach out to the patients' caregivers with support and friendship to ease their stress. The project is hit with patients and their families, who always look forward to the Elks' frequent visits to local treatment centers. "We believe that we are making a huge difference in the lives of the patients," says Project Manager Leon Johnston. "It is rewarding as an Elk to be involved in carrying out the basic driving principle of our Order."



Day 5: Bradenton, Fla., Lodge No. 1511



It's difficult enough to keep children interested in addition and subtraction, without having to worry about whether those children have enough food to eat when they're not at school. Thanks to the Elks at **Bradenton, Fla., Lodge No. 1511**, many teachers no longer have to worry about kids' basic needs. Through the Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies project, Elks stuff, pack and deliver weekend backpacks full of food for as many as 450 children each week. Now in its third year, the EFELT project continues to grow thanks to much outside support. It can also be attributed to the strong support from the Lodge itself. Already this year, 91 Elks have volunteered more than one thousand hours. Jeff Mitchell, one of the project's managers, states, "Thanks to this grant, volunteerism is alive and well in our Lodge." Now it's time to get back to that math

Day 4: Sumter, S.C., Lodge No. 855

Sumter, S.C., Lodge No. 855 knows there's no place like home. Elks partnered with a local church to repair, renovate and adapt an old house to turn it into a space for homeless women and children—something the local homeless shelter lacked. Lodge members did much of the work themselves, from renovating and painting to collecting supplies and decorating. Elks worked quickly, and the construction phase is now complete. "Great news!" writes Project Manager Kevin Floyd. "The home is operational and four women and six children, who would otherwise be homeless, have a safe place to live. Thank you Elks National Foundation and a special thanks to all Elks throughout the United States whose support of the ENF made this possible." Elks continue to be involved by holding support events for the residents and delivering donations of food and supplies.



Day 3: Lockport, N.Y., Lodge No. 41

First, take an enthusiastic Lodge. Then, add more than a thousand Elks' volunteer hours. Add great partnerships, a generous dose of fun, and 120 children and adults with disabilities with a sense of adventure. Mix them together, and you've got Camp Happiness! Now in its sixth year of running the week-long camp, **Lockport, N.Y., Lodge No. 41** is very familiar with this recipe for success. Each summer, this popular camp offers activities like canoeing, hiking, rock climbing, crafts, music lessons and more. Over the past few years, Elks and their partners have gained many fans. One camper writes in his review, "I had fun at Camp Happiness! We made hats, played soccer and basketball. Camp Happiness is my favorite. I am excited to return to camp next year." To learn more, view the Camp Happiness video on the left!

Day 2: Princeton, Ill., Lodge No. 1461

At **Princeton, Ill., Lodge No. 1461**, the Elks' table is everyone's table. Each Thursday night, the Lodge serves a healthy meal to anyone in need in the community. The project, called Our Table, serves more than 100 people each week. The community has come out in full force to support the project. In addition to the many Elks who are committed to the project, members

of the local Rotary and Lions Club come to lend a hand, along with local veterans' groups. One local family is very grateful for the weekly meal. A thank you note left at the Lodge reads, "Thank you for providing a meal every Thursday evening. My family and I truly appreciate it more than words can say."



Day 1: Joplin, Mo., Lodge No. 501



After the devastating tornado in 2011, Elks at **Joplin, Mo., Lodge No. 501** knew there would be a lot of rebuilding to do. So they set to work. The Lodge began a partnership with a local center for people with disabilities and the dream to build an accessible garden came to life. Elks transformed two empty lots into a thriving garden, planting 22 raised garden beds full of vegetables, building a toolshed, planting flowers, and ensuring that the garden was accessible to all. Now that the garden is built, Elks maintain the area, help teach wellness programs, and have plans to start a buddy gardening program. Thanks to the Elks, the Joplin Community Gardens just keep growing.

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