



Elks National Foundation News Release

March 6, 2007

For immediate release

ENF Announces Grants of up to \$10,000 Available for Lodges

Chicago, Ill. —Imagine if every Elks Lodge could fully fund a literacy program, a Meals-on-Wheel initiative or another project vital to the community's well-being. America's communities would be well-read, well-fed and amazed with Elkdom's generosity. Now, with the launch of the Elks National Foundation's Impact Grants, every Lodge *will* have this chance! The ENF Board of Trustees recently approved funding for Impact Grants, a pilot component of the Community Investments Program, to join the existing Gratitude Grants, Promise Grants and Lodge Assistance Grants.

"We understand that Elks know the needs of their communities better than we do," says ENF Director Jim O'Kelley. "Impact Grants make more resources available so Elks can address those needs as they see fit."

Unlike Gratitude Grants and Promise Grants, which are designed to support small-scale charitable giving by Lodges, the Impact Grants can make a profound impact on Elks communities. They are larger, competitive grants of up to \$10,000. Lodges will be able to conceptualize, develop and implement a new program, or strengthen an existing one.

To better understand the scope of Impact Grants, consider that with a Gratitude Grant, a Lodge could make a donation to a food pantry, but with an Impact Grant, the Lodge could open a soup kitchen to feed homeless veterans. With a Gratitude Grant, a Lodge could buy books for a middle school's History Club. With an Impact Grant, the Lodge could take the History Club on a trip to Gettysburg.

"We want Lodges to use Impact Grants to do big things in Elks communities, the kinds of things that will not only improve the quality of life but also increase the standing of the Elks," says O'Kelley. "Projects that will gain the notice of other community members, and hopefully convince them that they should be a part of an organization that is doing such great work locally."

The grant pool for the pilot year is \$200,000, so there is a limited number of Impact Grants available. It's important to start thinking now about how your Lodge can benefit from this opportunity. For application and eligibility

requirements, please visit the CIP website at www.elks.org/enf/community, or contact the Programs Department at ENFPrograms@elks.org or 773/755-4954.

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Contact: Elks National Foundation
Anne Reardon, Development Assistant
2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-2256, 773.755.4864, anner@elks.org
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Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities