

Major Projects



Ontario District Major Projects Chairman and Enable Board Member Ricky Ryder was recently recognized at the annual conference of the Cerebral Palsy Association of the New York State with the AI Felmet achievement Award. This award is given to an individual with cerebral palsy who has demonstrated leadership and independence.

Ricky is a successful business person who has been a strong supporter of Enable and a valuable member of its Board of Directors for more than a decade. He is an active volunteer in the community and is highly respected by his professional colleagues, his fellow Elks and other members of the Enable Board of Directors. He is active at Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 and served as Exalted Ruler in 2005. He has been instrumental in the success of the Lodge's annual Music Fest, which this year alone raised over \$10,000 for NYS Major Projects, CP.

Since 1948, Enable's mission has been to enhance the quality of life for people with developmental or physical disabilities through an array of services. Each year they provide assessment, training, therapy and support for over 1,600 children and adults with disabilities and their families. Enable empowers people with disabilities to achieve their goals at home, school, work and play. Pictured above Ricky Ryder receiving his award from NYS Cerebral Palsy association Past Chairman Natalie Rogers and Bob DiFrancesco

Watertown Lodge #496 distributed 1303 dictionaries to 3rd grade students in 22 area schools. Each dictionary was accompanied with drug awareness bookmarkers and coloring books. The Lodge has been participating in the Dictionary project since the New York State Elks Association became involved in the 2004-2005 lodge year. To date, the Watertown Lodge has distributed 8,472 dictionaries. PSVP John Gaffney, PEOY Sandy Faylo and PER Don Reid are pictured at right presenting dictionaries to students at Ohio Street School.

For many years there has been a special bond between third graders at the Ticonderoga Elementary School and the members of the Ticonderoga Elks Lodge. Each year the third graders have collected non-perishable food to support the Elks Christmas charities project. Each year the number of bags of food collected has increased until the last two years when over 90 bags of much needed food was donated. This food will be distributed by the Elks on Christmas Eve morning. The Elks in turn have shared much with the students. In addition to a delicious Christmas luncheon at the Elks Lodge each year, the Elks have donated wonderful dictionaries to each student in third grade. These books are a wealth of useful information in addition to being a comprehensive dictionary. Students can study maps of the continents, find information about all 50 states, read biographies of our 44 presidents, learn facts about the solar system, read copies of the Declaration of Independence and the US constitution and much more. Third graders and the Elks have the same motto – We're Caring and Sharing.



Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 has participated in the Dictionary Project from before the time it was adopted by the Grand Lodge. Ticonderoga Lodge has made a commitment that every third grade child will have a dictionary. In keeping with this pledge, Ticonderoga Elks Lodge #1494 presented dictionaries to the Putnam Central School third grade class. Lodge members also presented dictionaries to third graders at six other area schools. Pictured above, Richard A. Nadeau, Dictionary Chairperson and Mary Lloyd Burroughs, Essay Chairperson present Dictionaries to Putnam Central Third Grade Students.

