



PSP Jamie Peace, Chairman of the Board of the New York Elks Major Projects, Inc.

MESSAGE

We've all heard the saying, whether in an old movie or on TV, when there is a problem call in the Marines. Well, the Home Service Directors are our Marines! They handle everything to help those individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to cope with daily life. It's hard to imagine what life for these families would be like without the hard work and dedication of the Home Service Directors. We have come a long way since the beginning of the partnership in 1964 between our New York State Elks Association and Cerebral Palsy of New York. This was also the beginning of our Major Project. The Home Service Program started with two persons in 1966, with the concept of mobile services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Today there are 28 Home Service Directors serving the 22 Affiliates of C.P. of NY. The main objective of the Home Service Directors is to provide direct service in their local communities to the children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. This has resulted in a distinct improvement in the quality of life for these individuals. The role of the Home Service Director has expanded considerably since its early beginnings. The main role of the Home Service Director today is to provide individualized service to every one of their clients. To do so, the Home Service Directors must travel thousands of miles throughout our state to bring the client and services together. As part of this process the Home Service Director provides referrals for evaluation, counseling, and program development. Since the aim and goal is to aid those with developmental disabilities to pursue and achieve a productive life, services have to be found and established to meet the individual's needs. The Home Service Directors must be skilled advocates; they often guide their clients through all of the legal mandates and public entitlement requirements. In most cases it is their presence as they accompany families to government agencies in pursuit of desperately needed services that often make the difference between obtaining these services and being turned down. These are just some of the many works that the Home Service Directors do on a daily basis. The hundreds of thousands of people with developmental disabilities and their families who have been helped by the Home Service Program since its beginning thank all of **YOU** for your generous support over these many years.

I believe that the following quote by St. Francis perfectly describes the Home Service Program and all of the hard work and dedication of our New York State Elks Association:

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible!"

I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you again for all that you, the members, do for our Major Projects.

MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT

The past few months have been interesting to say the least. Between the Ambassadors and the Chair we have had five surgeries, some planned and some not.



Caitlin had major surgery on both legs to correct defects caused by Cerebral Palsy. This surgery was planned after she reached a certain growth plate. Everything went well and after several months in

braces she has started to walk more with crutches and using her wheelchair less. Physical Therapy has been a constant part of her life and will continue to be for a long time. Caitlin is able to take a few steps without the aid of any device and she is excited about that.

Caitlin leg coordination has improved so much she is learning to drive. This is a huge step forward for her.



Joseph had major surgery on both hips to correct problems that he had since birth. After several months in a partial body cast he is up and about doing many things he was doing before surgery plus some new things. Like Caitlin, Physical Therapy and Joseph are constant companions but he continues to improve each day.

Both Ambassadors have been able to travel to events when available and they really enjoy meeting all the great Elks of New York State. They appreciate your concern for their recovery and look forward to meeting more of you in the next few months.

The Chair surgeries went well. One was planned and the other two were not planned.

Like the Ambassadors I am a frequent visitor to a Physical Therapist almost on a daily basis.

Many thanks for all the cards and phone calls. They were appreciated.

My theme has been the Home Service Directors and their work for people with disabilities. Both workshops have focused on this work and how valuable it is to their clients.

Elsewhere in the paper is an article by Jamie Peace, Chair, and NYS Elks Major Project Board concerning the work done by the Home Service Directors. These are amazing people and we, as Elks, are fortunate to be able to work along side them. They are the most amazing group of professionals and I consider it an honor to work with them and call them friends.

Now that we are back on our feet and able to travel, we are planning a series of meetings around the State after January 1, 2012 that will focus on the Home Service Directors and the facilities they work out of. Hopefully, the meetings will take place in one of the Affiliates so Elks can see first hand what is available to people with disabilities and how the programs work.

Your District Chairs will be getting information shortly announcing this function of our program and the location of first couple of meetings.

If you would like one of our Ambassadors to come to a function in your area, please contact the State Chairman through your District Chair. **DO NOT CONTACT AN AMBASSADOR DIRECTLY.**

In closing, I want to thank the Elks of New York State for all that you do to assist those with disabilities so their life can be improved as much as possible. **YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Lou Withiam, Chairman



Watervliet Lodge #1500 held their annual Turkey shoot with their Major Projects Ambassador for the State Capital District Nicholas Fox [age 3] & his parents Shannon & Martin Fox. In photo is L-R;; [PDDGER] Tony Thanopoulos, Martin & Shannon Fox, Nicholas Fox, [PSVP] Tim Gardner, [ER]

Dennis Whittermore [SCD Major Project Chairman from Rotterdam #2157] & [ER] Edgar Quackenbush Watervliet #1500. In Dec. 1994-95 Tim Gardner [then ER] & his family started the Turkey shoot, which Tim is Major Projects Chairman for Watervliet #1500.. Tim's wife Patty works for Upstate Rehabilitation Products in Guilderland & his daughter Julie works for St. Margarets Center for Children which both are part of the center for Disability Service. Pictured above L-R [PSVP] Tim Gardner son Kevin & Patty Gardner..Missing is daughter Julie.

Albany Lodge #49 held its first annual book sale. Over 45 boxes of books were donated by members & friends. ER Herb Carle, who chaired the event and about 5 members and 4 non-members worked setting up for the sale and on both days of the actual sale. Hard cover books sold for \$1 and paperbacks for 50cents, making for a profit of \$531 which was donated to Major Projects.

Staten Island Lodge #841 held it's 108th Charity Ball with proceeds to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Children's Program. Sandra Lotz, Leading Knight chaired the event making the decision that in lieu of souvenirs a donation would be made in the names of the 118 attending guests. Have a Heart Foundation, an Island based 501c3 dedicates itself to the needs of those who must undergo surgeries and procedures providing pre and post op needs from medications and therapy to emotional support for patients and their families. Having viewed a news clip about a young boy requiring a heart transplant and the assistance "Have a Heart Foundation" provided, a donation of \$500.00 was made in honor of our Exalted Ruler Richard Ryan who has had to overcome the challenges put before him, as he too deals with a heart malady similar that of the young boy who inspired this donation. The Elks as an organization, are dedicated to the needs of the community, and recognize Have a Heart Foundation for all they do.

Elks Care – Elks Share

New York State Elks Association

MAJOR PROJECT
Cerebral Palsy
Home Service Program

working hand-in-hand with

Cerebral Palsy Associations
of New York State

OUR GOAL IS \$8.00 PER MEMBER.
Your generosity makes a very positive difference in the lives of many.

\$ _____
AMOUNT

NAME

LODGE NAME AND NUMBER

Please send your donation to your Lodge.