



Our Favorite Things

Snowflakes that stay on your nose and eyelashes? Silver white winters that melt into spring? What are a few of your favorite things?

At the Elks National Foundation, our list of favorite things this Christmas season is longer than Santa's nice list. We've whittled it down to our top five.

- Lodges that use ENF Community Investments Program grants to celebrate the holidays with families in need, providing warm meals, gifts and friendship.
- Elks scholars who take a break from their studies to visit their local Lodges, share their college experiences, and volunteer with the Elks.
- Veterans who are not alone thanks to the Lodges that hold events for these heroes and their families.
- Young students who remain active and drug-free throughout winter break thanks to the lessons they learned through the Elks Hoop Shoot and Drug Awareness Program.
- Supporters like you who enable the ENF to fund programs that build stronger communities.

This December, take some time to think of your favorite things. We hope the fact that your Lodge is building a stronger community through Elks National Foundation programs will make the list.

The Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, honor veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit www.elks.org/enf.



Elks National Foundation, Inc.

News Release

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For immediate release

Elks Scholarships Make College Possible

Chicago, Ill.—A student surveys his lecture hall on the first day of class at his dream college, proud that, thanks to his Elks scholarship, he is part of the illustrious group of undergraduates surrounding him. This is the story of the 500 Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student scholars who entered college this fall. With the launch of the 2013 Most Valuable Student scholarship contest, this could be your story, too.

This year, the Elks National Foundation is investing in our nation's future by awarding \$3.6 million in college scholarships.

The Most Valuable Student scholarship will help 500 deserving students attend college. The ENF will award 18 top scholarships ranging from \$8,000 to \$60,000. The remaining 482 runners-up will receive \$4,000 scholarships.

"This scholarship changed what my college experience will be for the next four years," says 2012 top scholarship winner Joanne Dynak, who is attending Harvard this fall. "There are so many opportunities I can take advantage of because of this huge award."

The MVS scholarship is available to all high school seniors who are United States citizens. Applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks. Males and females compete separately, and are judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need. Completed applications must be turned in to the applicant's nearest Elks Lodge no later than December 7, 2012. The 500 national winners will be announced in late April, 2013.

Applications for the 2013 contest are available at Elks Lodges, local high schools, and on the Elks National Foundation's website. For complete Most Valuable Student scholarship contest details, and to learn more about how the Elks are investing in your community, visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars.

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Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

With nearly 850,000 members and 2,000 Lodges nationwide, Elks are providing charitable services that help build stronger communities across the United States. The Elks National Foundation, the charitable arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, honor veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. To learn more, visit www.elks.org/enf.

The Dictionary Project

History

The idea for The Dictionary Project began in 1992 when Annie Plummer of Savannah, Georgia, gave 50 dictionaries to children who attended a school close to her home. Each year she continued to give this gift, raising money to help give more and more books so that in her lifetime she raised enough money to buy 17,000 dictionaries for children in Savannah. Early on, her project attracted the attention of Bonnie Beeferman of Hilton Head, S.C., who began a project of raising money by selling crafts to buy dictionaries for the schoolchildren of Hilton Head and the surrounding communities. By 1995, Bonnie was getting so many requests from local teachers to be included in the project that she wrote a letter to the editor of the Charleston Post and Courier explaining the project and asking for someone to help meet requests from the Charleston area. **Mary French**, who was already an active school volunteer even though her two children were still of preschool age, read the letter and decided this was a project for her. Starting with a few schools in Charleston and Summerville, she realized quickly that providing dictionaries to all the students in Charleston was going to require serious fundraising. She and her late husband Arno French formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Association in 1995, along with a Board of Directors. Arno served as president, Mary became the director of the Association, and The Dictionary Project was born.

Since its implementation in 1995, over 18 million children have received dictionaries because thousands of people saw the same need in communities all over the United States.

The original goal set by the board was to provide dictionaries to all third-grade students in South Carolina every year. This goal was

achieved in 1999. After The Wall Street Journal published a story about the project in March 2002, the Dictionary Project took on a national purpose and expanded its mission to include students in the 50 United States. The program is typically implemented in the third grade each year, since this is the age at which dictionary skills are usually taught. Educators describe third grade as the time when a student transitions from learning to read to reading to learn.

The program has been adopted and refined by individuals, businesses, and civic organizations all over the country. Groups such as Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Elks Lodges, Granges, Lions Clubs, The Republican Federation of Women, Pioneer volunteers, parent organizations, and many more, have implemented The Dictionary Project where they live. Anyone can participate in this project by sponsoring a program to provide dictionaries to children in their community. The dictionaries are a gift for the children to keep. Our sponsors give dictionaries and other reference books to children in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, 9 Canadian provinces, and more than 15 other countries around the world.

Students can use the dictionaries throughout their school careers. Each year we offer a new edition of our dictionary that has been improved by sharing suggestions from teachers, students, and parents with the publisher. These and other ideas we receive from sponsors, students, and teachers are an integral part of this project because they give our Board of Directors direction. Through the Dictionary Project, sponsors can also choose to provide thesauruses, atlases, Spanish/English dictionaries, French/English dictionaries, or vocabulary builders to students in their local schools. The Dictionary Project is funded through donations and sponsors who introduce the program in their local schools. We are a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, registered as a charity in all 50 states. A copy of our tax return and state registration are available upon request.



Mary French, Director, Mount Pleasant, SC

Mary has a bachelor's degree in English with a political science minor from Charleston Southern University. She has been the Director of the Dictionary Project since 1995. She has written and published The Dictionary of Wisdom, The Best Dictionary for Students, A Student's Dictionary, A Student's Dictionary, Canadian Edition, A Student's Dictionary & Gazetteer, Canadian Edition, and with the help of Karan and Siddarth Rai, A Student's Dictionary & Animal Gazetteer. Mary enjoys reading, walking, and traveling. Her favorite thing about her job is listening to people talk about their experiences implementing the Dictionary Project.