

# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



**Olean Lodge #491** applied for and received a \$2,000 Gratitude grant. Members worked with three local organizations to determine needs to help people in the community. The local sites were Genesis House, the Warming House soup kitchen, and BonaResponds. Genesis House operates two shelters in Olean; one shelter houses homeless women and children, and the second shelter is for homeless males. Each shelter provides housing for up to fifty people in a year. The lodge purchased hygiene products that included shampoo, body wash, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, razors, shaving cream, combs, band aids, first aid kits for both shelters. Items were delivered to the Genesis House site. The Warming House, a college student-run soup kitchen is located in downtown Olean, and serves on average thirty meals per day to their guests. Food products are stored in a damp basement, which causes food waste. The Warming House director identified needed items; two dehumidifiers and a countertop ice machine. These items will help in the reduction of food waste and cost of ice. BonaResponds is a service organization that serves both local and global needs. Bona Responds serves the community 52 weeks a year by building handicapped accessible ramps for peoples' homes, and providing cleanup after disasters. Items purchased included tools (circular saw and drills), lumber and supplies. The Olean Elks Lodge helps with local needs to serve the community. Pictured are Genesis House director Linore Lounsbury and staff, displaying some of the items received thanks to the grant.



**Patchogue NY Lodge #1323** presented a \$650.00 donation to the American Legion Auxiliary, Patchogue #269 to be used to provide supplies for the homeless Women Veterans at Beacon House in Bayshore, New York. Patchogue Leading Knight Douglas McVittie, Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Trap & Skeet outing held in October raised the funds for the donation along with co-chairman Donald Ferguson & Lee DiClemente. Pictured during the presentation are l to r – Douglas McVittie, Sgt-at-Arms Veronica Bergin, American Legion Auxiliary President Pat Bergin and Exalted Ruler Jerry Stein.



**Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge #878** took much needed supplies to the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence, a residency for displaced Veterans located in LIC. The Lodge used funds from a Gratitude Grant for gifts for those who are temporarily housed at the residency. The Borden Avenue facility serves the borough's population of displaced veterans, both men and women. Exalted Ruler Patricia Carroll, Inner Guard Lisa Moldovan and Esteemed Leading Knight Vincent Giorgi ( left to right ) are pictured presenting multiple donations of slippers, deodorant, shaving cream and razors to the Assistant Administrator of the facility.



**Brooklyn-Queens Lodge #878** presented a donation of \$1000.00 to YAI. For the past year YAI has help Brooklyn-Queens Borough Lodge every week without failure in organizing the Lodge archives and paperwork dating back to 1903 and assist in getting the Herald ready for mailing. The YAI Network ensures that people with disabilities continue to live as independent, productive and included members of our communities.



**New Hyde Park-North Shore Lodge #2107** members attended a fundraiser for the Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior at the New Hyde Park Fire Department. Including the lodge's donation, the fundraiser raised thirty three thousand dollars for the cause. Loyal Knight Michael Pellegrino, Trustee Howard Ngai and PDDGER Donald Rood are pictured with Tommy Smith of the NHP Fire Department. They are pictured left to right.

There has been a rivalry between the villages of Herkimer and Ilion for over 50 years, but the rivalry was put aside by **Herkimer Lodge #1439** and **Ilion Lodge #1444** during the holiday season. Chairman Patty Sullivan and Chairman Kim Maley challenged each other who could make the most money for the Salvation Army by ringing the bells at two different location. At the end of the day the combined total from this challenge raised over \$1100.00. A spokesman for the Salvation Army noted this total is the highest total donation raised for the year.



Members of **Malone Lodge# 1303** members were present to honor the memory of Master Sergeant Lawrence Oliver Jock, killed in action in Klangwon Province, North Korea in 1953. His remains were finally identified and returned after all these years. Master Sargent Jock was honored by Malone town people lining the street when his remains were brought back to Malone for a funeral and burial. Lodge and Ladies Auxiliary members present at the ceremony are pictured. They are: Back row, Andrew Duprat, Inner guard; Carlos Mato, Exalted ruler; Craig Franz, PER; Molly McKee. Front row, Shirley Davis, Ladies Auxiliary; Tamra Murphy, Secretary; Riki Duffy; Paul Duffy, PER; Cindy Soper, President of Ladies Auxiliary.

**Potsdam Lodge #2074** did it's best to assist area organizations during the recent holiday season. The Lodge presented donations to the following organizations: St. Mary's Thanksgiving Basket Distribution Program, South Colton Community Christmas Dinner, Parishville Ladies Aid Society, Rose Hill Foundation, Norwood-Norfolk Angel Tree, Tree's for Troops, Canton Church and Community Holiday Fund, Potsdam Holiday Fund, PJs 4Xmas, Salvation Army of Northern NY, Helping Hands Food Pantry and Toys for Tots. The donations assisted with the purchase of Christmas Gifts and food for members of our community needing some assistance this holiday season. In total, the Lodge provided \$3375 in charitable donation. Additionally, several Lodge members purchased PJs to fill the PJs