



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Helping Our Communities with Grants



The **Beacon Elks Lodge #1493**, through the support of the Elks National Foundation Community Investment program, received a Gratitude Grant. This grant was used to supply Astor Head Start of Beacon, NY with \$1000 worth of clothing for the 84 children in the program. From left to right - Exalted Ruler George Dionysius, Elk member and Teacher Tara Young, Teacher Meghan Mekeel, Teacher Jane McVeigh, Astor Center Director Ashley Webster, Elk member and Assistant Educational Coordinator Theresa Lewis.



Newark Lodge #1249 used an ENF Beacon Grant to assist the Victim Resource Center. Tamera Parker, Victim Resource Center Board President, is pictured accepting a check for \$2,000.00 from Sue House, Esteemed Leading Knight at Newark Elks Lodge #1249. House succeeded in obtaining the Beacon Grant to support the VRC Christmas Drive. Members of the Newark Lodge will assist in delivering the Christmas toys and surprises to families affiliated with VRC. Parker stated that, "We are very grateful to the Newark Elks Lodge 1249 for the generous grant of \$2,000.00. The funds will be used for the Victim Resource Center domestic violence shelter to provide much-needed food and household supplies. The VRC is a private, non-profit domestic/intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking and child abuse services agency. The VRC has the only domestic violence shelter in the counties of Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, and Yates. All our services are free. The VRC depends on the support from generous individuals, businesses, and organizations to provide life-saving and life-changing resources to victims and their children. We are so thankful to the Newark Elks Lodge who will also be participating in the VRC Christmas Drive."



Watervliet Lodge #1500 used their \$2000.00 Freedom Grant along with donations from the NYS Capital District Elks contributed a total of over \$3400.00 to Project Lifesaver at the Albany VA Medical Center. This program allows for the purchase of wristbands with GPS homing devices in them for tracking patients (and out patients) that have a tendency to wander. With these devices, patients can be tracked to within 200 feet of the signal. Shown in photo from left to right are D. Scott Guemonprez, Associate Director, Albany VA Medical Center; Johanna Baniak, PER, Watervliet Lodge #1500; Jennifer Audette, Social Worker Executive, Albany VA Medical Center; Edward Baniak, PSVP, VA/VS Rep; Linda Weiss, Director Albany VA Medical Center; Al Articolo, Albany VA Medical Center Police Chief.



Recently Major Paul Hernandez, from the Auburn area New York Army National Guard, presented **Auburn lodge #474** with an appreciation plaque. The plaque, which now hangs proudly in the lodge meeting room, was presented in appreciation for the care packages sent from the lodge to soldiers serving overseas. A \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant was used to cover the cost of the items and to ship the packages overseas. PER Frank Saya, co-chair of the project, Treasurer Michael Gleason, and member Robin Jackson, co-chair are pictured accepting the award on behalf of the Lodge from Major Hernandez. .



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 used the Beacon Grant to purchase and supply the clothing pantry at Castle Point Veterans Hospital with \$1000 worth of underwear and socks for the 300 plus families utilizing the services. Pictured above from left to right is Army Sergeant Barbara Leota, Elk member Clara Lou Gould and Mid Hudson District #6180 State Vice President Carl Oken.

Rochester Elks Lodge #24 used a Gratitude Grant to host the 13th annual picnic for the children of the Fresh Air Kids Fund. The picnic was attended by 30 children, 30 host parents, and 15 members. The Fresh Air Fund allows for children from New York City, to get away for a week and spend time doing activities they may not experience at home. The annual picnic starts with fishing at the local Tinker Park, followed by lunch, games, horseback rides, and a small petting zoo. Pictured are ER John Barron and the R Thunder the mascot for the Rochester Night-hawks lacrosse team. The Lodge also hosted the ninth annual Music Festival to benefit CP Rochester. This annual benefit raises money to purchase rehabilitation equipment for individuals in the Rochester community with cerebral palsy. The day was filled with music, food, raffles, face painting, a dunk tank, and, of course, dancing! In attendance were over 150 people. In addition to the public, those attending were clients of CP Rochester, CP Rochester staff members, and Lodge members, families, and friends.

Elmira Elks Lodge #62 held a ceremony to award a total of \$2,000 in Gratitude Grants to eight local organizations. Grants of varying amounts were given to: St. Joseph's Hospital, Venture Crew 62 Boy Scouts, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, YWCA, Reins of Hope, Meals on Wheels of Chemung County, Knit with Love, and Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier.

ENF—The Great Heart Of Elkdom