



# Calling all Elks

Hastings Lodge  
#159



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## Promise Grant Money at Work

by Jackie Norris PER, Youth Chair

Our Lodge has been assisting CASA with various projects with grant money in recent years, and we have been asked to help with National Adoption Day this year.

For the last few months I have been on a committee along with others from various agencies in the planning of the project. Judge Offner is the committee chairman, who is adopted as well as has adopted children himself.

This event is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, so it was a big celebration. The YMCA opens its doors free of charge to all adopted kids and their families in the past year, and several organizations in the area assist in making it a fun day for all of the families. It began at the courthouse on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> where three families approached the bench of Judge Offner and he officially brought eight beautiful children out of the foster care and into their new families. I was allowed to attend one of the adoptions and it was truly very touching to see.

This was followed by fun and food at the Champions building where an enormous bouncy house, face painting, balloon artists and free teddy bears waited for all the families at the courthouse as well as cute stuffed animals for every child attending the festivities. The Elks Lodge supplied all of the food for the event as well as a special book for each child that was adopted that day.

Rich Freeman, ER attended the event as well, and was a big help. He took pictures and personally handed out gift bags to every child in attendance that had coloring books, pencils, book marks and Frisbees from the Elks Drug Awareness Program. There was lots of press, and the event was featured on NTV that night.

Thank you for your donations to E.N.F.! Because of your generosity we are able to make a meaningful impact in the community. In early December we will be purchasing gifts for foster children 13 to 18, which is an age group that is overlooked by the Christmas charities in the area because typically the cut off age is 12. Their case workers will get an idea for one special gift per child. I do all of the shopping at Walmart in one trip. With the help of 4 or 5 people it typically takes no more than an hour. The caseworker delivers each gift because of confidentiality. Even though we don't see them the letters that we receive from the children is very rewarding. If you are interested in helping with the shopping, email me at [jackie@renznorris.com](mailto:jackie@renznorris.com). The date will be Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.



*One of the many families served during National Adoption Day*



*ER Rich Freeman helping hand out Drug Free Packets*

