

Idaho Elks Rehab Report
ISEA Summer Convention
Curt Neely, Chairman
June 4, 2022

Good morning, fellow Elks!

I want to start my report this morning with posing the question, what is our state project? Since we ceased operation of the rehab hospital, there seems to be some lingering confusion or uncertainty about what our state project really is.

Our state project, Idaho Elks Rehab, is simply a philanthropic endeavor to fund rehabilitation across the state of Idaho. Even though our state project no longer provides rehab services, we are still involved in rehab by advancing community rehabilitation across Idaho, by funding rehab through partnerships with providers.

Our impact has been phenomenal. The footprint of Idaho Elks Rehab funding stretches literally across the state, from Bonners Ferry in the far north to Preston in the extreme south, and everywhere in between! Idaho Elks Rehab-funded projects and efforts are found in communities large and small – Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, Post Falls, Wallace, St. Maries, Orofino, Lewiston, Moscow, Grangeville, Silverton, Salmon, Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, Pocatello, American Falls, Preston, Twin Falls, Mountain Home, Caldwell, Weiser, Marsing, and Boise.

(footprint map of Idaho)

Let me provide a quick look back and the journey our state project has taken to the present. The Idaho State Elks Association began its charitable work in 1947, when it established a convalescent home for children with polio. As polio was eradicated and the need longer existed for the home, the effort grew into a premier rehab system, which included a hospital, hearing and balance, and wound care. In 2014, the Idaho Elks transitioned away from operating a rehab system to a philanthropic endeavor that focuses on providing financial support for rehab programs and projects across the Gem State.

(photo of hospital)

Our funding may be used for equipment, program development, staff training and education, research, and local projects that enhance the lives of rehab patients. The focus and ultimate goal of every funded project is patient outcomes.

(photo of patient and rehab equipment)

Continuing with good news, I am excited to announce that we have moved into the new home for the state project and Idaho Elks. We are so pleased to have a beautiful headquarters for the state project. A large room has been designated as the “Elks room” and you are welcome there any time.

(photos of new building with Keith and Amy)

Many of you attended our official grand opening and open house in late April. We hope all of you will get a chance to visit.

(photo montage of open house)

What Have We Actually Funded To Date?

We have funded 26 Local Lodge Grants at \$1,000 each and 25 Community Rehab Grants totaling \$258,200.

In addition to grants, we have also committed funds to several large projects:

- Idaho Elks Children’s Pavilion – \$5 million for naming rights.

(photo of Idaho Elks Children’s Pavilion)

- Valley Vista, St. Maries – \$500,000 over time for equipment and remodeling.

(photo montage of Valley Vista)

- Franklin County Medical Center, Preston – \$265,000 for remodeling and equipment for expansion of rehab services.

(photo of group and montage of Franklin County Medical Center)

- St. Luke’s Rehab – \$2.15 million annually for various rehab programs and services.

(photo of rehab hospital)

In the last round of grants in 2021, we awarded three Community Rehab Grants:

- Bonner General Health, Sandpoint
 - \$10,000
 - Equipment (treadmill and exercise) for the rehabilitation program
 - Allow for the expansion and improvement of sports and orthopedic rehabilitative care.
 - Orthopedic equipment would offer the gold standard of treatment of injuries related to walking, running, balance, strength, range of motion, and increased functional ability.
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- BetterCare (Benewah Community Hospital), St. Maries
 - Treatment for outpatient Lymphedema patients
 - \$10,000
 - Provide local, gold standard treatment of lymphedema patients through Complete Decongestive Therapy, one of the most effective treatments of lymphedema.
 - Efforts would include the training and certification of a therapist, development of patient education materials, and purchase of supplies.
 - The lack of local equipment and trained/certified therapists in Complete Decongestive Therapy means that lymphedema patients must travel a distance several times a week for treatment.
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- Power County Hospital District Foundation, American Falls
 - Cold Compression Therapy Project
 - \$4,679
 - Update old equipment and add state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment (cold compression system), which would provide cold therapy to reduce pain and inflammation and compression therapy to improve circulation and reduce recovery time for post-surgery patients.
 - To be used by a variety of rehab patients, including traumatic injuries, post surgeries, and sports injuries.

Shifting gears from funding, this year's Grand Lodge Convention is quickly approaching. Idaho Elks Rehab will once again have a booth.

(photo montage of booths from past conventions)

Our booth has been totally revamped, complete with all-new displays. We will keep our fingers crossed for another Five Star rating!

(photo of new booth displays)

In keeping with a Grand Lodge Convention tradition, our popular potato patch will be back, and this year, with a Georgia peach theme!

(potato patch graphic)

Once again, an ad for Idaho Elks Rehab will be included in the daily Convention newsletter.

If you are planning on attending the convention and would like to help at our booth, please let Grant Jones know.

How Can Idaho Elks Support Our State Project?

Idaho Elks can be very proud of the impact of our state project in communities across the state.

Elks members and Lodges can help support the state project and further its impact in a number of ways, including:

- General donations
- Memorials
- Bricks
- "Change for Rehab" campaign – I'll talk more about this in a minute
- "If Every Idahoan Gave \$1" campaign
- Idaho Elks Children's Pavilion
- Special projects (Valley Vista – St. Maries and Sandpoint, Franklin County Medical Center, Bonner General, etc.

- Education – medical conference
- Bequests

As I mentioned, one way to help fund the state project is to participate in the “Change for Rehab” campaign. Members and Lodges can be a part of this effort. Vice President South Ed Willson has donated hundreds of coin banks for individual members, and now large banks for each Lodge (show large bank).

Just to review, the idea is to have a coin bank in every Elks household and at every Elks Lodge. The simple concept gives everyone an opportunity to participate at some level, allows for buy-in and ownership of the state project by the members and Lodges, and lends itself to some friendly competition between members, Lodges, and Districts.

Here's how it works:

- Fill your coin bank with change, and empty it at your Lodge.
- Lodges will collect money from their members and bring a check to state conventions. (In a few minutes, Lodges will have the opportunity to present their "Change for Rehab" contributions.).

The Lodge with the most money collected will receive a brick and replica brick for display at their Lodge. The District collecting the most money will receive a brick.

(Change for Rehab newsletter ad)

Another way to collect money for Idaho Elks Rehab, while having some fun, is “the Rooster!” Longtime Elk member Mel Rodrigues from Lewiston introduced the colorful rooster years ago, and today I am pleased to resurrect it (hold up rooster). Now, that’s something to crow about! (Pass the rooster.)

(photo of rooster)

This concludes my report.

Fraternally submitted,

J. Curtis Neely, Chairman
Kevin Poor, Vice Chairman
Lyle Gessford, Secretary
Kathy Kontes
James Broyles
J.V. Evans
Charles Blanton, Emeritus
John Herman, Emeritus

I move for the adoption of this report.