

Michigan Elks Association
Major Project Commission
Introduces The
IMPACT AWARD
Established September 2017

To: Michigan Elks Lodge Members

In September of 2017, the Michigan Elks Association Major Project, thoughtfully established an award that is available to all Michigan Elks Lodge Members, for submission of a deserving Member or Group/Committee within the Michigan Lodges.

Our first recipient was Terry Barrett, PER, of the Flat Rock Elks Lodge No. 1731. Terry has set the bar extremely high, and for years went unnoticed and (unfortunately) unrecognized for his commitment to the Major Project and special needs children. When his story came to light, we knew that there must be many other Elks and Elk Ladies, who are deserving of recognition, and who by their example, spur others on in action, compassion and good deeds towards the remarkable children we serve.

All of us at the Commission are excited to have created this Award and look forward to the careful consideration and nominations from our Members. Any Elk in good standing may submit a nomination for a deserving Elk, but should understand that this Award is truly a difficult Award to achieve. We are looking for the bright stars within the Lodges that have worked tirelessly, sometimes quietly, that show commitment and compassion, that do not let obstacles get in their way. These are people who have truly made and continue to make, an IMPACT on the lives of the children and families we all serve.

Nominations are due each year by April 1. The Major Project Commission will select the winners and the Awards will be given each year at the Spring Meeting.

The criteria that all Nominations will be judged upon include the following, but your “essay” of “why” bears a lot of weight. All Nominees should be a person in your Lodge who motivates, encourages, educates, treats our clients (the special needs children and their families) with kindness, care and compassion, and is someone who has committed significant time on behalf of your Lodge for Major Project.

- An Elk in good standing – All Nominees must have a minimum of five (5) years of continuous Membership and Good Standing with your Lodge.
- Creative Communication with Lodge Members and promoting Major Project in an ongoing way (through newsletter articles, flyers, demonstrated leadership within the Lodge as it relates to special needs children).
- Fundraising – involved with Major Project Fundraising activities (including applying for and receiving matching funds from employers), community fundraisers and awareness such as donation envelopes delivered to funeral homes for families seeking to have a charitable donation in lieu of flowers, and reaching outside the walls of Elkdom, etc.
- Community Involvement (press releases outside of Elkdom) sharing the Major Project story, increasing community awareness of Major Project and how the Local Lodge can be of help; working with Intermediate School Districts, social agencies (such as the Health Department and other Community Programs). Working with other organizations to create events that benefit special needs children.
- Member Education – creating materials or holding member events that establish a better understanding of what Major Project does and how it impacts special needs children in our State.
- Goal Setting – As a Lodge leader, working to raise the bar on giving, providing a strong platform of education and awareness throughout the Lodge so that the Members feel the pride of reaching a goal to help special needs children.
- Compassion – teaching tolerance, understanding and compassion for the families we serve. Promoting a positive role model to all Elks and non-Elks on the difficulties and triumphs that special needs families endure, and educating others in a thoughtful way. Someone that we look up to and all aspire to be.

- Service – as a Major Project Lodge Chairman, past Major Project Commissioner, Chairman or Co-Chairman of an ongoing fundraising event, Member involvement in promoting Major Project – or other vital roles played, we want to know all about it.

Michigan Elks Association
 Major Project Commission
 IMPACT AWARD Nomination Application

Nomination Submission Deadline: April 1, 2018

Submit to: Michigan Major Project Commission
 PO Box 141605
 Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Nominee:		
Lodge Name/No:		
Elk in Good Standing – Minimum of 5 years continuous Membership;	Number of Years:	Verified by Lodge Secretary: (signature/date)
Provide examples of <u>Creative Communication</u> / Promotion of Major Project to the Membership of your Lodge (newsletter articles, flyers, promotion of events in and outside of Elksdom, submission of News Releases to local papers or media outlets, Lodge Facebook page, etc.):		Discuss or attach information: 

<p><u>Fundraising</u> – Share the Nominees involvement with Major Project Fundraising, number of years, creative ideas, etc.:</p>	
<p><u>Community Involvement:</u> Is the Nominee involved in promoting Major Project outside the walls of Elkdom? Does he or she work to educate others about the services we offer, engage in joint ventures with other organizations or social agencies to raise awareness and funds for Major Project? If so, explain:</p>	
<p><u>Member Education:</u> Please share with us how the Nominee helps to educate your Membership about Major Project, i.e. – involved in writing articles for your newsletter or flyers for the bulletin board. Promoting and attending Major Project fundraisers and volunteering for such events:</p>	

Goal Setting – Share with us how the Nominee is instrumental in raising awareness in an ongoing way, is perhaps known as the “Major Project” expert in the Lodge, is helpful in setting and reaching Lodge Goals (whether education, communication or fundraising) and more:

Compassion – Share with us how the Nominee is viewed in your Lodge in relation to compassion toward the special needs children and the families that we serve. Is the Nominee someone who promotes understanding, kindness and one that will fight for the rights of and access to therapy and acceptance of special needs children? Please put into words as best you can, why you believe the Nominee is viewed as someone we all aspire to be:

<p>What prompted you to submit this Nomination? We care about why you believe your Nominee is deserving, in your own words. Please attach a separate piece of paper if more room is needed.</p>	
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By submitting the Nomination Application, I understand that the Commission reserves the sole right to determine the recipient(s) of the Impact Award. The Commission will not divulge the number of or names of the Nominees, except those who are given the Award(s). The Commission reserves the right to determine the number of Awards (if any) given annually. By submitting this Nomination, I agree to keep the submission confidential and to respect the decision of the Major Project Commission.

Submitted by: _____ Date _____

Phone No. _____ Email Address: _____

Lodge Name and No. _____