



## **ELKS CARE – ELKS SHARE**



Delilah Hernandez was born on December 18, 2007, at only 35 weeks with a multitude of medical complications. She remained at Children's Hospital for 5 months, undergoing surgery and receiving her nutrition intravenously until she underwent another surgery to place a gastrostomy tube for her feeding. At 3 months of age, she had a respiratory arrest causing neurological impairment. She has been diagnosed with choreoathetoid cerebral palsy, which is characterized by extreme uncontrolled movements of the body, including all extremities.

Delilah lives with both parents and maternal grandparents and family. She started her physical therapy with the Elks Major Project in 2010 when she was two years old. She receives weekly physical therapy visits. On the first visit, she was able to roll from stomach to back and back to stomach. When placed in a sitting position, she could maintain her balance for very brief periods of time. She could not get into a sitting position independently nor could she crawl, pull up to a standing position or walk.

With many therapy sessions, and her new pink wheelchair, she is learning to maneuver and go where she wants, when she wants. She now has many choices for mobility and with continued therapy from the Elks Major Project, she continues to conquer the obstacles placed before her. During her weekly occupational therapy sessions, she is learning to use her arms functionally in fine-motor activities and spoon feeding. She is slowly learning to eat by mouth and is able to drink liquids from a cup with handles, but has a ways to go for independence.

This is a bright and persistent little girl. In spite of her motor disorder, she tries and tries and tries. She now has about 5 spoken words and signs a few words.



It is her parents wish that Delilah attend her local school with typical children. Because of your donations, Delilah, her family and your CHEMPI therapists can all continue to work to make this possible, as she continues to blossom into a fine young lady, whose life has no boundaries.

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## A WORTHY ORGANIZATION

Being an Elk is about love of country, belief in God and family, and a strong desire and willingness to help those in the community with a variety of charitable programs. Members enjoy the myriad volunteer and community events sponsored by the Lodge, and the idea that the money they spend at the Lodge lounge supports a charitable organization that contributes over \$200 million dollars nationwide each year.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a fraternal organization over 140 years old, and is most commonly associated with charitable works and veteran's causes which include children's charities; drug awareness; scholarships; and a range of programs designed to improve the quality of life of our veterans as well as salute their service to the country. Over 100,000 Elks served in the Second World War, and over 1,600 made the supreme sacrifice for American freedom.

There's been a recent, more youthful burst in membership nationwide, as lodges provide a homey place of unhurried camaraderie, socializing and networking in otherwise crowded urban areas.

The Elks represent just about the full spectrum of occupations in America, including young business people and entrepreneurs to many celebrities from the entertainment field, business and public service who throughout history have been Elks.

Did you know that Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy were all Elks? Or that Will Rogers, Jack Benny, Clint Eastwood, Richard Moll and Jay Leno are all listed as Elks? In the sports world, Vince Lombardi, Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle are counted among its members.

The Duarte Elks Lodge serves the communities of Duarte and Monrovia, and is expanding to include Irwindale, Azusa, Glendora, San Dimas, Laverne and Pomona. If you're interested in a fun place to hang out with friends and family, while at the same time volunteering to help with many charitable projects, the Lodge is the place to be. The Lodge supports Boy & Girl Scouts; disabled children; underprivileged children; local school children; local veterans and much more. Find out how you can help and become part of a worthwhile and fulfilling organization.

Are you ready to step up and believe in something good? Believe in the Elks – charity, patriotism, family, God, and your own desire to help those in need.

The public is welcome to visit the Duarte Elks Lodge for our Sunday Breakfast Buffet and Monday nights for our food and fun night at 2436 E. Huntington Dr., Duarte, or call (626) 357-6771 for more information. Come and see what we're all about, and how you can become a part.

## Charitable Contributions

Last year the Elks provided contributions for charitable works of cash, non-cash, hours worked and miles traveled in the amount of **\$38,900,931** in California-Hawaii and over **\$306,662,378** nationally.

**Scholarships** - Over \$3.4 million in college scholarships is awarded annually by the Elks.

**Disaster Relief** - Since its earliest days, the BPOE has been committed to easing the burden of those most affected by natural disasters. Recently, severe storms and tornadoes struck the southern portion of our country and wreaked havoc.

Since we have a Disaster Relief Fund established, we were able to quickly send money to affected State Elks Associations. To date, over \$100,000 has been distributed and, with the summer months coming, your assistance is needed.

We, as Elks, come forward to lend a helping hand to those in need. It is what our Order is known for and it is a responsibility from which we will not shy. Your help is needed, once again, to show that Elks Care—Elks Share.

**Preschool Vision Screening** - The Elks Preschool Vision Screening Program screens over 50,000 children per year. It is the goal of the program to significantly decrease the number of children at risk for amblyopia ("lazy eye") and other vision problems. It is with thanks to this highly effective program that thousands of children have been saved from permanent eye damage over the years.

**Occupational Therapy** - Through individual home instruction, the goal for all children in the program is to become as independent and self-sufficient as they can. Our occupational therapists, working with the parents, teach our children the basics from feeding and dressing skills to dealing with problems in sensory integration.

**Physical Therapy** - The Elks physical therapists evaluate and treat children with a wide range of disabilities as they travel from home to home. Their focus is to help these children learn or improve important motor skills by educating or re-educating muscles and increase strength, endurance and coordination. Parent involvement helps increase the rate of success.

**Speech-Language Therapy** - The gift of communication, the promise of the future - with thanks to the Elks. Our highly trained Elks Major Project speech-language pathologists can diagnose a variety of communication disorders and coordinate a home program of therapy with the parent. Many speech-language problems are addressed by the staff, including swallowing or feeding difficulties.