

## Martinsville 1752 Uses ENF Grant to Fund Boy Scout Program

Martinsville 1752 donated \$1500 to the Patrick Henry District of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council of the Boy Scouts of America using a one-time Anniversary Grant provided by the Elks National Foundation. The Anniversary Grant is a one-time grant



L to R: Ronnie Jones, Daniel Cross, Robert Stegall, and Kenneth Draper

opportunity to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Elks through service.

The grant funds will be used to provide program materials, supplies, books, uniforms, and camperships for children at risk in the Martinsville area in the Boy Scout *Scoutreach* program. The Patrick Henry District serves scouts in Henry, Franklin, and Patrick Counties and the cities of Martinsville, Rocky Mount, and Stuart.

Daniel Cross, District Director of the Patrick Henry District, explains: *“Providing our youth with a supportive learning environment, preparing them to enter and complete further academic or technical education or enter into the skilled workforce are important components for building a strong community. Today's youth are finding it increasingly difficult to develop life-long value structures that equip them for successful careers, family life and citizenship. Socioeconomic status, family upbringing, parent education, and lack of positive role models in their lives often prevent these youth from achieving their fullest potential both in and out of the classroom. Nearly one-third of the youth under the age of 18 in the Martinsville/Henry County area, live below the poverty level and come from single-parent homes. In addition, nearly 20% of the youth come from homes where parents did not receive a high school diploma.*

*“As one can imagine, rural and urban settings with low-income, at-risk youth poses unique challenges such as locating and training positive male role models for leadership; finding the funding needed for uniforms, activities, and summer camp programs; providing transportation for youth to attend meetings, etc.; delivering the Scout Program.”*