

Woodbridge Lodge 2355 donates School Supplies and Dictionaries to Local Schools



28 September 2011, Woodbridge Virginia. After a deluge of rain from Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, portions of Woodbridge, Virginia received massive flooding, including the Holly Acres Mobile Home Park which found over a hundred families homeless after their mobile homes were condemned and declared uninhabitable.

Having received an Elks Promise Grant for the purchase of book bags and school supplies the local Elks Lodge in Woodbridge, Virginia redirected all of these bags (60 total) to the Belmont Elementary School in Woodbridge for use by students who have been unable to return to their homes to retrieve school supplies. As many other organizations that provide book bags and school supplies for education have completed their programs for the year, the Lodge, with the help of this Elks National Foundation Grant, was able to plug a much needed gap.

As part of the Elks Dictionary Project the Lodge additionally donated 120 dictionaries to both Belmont Elementary School and Bel Air Elementary School for use by their 3rd and 4th grade students.

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1995 by Mary French of Charleston, SC. Its primary focus is to promote literacy to children in third-grade as they transition from learning how to read to identify and use information. Over the course of the program nearly 15 million third-grade students have received dictionaries including about 2.5 million dictionaries donated in 2009.

Elks joined this movement in 2004 and nationwide have donated more than 1.2 million dictionaries to third-grade students and their teachers as sponsors of The Dictionary Project over the last 6 years. There are 600 lodges that actively participate in the program.