

History of the State Major Project

In August 1946 the crippling and killing disease polio stalked the children of Texas. Texas Elks responded by opening the Texas Elks Crippled Children's Hospital on a nine-acre site at Ottine in Central Texas. By the 1950's, the Salk Polio Vaccine was available and the mission of the Elks Hospital evolved from treatment to long-term care for polio survivors.

In 1977 the mission and the name changed again to the Texas Elks Children's Services Diagnostic Center. In 1987 a summer camp for children with disabilities was added to the program.

In June of 1999 the membership of TESA moved to institute a new program to replace the diagnostic program that helped children with learning disabilities.

After careful consideration, Texas Elks decided it was time to change the focus of our State Major Project. All Elks were offered the opportunity to make suggestions as to the direction the new project should take. After receiving many excellent project ideas, a committee was established to review the suggestions and select several proposals for Texas Elks to review and make a final selection.

Out of this process came The Prosthetic Grant Program, the new State Major Project. This project recognized a need to help special needs children realize their fullest potential. Texas Elks realized that those special needs children and their families face unique challenges. So many children could lead a more full and complete life if only there was some way to meet the specific needs of these children. Many children are unable to gain access to either the equipment or technology they need to allow them to be the productive children they want to be.

Texas Elks decided to make these very special children their children. Out of this desire came the final grant program for children. The Texas Elks Children's Services Board of Directors finalized the grant guidelines that defined the term "prosthetic" in the broadest of possible terms. For purposes of the grant, prosthetic is defined as "any piece of equipment and/or technology which will allow a child to live a more full and complete life." Children across the State of Texas have been helped with hearing aids, wheelchairs and computers with Braille capabilities, special braces, and a host of other devices that make special needs children stronger and more confident as they face their unique challenges. Other minimal requirements were established such as a child must be eighteen years of age or younger, a resident of Texas and able to prove the requested device is not covered by insurance or available through another grant and whose financial needs justify assistance.

Texas Elks take great pride in this project. We are proud because we see children in our communities benefit and because this project has inspired us all to become more involved. This project requires action at each Lodge level. We must work with schools and social agencies to identify children with special needs and this has more closely tied us to our community. This project has also afforded our community the opportunity to learn about Elkdom and our principles and the many diverse projects we support.

The name of the State Major Project was changed to "Texas Elks Grants for Special Children" in order to eliminate some confusion regarding the meaning of the word "prosthesis." In all other facts, however, the program has remained unchanged from its original design.

The Beginning of the Sweetheart Program

The Texas Elks Sweetheart Program was started in 1979-80. A Sweetheart works hard for a period of one (1) year representing his/her Lodge. Since 1979 the hard work of all past Sweethearts in the State of Texas has earned a total revenue of \$6,004,727.27 (as of the 2004-2005 Elk Year) for the Texas Elks State Major Project.

During the year, the Lodge Sweetheart who raises the most money within each district becomes the Sweetheart for that District. At the State Convention in June each year, it is then determined which District Sweetheart raised the most money. That District Sweetheart then becomes the State Sweetheart for a period of one (1) year and will represent all the Sweethearts across the state.

Selection of a Lodge Sweetheart

The selection of a Sweetheart may vary from Lodge to Lodge on how they select a Lodge Sweetheart. This ranges from the Exalted Ruler picking the Sweetheart to the selection being made by the members of the Lodge. Other methods could be used and are used in other Lodges and Districts. The selection of a Sweetheart is an Elk function, sometimes mistaken for a B.P.O. Does or Ladies Auxiliary function.

The Sweetheart plans the year of fund raising events and projects. These are almost endless in nature and almost anything can and has been done to raise money.

All Lodge Sweethearts from the State are asked to participate at Homecoming at the Texas Elks Children's Services at Ottine in September with a silent auction booth and one item to be placed in a live auction. All proceeds from the silent auction and the live auction will enter in the Lodge Sweetheart's final total.

The Lodge Sweetheart should keep a complete record of income, expenses, and hours which is submitted to the Lodge Secretary on a regular basis. A Sweetheart must request a receipt for that income amount for deposit. It is very important that you keep good records. Check with your Lodge Secretary at various times to make sure your totals agree.

At the end of the Lodge Sweetheart's year and at a special function for the selection of the District Sweetheart, the Lodge Sweetheart turns in all of the money that was raised during the year, and depending on the selection process used, a District Sweetheart is selected from all the Lodges in that District.

It is each district's choice of a method in selecting its District Sweetheart based on total dollars, per capita, lottery, etc.

Being chosen to serve your Lodge as the Lodge Sweetheart is an honor you should be proud of, along with being proud that you are helping a special child with a special need.

History of Revenue Raised by Lodge Sweethearts

Listed below are the total amounts raised by All Sweethearts since its beginning in 1979 through 2005. These are totals we are all very proud of and as we continue in this endeavor, we can continue to be proud of what's to come from the hard work from Texas Elks Sweethearts like you who have accepted this challenge. Remember "NO PERSON STANDS AS TALL AS HE/SHE DOES WHEN THEY STOOP TO HELP THE HAND OF A HANDICAPPED CHILD."

<u>Total Amount Raised by All Sweethearts</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>State Sweetheart</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Representing Lodge</u>
	1979-80	Birdie Hudson	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$117,801.00	1980-81	Ray Duplissey	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$121,431.00	1981-82	Kathy Inks	Northeast	Tyler Lodge #215
\$219,574.63	1982-83	Pat Thomas	North	Sherman Lodge #2280
\$209,025.54	1983-84	Johnie Duffie	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$237,834.00	1984-85	Bonnie Clark	North	Sherman Lodge #2280
\$279,787.19	1985-86	Jane Spivey	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$222,917.04	1986-87	Dot Lancaster	Northeast	Paris Lodge #2433
\$224,238.46	1987-88	Shirley Robertson	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$224,343.04	1988-89	Jerri Stanford	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$231,064.70	1989-90	Barbara Garrett	South	Weslaco Lodge #2057
\$262,651.75	1990-91	Patsy Lomas	South	Corpus Christi #1628
\$237,117.63	1991-92	Vera Heflin	Northeast	Marshall Lodge #683
\$290,715.96	1992-93	Patsy Davis	East	Liberty Lodge #2019
\$280,702.00	1993-94	Audrey Bracewell	East	Liberty Lodge #2019
\$291,818.00	1994-95	Connie Owens	Northeast	Longview Lodge #1128
\$310,533.00	1995-96	Reita Tanner	East	Beaumont Lodge #311
\$262,926.00	1996-97	Glenda Shannon	East	Liberty Lodge #2019
\$285,409.00	1997-98	Dot Eubanks	North	Plano-Richardson Lodge #2485
\$216,409.00	1998-99	Vicky Mullican	North	Sherman Lodge #2280
\$186,456.00	1999-00	Helena Phelps	Gulf Coast	Katy Lodge #2628
\$214,779.00	2000-01	Debbie Britton	Gulf Coast	Clear Lake Lodge #2322
\$174,136.00	2001-02	Donna Powell	Gulf Coast	Katy Lodge #2628
\$274,353.00	2002-03	Judy Blair	North	DeSoto Lodge #2552
\$312,050.00	2003-04	Elaine Meyers	North Central	Grapevine Lodge #2483
<u>\$316,714.33</u>	2004-05	Sandi Boyett	Gulf Coast	Katy Lodge #2628
\$6,004,787.27				

Suggestions for Fundraising

When a Sweetheart first starts his/her year as the Lodge Sweetheart, one of the first questions might be "How can I ever do this successfully?" Relax and enjoy what we hope will be an enjoyable and fulfilling year.

If you are able to attend a summer camp graduation on a Friday night at Ottine, you will experience a feeling of excitement about why you accepted the challenge of being the Lodge Sweetheart.

Wear your nametag identifying you as the Lodge Sweetheart. Get to know, if you don't already, the members of the Lodge. Don't hesitate to ask the Lodge members for support in this year of challenges. You are working for the Lodge and most people will help and support you, if asked.

As you plan your activities for projects in the Lodge, also plan and ask for help outside in the community. Maybe you are planning an activity where you need to ask merchants for their help with donations. When you do this, always wear your name tag, take pamphlets about Texas Elks Children's Services, Inc., a letter (sample letter attached) to introduce yourself and the Elks Lodge you represent. Secondly, the letter will inform them of the charitable works performed by the Texas Elks.

Promote yourself and the Sweetheart Project. Write monthly articles for your Lodge newsletter explaining your project and advertise your functions. If a project is open to the public, do not forget to advertise in your local newspaper and with flyers in merchants' windows (only with prior approval).

There are many ideas on fundraising, many of which have not been thought of yet. Use your imagination! If your Lodge is hosting an event such as a Casino Night, ask if you can serve as a cocktail waitress - tips add up. Write letters to places in or near your community such as Professional Baseball, Basketball, Hockey, Horse Tracks, Auto Race Tracks and Performing Arts Productions. Contact airlines asking for donations of tickets. Also contact golf courses, asking for a round of golf for four - these make wonderful raffle items or may be used in your live auctions. If you do not get a response from your letter, follow up with a phone call or a personal visit; sometimes letters are laid to the side and not meant to be forgotten. Always follow up with a thank-you note or a certificate of appreciation. These can be purchased at any office supply store.

When writing letters, always promote the Elks image of Helping Special Needs Children and the Elks Summer Camp. Pamphlets about Ottine may be enclosed in your letters. Pamphlets may be obtained by calling the Center at Ottine - they are always glad to help.

Sample Letter
(on Texas Elks Children's Services, Inc. Letterhead)

Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this correspondence is two-fold: first to introduce you to (Sweethearts name) and the (Lodge Name) Elks Lodge he/she represents, and secondly, to make you aware of the charitable works performed by the Texas Elks.

First, she is a volunteer. She has taken on the task of spending a year engaged in fund raising activities to assist Texas Elks in our charitable works. Specifically, she is raising funds for Texas Elks Children Services, Inc.

The Texas Elks State Association supports *Texas Elks Grants for Special Children*. TECSI sponsors two major state projects:

Our first project is our Texas Elks Grants for Special Children. At the conclusion of this next project year, Texas Elks will have awarded almost one million dollars to children in need. We have provided braces, hearing aids, glasses, prosthetic devices, computerized wheelchairs, lifts, and all manner of other specialized equipment to children from Dalhart to Brownsville and Beaumont to El Paso. Without the help of Texas Elks and TECSI, these children would be deprived of the assistance they so desperately needed.

Our second major project is Texas Elks Camp. For six one-week sessions during the summer, Texas Elks provide an exceptional camping experience to over three hundred special needs kids. These children come to us with all manner of disabilities, both physical and mental. It is our challenge to meet the needs of each and every camper and to ensure that every child who attends Elks Camp leaves more self-confident and assured. Our campers learn that no matter what their particular challenge, they can be successful. The driving philosophy behind Elks Camp is "having a difference doesn't make a difference." And our campers leave here believing in that motto.

Surveys taken at the end of each session reveal a very high parent approval rating, with 100% of the parents reporting that the camp was worthwhile and they would recommend it to others.

At the conclusion of each week at camp, every camper receives two awards: the first is a graduation certificate, and the second is an award tailored to each camper naming that camper as the best at a particular activity. For most of our children, this is the very first time they have been singled out as being the best of anything, and to see the faces of not only our campers, but their parents as well, is a joy to witness. There are always tears on Friday evening, as the children do not want to leave this very special place.

Thank you for your time in considering helping the Texas Elks in providing assistance to our Special Needs Children.

Use of TECSI 501C3 Status to request Charitable Funds

Fundraising for the Texas Elks Children's Services, Inc., may be used under the non-profit 501C3 exempt status to raise funds for the Sweetheart Program. Various companies offer grant programs that a Lodge Sweetheart may inquire as to the Elks may receive some of these funds. As an example, check with your local Wal-Mart Store and ask for their Community involvement Coordinator for information, or go online to www.walmartfoundation.org and look under Community Support for more information. In addition, some large corporations have funding for hours volunteered through their employees. Inquire within your Lodge to see if any of the employees of their corporation qualify for such funds.

If you are successful in securing a grant or contribution through the 501C3 program, please notify Debbie Everett, Bookkeeper for Texas Elks Children's Services. Some companies will only issue funds directly to the Texas Elks Children's Services and not the Lodge Sweetheart who is requesting them. If TECSI is not aware of the possibility of such funds being requested, they will not know what Lodge Sweetheart to contact so the contribution can be transferred to the Lodge Sweetheart who secured the grant or contribution to be included in the Sweetheart's total amount raised. If you need additional information, contact Debbie at the center.

Contact Information:

Debbie Everett, Bookkeeper for Texas Elks Children's Services Inc.
1.800.880.7561 or 830.875.2425
E-mail address: deverett@gvec.net

Listed on the following pages are some ideas or examples of fundraisers that you may use.

Pancake Supper or Breakfast

A Pancake Supper is a proven moneymaker if well planned. Ask the Lodge Past Sweethearts or "PERs" to sponsor the event. Choose a menu, select the date and time supper will be served, and the cost of the supper for adults and children. It is very important to advertise an event like this to the public. Run ads in the local newspaper, radio stations, and place flyers in merchant's windows. Plan to have greeters at the door. Have information available to inform customers about the Sweetheart Program and the Texas Elks Summer Camp. Sell tickets in advance. This is a good time to tie in a *Silent Auction*.

Christmas Auction

It all starts with a plan. Start collecting Christmas items early, either from Lodge members, from garage sales, and by asking merchants for Christmas donations. Ask a member of the Lodge, along with a committee to plan a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings to have the same evening. Ask one or two Lodge members to serve as auctioneers for the event. They can make this a lot of fun and this can be a great moneymaker. Have the event in early November when people are getting ready to decorate for the Holidays.

Turkey Shoot

If your Lodge is lucky enough to be located on land that is large enough for this fund raiser, that would be great. If not, there may be a shooting range in your area at which this event could be held. You will need volunteers that are familiar with this type of event. Work with that person on furnishing a house gun, targets, shells, and you, as the Sweetheart, are responsible for the prizes – such as hams, turkeys, pork loins, bacon. You can ask for donations for these items. Use one of these items as the prize for each round of shooting. This event requires advertising and will draw from outside of the Lodge in your community. Shooters also like to shoot for money rounds.

Fashion Show/Luncheon

You will need a committee to help for this, which would be a good time to ask past Sweethearts for help. Talk to a Boutique store manager in your area that will provide the clothing and agree to do the Fashion show. Decide on a date, lunch menu, cost, and have tickets printed. Ask the officers of the Lodge to act as cocktail waiters or waitresses and serve the lunch. Provide a few gifts to be given as door prizes. The store conducting the show will usually provide a few gifts to be given as door prizes. An event like this is fun but to make it successful, you will have to do a lot of advertising.

Penny Raffle

A Penny Raffle is a money-making project that may take weeks or a couple of months to sell out, but is a good source of profit. First, select an item that would be of interest to a lot of people for your raffle. The object is to sell the squares. If they draw #1, that will cost a penny; if they draw #300, that will cost \$3.00. That is why it is called a Penny Raffle. To draw attention to the board which you have posted in the Lodge, you may want to decorate a section at the top with a picture of the raffle item and decorate with some pennies. Keep numbers that have not been drawn yet in a safe place.

You will make a poster board divided into squares of 300, 400, or 500. Number each square, starting with #1 and continue till the board is completed with the number of squares you have selected. Proceeds from the squares are: 300 squares = \$450.00; 400 squares = \$802.00; and 500 squares = \$1,256.00.

The size of your Lodge may determine the size of board you want to make. Next, you will need to make two sets of numbers to be cut into squares – the same numbers as you have on your board. Keep one set of numbers in a container from which they can draw and another set to have to draw from when the raffle board is sold out. Do not mix the two. After a person draws a number and pays the amount drawn, write his/her name in the square and tear up the number. Make sure you have the name in the correct square.

A good time to sell the squares is at Lodge meetings, special events, etc. A fun way to sell tickets is, when you see a group at the bar, to get someone to challenge the others to a "Low Man Buys." The person with the lowest number buys a round of drinks for those who participated in the challenge.

Another option on your board is to select three (3) squares to be your "Mystery Prize Square." Circle these in bright red. If a person draws one of those numbers, he/she wins that mystery prize, but still has to pay the number drawn. Small bottles of liquor work well for these prizes. A Penny Raffle can be a lot of fun.

Silent Auction

A Silent Auction is a good project to do and tie it in with another function that you are having at the Lodge. Display the articles you are putting up for auction. Supply a sign up sheet which should include a place for the name, amount of bid, and a phone number where they can be reached. Post the time the auction will close.

50/50 Draw

A 50/50 draw is something people like because everyone likes a little extra cash in their pocket. Use a two-sided ticket. Sell the normal 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. Another option, just for a change and to have your customers feel like they are getting more for their "bucks," is to sell tickets 10 for \$5.00 or whatever amount you choose. The Sweetheart gets half and the winner half.

Sidewalk Bake Sale

Ask permission from a merchant if you can conduct a Bake Sale at its place of business. Ask members from the Lodge or Ladies Auxiliary and friends to make their favorite dessert. Advertise that the proceeds benefit the "*Texas Elks Grants for Special Needs Children*" and "*Texas Elks Summer Camps*." Use brochures from the center and maybe a poster with pictures from camp showing what the Elks do for children.

Rib or Brisket Sale

If you have a cooking team at the Lodge or someone who is famous for their ribs or brisket, ask them to sponsor a sale, both to the Lodge and the outside community. Remember to advertise if you include the sale to the people of the community. Also, if they are already cooking for you, it is a good time to have a dinner and let the members enjoy a sampling of what they have bought and are taking home. Pick-up times for people outside the Lodge should be prior to your dinner.

Super Bowl Party

If your Lodge does not have a Super Bowl Party, then you can sponsor one. Plan what you want to serve; this may be a good time to ask for it to be a Pot Luck meal with plenty of snacks. Select someone to run your football pools. This can be a split with the Sweetheart. You can have a Silent Auction or a Raffle for shirts of the teams playing in the Super Bowl.

Tailgate Party

You can have a Tailgate Party at the opening of the football season. This can work like a Super Bowl Party or you can plan to have both a Tailgate Party at the beginning of the football season and the Super Bowl at the end of the football season.

Tournaments

If your Lodge has a shuffleboard or darts, arrange tournaments for fun and to raise money for the Sweetheart Program. Make plans for Bridge Parties, Bunko Parties, or other games of interest to your Lodge.

Can Shakes

A "Can Shake" is a good way to involve the community to contribute. Some cities require you to have permits for this. If permission is given, select the busiest intersection in town. Make up interesting cans promoting the Texas Elks State Major Project. Provide literature explaining The Elks Summer Camp and helping children with special needs. You will need volunteers to help you with the Can Shake. Wear shirts that pertain to the project and nametags.

Garage Sale

To have a garage sale you will need to start collecting items early. Ask members of the Lodge and friends to donate items they want to get rid of. Many times people want to get rid of usable items but do not have the time to have a sale of their own. Set a time and date for the sale. To be successful in a garage sale, you must ADVERTISE. Along with advertising your garage sale, also advertise to the public you will accept their donations. Designate a time and place for this purpose. Always have information available about the Texas State Major Project explaining where the proceeds from the sale go.

"Moo Raffle"

Talk with a local supermarket or meat market to see if they would donate about four nice steaks. If a donation is not possible, be prepared to ask for a discount. Package these attractively and raffle them at a Lodge function. You can also do this with chicken breast or you could do two chicken breasts and two steaks. Be sure to package them separately and call them a "Moo & Cluck Raffle."

Holiday Booze Basket

While people are in the spirit of the Holidays, prepare a Holiday Booze Basket. Ask for donations to fill the basket. As an encouragement for making a donation, you might want to offer a couple of free tickets for the drawing for making the donation. Start by selecting an attractive basket, fill the basket, cover the basket with shrink-wrap, and decorate the basket for the holidays. This raffle should be conducted over a period of weeks and given away at a Lodge Christmas Party or other holiday function.

Name This Person Contest

Contact members of the Lodge asking for a picture of them at any early age. Display them with a number for each one. Have a ballot made with a place for the name of the person making the guess, a place for who they think the person is, and a place for the number of that picture. Charge \$1.00 per guess. The one who correctly identifies the most splits the pot between the winner and the Sweetheart.

Pig Races

A red pig race is a form of entertainment that is enjoyed by everyone and makes easy money for the Sweetheart. Set up a table and use tape to make six lanes with squares to race the pigs. Number each red pig, one through six. Place your red pigs at the starting gate. Take bets on the pigs by their number, just like betting at the horse races. Have a table set up to do the betting. Have a different color of ticket for the different races. After the bets are placed, roll the six dice; if you rolled 3 - #5 and 1 - #3 and 2 - #4, then pig #5 would move 3 spaces and pig #3 would move 1 space and pig #4 would move 2 spaces. Keep rolling down and back until you have a winner. The winners collect with the split between the Sweetheart and the winning ticket. Decide on how many races you will run.

Breakfast and Picture With Santa

Choose your menu geared to what small children would like, select a date and time breakfast will be served, and the cost of the breakfast. Advertise in the local newspaper, radio stations, and place flyers in merchants' windows. Have elves as helpers and greeters. Of course, your big attraction will be Santa himself. Hopefully someone in your Lodge will have a digital camera and printer that prints the picture on site. Set a price for the picture. As always, have information available about the Elks programs that help special needs children.

Bunko Party/Luncheon

Select the date, time, and cost for lunch for the Bunko Party. Ask for help in preparing and serving lunch. After lunch have fun with Bunko. There are no official rules for Bunko. Use the rules that most people attending like to play. Decide on the number of rounds you will be playing. Have scorecards, a few door prizes, and decide if you will give cash or gifts for prizes. If you give cash prizes, figure the split for the winners and the Sweetheart.

The Queen of Hearts

The Queen of Hearts is a game that has been used by some Sweethearts and they have made good money on it. It is just the luck of the draw. Use a deck of cards and charge \$1.00 to pick a card. If you pick the Queen of Hearts, you get half of the pot. If you pick the joker you get \$10.00 (or whatever amount you want to give). You must be present to win. As the pot grows, people keep coming back for a chance at the bigger pot. Good luck.

Chicken Bingo

This is a good moneymaker provided you can find the equipment, such as a chicken and a cage. On a poster boardcut to the same size of the bottom of the cage, mark off with squares, write a number on each square, and place it in the bottom of the cage. On a sheet of paper, have squares marked to equal the same amount of squares as in the poster board in the cage. Sell your squares, then place the chicken in the cage and let the chicken do the rest. Make sure he eats well before being placed in the cage. The number he leaves his drop on is the winner of half of the pot and the rest goes to the Sweetheart. Remember to do this in a well-lit room, as chickens do go to roost at dusk. Lots of times players have requested to play Chicken Bingo again.

Card Raffle

Take a full deck of cards and sell the cards for a fee. As you sell the card, cut the card in half, giving one half to the buyer and keeping the other half for your drawing. When all the cards are sold, have your drawing. The card that matches the card drawn will be your winner. If you sold these for \$5.00 each, that would be \$140.00 for you and the same for the winner. This is fun, easy and profitable.

Weight Loss Challenge

If you know someone who wants to loose weight and help the Sweetheart at the same time, have a "Weight Loss Challenge" contest. Have your volunteer challenge Lodge members to contribute one dollar to the Sweetheart fund for every pound they lose between a time agreed to by the Sweetheart and the volunteer. You might even have several volunteers who want to lose weight and meet the challenge.

Dinners, Dinners, and More Dinners

As we all know, Elks like to eat. Ask to work at a dinner every chance you can get. Some Lodge Sweethearts cook meals on Lodge meeting nights. Invite spouses to come to the Lodge that night – this increases the number of dinners sold and also can get you some volunteers to help with cleanup. This not only helps the Sweetheart, but also helps with Lodge attendance.

Some ideas for special dinners other than meeting nights could be an "Italian Night." Serve a Spaghetti Dinner and have a nice bottle of wine as a raffle.

Do a "South of the Border Night" and serve a nice Mexican Dinner. Ask the House Committee to sponsor a bar special, ½ price Margaritas and Corona Beer. This not only helps the Sweetheart with attendance for his/her dinner but also increases bar sales.

Other Ideas

There are many other ideas you can put to work for a Sweetheart project such as "Stick Horse" races or a Variety Show. You could ask the Drama Club at your local high school to perform and split the proceeds. This is also a good place to have a dinner.

Also, a car wash, remembering to advertise the car wash and that the proceeds go to help children with special needs. This can also be a Dog Wash. Ask a veterinarian to participate and give information on safe guards on your pet's health. This would also work as a community service project for the Lodge.

Casino bus trips are a lot of fun and a good moneymaker. Sponsor a Chili/Bean Cook-off. Dances are a lot fun; tie it in with a Luau, Oktoberfest, or a Sock-Hop.

Promote a Survivor or a Safari Party. In some areas, a Trail Ride would be exciting.

THESE IDEAS ARE PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE AND WE HOPE THEY WILL AID YOU IN YOUR SWEETHEART YEAR AND THEY ARE MERELY SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS. YOU MAY ADAPT THEM AS YOU SEE FIT.

The History of the Red Pig Program

The Red Pig Program was started in 1984. Matthew Dadich wrote this history which is on file at the center at Ottine. He had heard about the Purple Pig Program in California. Matthew Dadich contacted Marvin Lewis PGER of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. Marvin Lewis gave Matthew Dadich permission to call the Elks State Headquarters in Fresno, California, for permission to use their program. The California-Hawaii Elks gave their permission to use their program. According to Matthew Dadich, they were 100% behind us in using their program and with any other information or assistance Texas Elks needed.

California Elks State Association sent Matthew Dadich twelve (12) Purple Pigs to take to the State Convention in Harlingen in June 1984. The pig program was presented at a special meeting with the Board of Directors of Texas Elks Foundation for Handicapped Children, Inc., President Elect Vic Elliott, and other officials. T. A. Treadway passed them out to the various Board members. A lengthy discussion was heard. They had on the board at the time several members who were previously members of the California-Hawaii Elks Association and they stated the "Purple Pig Program" brought in over a million dollars per year. So a vote was taken and approved to adopt the "Pig Program." They stated that they should call the Texas Elks Pig Program a different color. So the story goes, TESA President Elect Vice Elliott said to make it like the color of this eyes. This brought out a chuckle and thus was adopted the name "Red Pig Program."

On the original committee for the Red Pig Program was T. A. Treadway, Interlodge Chairman, Mary Williams, Support Services Director, Texas Elks foundation for Handicapped Children, Inc., and Matthew Dadich, Director, West District.

Purpose of the Red Pig

The purpose of the "Red Pig" is to generate funds along with the Sweetheart activities. We use the pigs in our Lodge, which is great, but we need to reach out to the community for their support. Ask businesses and have members place them in offices where they work. Ask friends if they would take one to place in their place of employment. When you ask a business if you can place a pig in its establishment, explain that when you return to pick up the money in the pig, you will present them a receipt for tax purposes for the amount you have picket up from the pig.

The "Pennies From Heaven" Pig should also be keep separately. These pigs, when full will contain \$844.70, which would be a mile of pennies.

The total amount of money collected from the pigs should be kept separately; this is so TESA will know how much is received through the Red Pig Program. The amount collected will count in your Sweetheart totals when presented to the District prior to the selection of the District Sweetheart. For example, 2003-2004, the Sweethearts raised a total of \$317,743.26. Out of that total, the Red Pig amount was \$32,641.13.

If you need Red Pigs, call Texas Children's Services at Ottine (1.800.880.7561); anyone there will be glad to assist you. They can also supply you with pamphlets about the center and the State Major Project, as well as Red Pig charts, stickers, etc.

