

# Pennsylvania

# Elks

## Home Services Program

*Hope and Independence  
For Tomorrow*

## Hanover Elks Lodge #763

## Charity Club

Supports the Home Services Program

Program founder, Past PA Elks State President, James Ebersberger began **Pennsylvania Elks Home Service Program** in 1963. Helping thousands of children and adults throughout the state of Pennsylvania find “Hope and Independence for Tomorrow”. What began as a single vehicle in Westmoreland County, has today become an extremely successful program with 23 vehicles serving individuals in every county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

These services are provided:

- By Registered Nurses
- To Pennsylvania residents of any age who have developmental disabilities
- In the person’s home environment
- Without discrimination
- FREE OF CHARGE

## **How An Elks Home Service Nurse Can Help**

When a child is born with a disability or acquires one through an accident or illness later in life, there is no “magic directory” that can help the family to know what to do or where to go for help. When the Elks Homes Service Nurse is involved, she offers guidance as well as the emotional support.

- Help with home care challenges
- Find adaptive clothing and toys
- Nutritional/feeding concerns
- Consultation regarding medical issues and treatment

## **Early Intervention**

The earlier a disability or delay is discovered, the better the outcome can be for that child. The Elks Home Service Program has a specially trained nurse to do the evaluations for children 0 to 3 years of age, to test for their need for Early Intervention services.

After the evaluation has been completed, the nurse helps to form an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) to determine which services are required. She can then refer the child and family for continued home service visits as needed.

## **Goal**

The nurses of the PA Elks Home Service Program have made a great difference in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities throughout Pennsylvania.

One of the goals is to make more people aware of the important work our nurses do, so that the Home Service Program can continue to grow. This will enable us to be even more effective in helping many others become more independent.

## **Special Recognition**

Over the years, the PA Elks Home Service Program has received various awards to acknowledge its accomplishments.

- Keystone Award of Excellence – The Governor’s Private Sector Initiative Task Force.
- Special Kids Network Award – PA Department of Health.
- Provider Recognition Award – PA outreach Program for Babies, Kids, and Families.
- Community Hero Benefactor Award – UCP Foundation of Pittsburg.

## **The Challenge and The Vision**

The Elks in Pennsylvania do an outstanding job with raising the base funding for the Home Service Program. Additional funding from outside of the Elks organization can help to improve and expand the services now provided. All of the money raised or donated goes directly into the program operation or special projects. The administrative costs are provided for by a grant from the Elks National Foundation.