



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Golden Apple Award
Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706
Community Organization
December 3, 2012

The concept that it takes an entire village to raise a child is alive and well at Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706, and Soldotna High School has been a major beneficiary of that philosophy. Over the past fifteen years Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706 has given over \$93,000 in scholarships to our greater Soldotna area students, and in 2012 they have increased their annual scholarship fund by \$10,000—the additional funding has a vocational focus for senior students.

For the 2012-2013 school year, the Soldotna Elks purchased six iPads (\$3,000) to help support students within our Intensive Needs Special Education program. Several of these students are autistic or have other health impaired learning difficulties. This technology support is a valuable asset to help us meet our student learning objectives. Last year the Soldotna Elks provided the funding to help assist a local group install handicap equipment within a home. Due to confidentiality, additional details are not provided; however, this action resulted in making a positive difference for a student.

Along with the scholarship support, Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706 partners with Soldotna High School to support Veteran's Day and senior citizen appreciation days at Soldotna High School. A large Elks banner in the SoHi gym supports our Basketball programs (\$500 banner per year for the past 10 years.) In the SoHi weight room is a large multi-purpose weight machine the Elks helped purchase for all the students at Soldotna High School—the Elks provided the \$750 for a fund raising spaghetti feed at Soldotna High School resulting in helping us raise the \$3,000 for the piece of equipment. Several athletic programs and teams (Football, Basketball, and Girls Softball) have worked with the Elks to provide community events such as annual Elk (local and state) banquets, Ducks Unlimited banquets, River Guide Association banquets, and so forth resulting in the Elks donating \$500 per event back to the athletic team as a thank you. At Christmas time the Elks ensure that several of our families have the food and gifts (\$500 gift cards to Fred Meyers, along with about \$1,500 worth of wrapped presents needed for children between the ages of 1 year to 18 years old) needed for a festive Christmas holiday.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education recognizes the Soldotna Elks Lodge 2706 for their service to the students, parents, and staff at Soldotna High School.