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MIDDLETOWN ELKS RAISE \$5000 FOR SURGERY ON PORT MONMOUTH CHILD

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BELFORD, NJ The members of the Middletown Elks Lodge recently held an all day fund-raiser to assist a local family with expenses for their child. Co-chairmen Mike Dickie of Middletown, and Michael Parulis, Jr. of Hazlet, joined efforts to aid 2 year old Travis Thompson, son William and Gail Thompson of Port Monmouth.

Travis had been diagnosed with Eosinophilic-Granuloma and it required surgery. In layman s terms he has a large benign growth on his head, and the surgery required the removal of part of his skull, and replacement with bone and skin from other parts of his body. The cost of surgery performed at Children s Hospital in Philadelphia, PA was not covered by Thompson s insurance. The amount raised, slightly more than \$5000, will not pay the half of the hospital bill, but it will assist the family during this difficult experience.

The event for members of the Elks Lodge #2179, consisted of food, and music, and contributions made to the fund. Through their efforts the Lodge is able to provide more than five thousand dollars to help. The Elks Lodge will send the money raised directly to the hospital.

Although not a normal use of the Elks resources, the event was conducted under the auspices of the Handicapped Children Committee and it s Chairman William E. Leonard of Belford.

Elks Lodge #2179 located on Church Street in Belford, is a fraternal organization that involves themselves in service to the community. The main program of the Order of Elks and the Middletown Lodge #2179 is that of providing entertainment, parties, special devices and equipment for the Handicapped Children of Middletown and the surrounding area. Additional special programs are that of the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee, the Youth Activities Committee that recognizes the academic and athletic students, and provides local competition such as the Hoop Shoot and the Soccer Shoot, as well as sponsoring local youth team. The National Veterans Service Committee works hard to assist the hospitalized veterans, and the local

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Lodge conducts at least monthly programs to Laurel Bay nursing home in Keansburg and to the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Menlo Park.

For more information about the Middletown Elks Lodge #2179, you can call (732) 495-2733, or check out their website at www.middletownelks.com. The Middletown Elks have been in existence since 1960 and is assisted by a very valuable Ladies Auxiliary.

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