

ANTLERS OF ELKS LODGE 265 CHOOSE ECAD AS CHARITY TO SUPPORT

The Antlers of the Waterbury Elks Lodge 265 have chosen Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD), as the not for profit that will benefit from its numerous fundraising activities, according to Mandie Dreher, an Antler Advisor and member of the Lodge.

The ECAD Canine Education and Wellness Center is located on Newfield Road in Winsted.

“We are thrilled to have been selected by the Antlers and we applaud their energy and commitment to doing good work,” said Dale Picard, executive director and co-founder with Lu Picard of ECAD.

The Antlers is the Junior Elks Youth Program for members aged 12-21. The program provides opportunities for young people in their communities to get involved with the Elks in the many service-related projects the Lodges sponsor.

In the Waterbury Lodge 265, the Antlers are particularly involved in helping to organize fundraisers such as the annual coat drive, pasta dinners and helping out around the Lodge. Each Antler group is permitted to select its own not-for-profit to support.

“When I looked into CT based not for profits, I found that ECAD fit perfectly with the Elks’ longtime mission of helping Veterans and children and it was up and running,” said Dreher. “They are certified and they place Service Dogs with children with autism and physical disabilities, and their Project HEAL Program was designed especially for Veterans, like those with PTSD.”

After reading about ECAD on-line, Dreher visited the organizations campus which also has the advantage of being close to home.

Dreher, 43, and her husband, John Rubano, 47, are residents and natives of Waterbury. About two years ago, they decided that they wanted to become more involved with their community and to find a way “to give back”.

Due to a family connection, they looked no further than the 150- year- old Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Today, Dreher and Rubano are active members of Elks Lodge 265 that was established in October 2017. They are also Antler Advisors and oversee the Antler youth program.

“I get so excited when I talk about our connection with ECAD and all the good things we are doing. I mean, it just revs me up,” said Dreher. “Lu and Dale came to visit us recently with two of their Service Dogs in Training. Fifteen of our kids or Antlers were there and it was just great to see their interaction with the dogs. Amazing.”

Elks Lodge 265 is now in the midst of its annual winter coat drive – coats are collected and then will be given back to those in the community who need a warm coat on November 3rd. There is also the monthly

ECAD

Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities



breakfast at the Lodge on October 7 from 9am-12noon. The exact date of future Sunday breakfasts will be announced and is based on the availability of the Lodge. The Lodge is located at 283 West Main Street.

“We are always doing something – collecting and recycling plastic bottles, for example and we make money off that, too,” Dreher said. “We are all looking forward to helping ECAD achieve their mission by what we can do for them.”

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For additional information on ECAD, visit www.ecad1.org

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