Texas’ Elks realized that children with special needs resulting from birth defects, accidents, or other trauma often face life-altering limitations. They also realized the fact that so often early intervention with prosthetic equipment, assistive and/or adaptive devices and technology would allow a child to lead a much fuller and complete life. Unfortunately, so many of these very special children in need have no one or nowhere to turn for assistance. To that end, In June of 1999, Texas’ Elks joined together and formed a State major project to help these children live life to its fullest by offering grants to children in need of such specialized equipment and services.

Dear Texas Elks Children’s Services, Inc.,

We have been battling for this wheelchair for some time, your letter in the mail today was a huge surprise and one that brought tears to our eyes. This journey has not been easy, but because of people like you we are able to experience relief and joy. We will forever be grateful for this amazing gift of a wheelchair for our son. There are no words. Thank you!

- Brett, Hannah & Sagen Stout

“Having a difference doesn’t make a difference.”

To Locate an Elks Lodge Near You Contact:

Texas Elks Children’s Services, Inc.
1963 FM 1586, Gonzales, TX 78629
830-875-2425 • texaselkscamp.com
Ava was born with Spina Bifida, lower extremity weakness and both of her legs turned inward. As she got older she was unable to stand alone to do things independently. In order to stand alone and walk by herself with a walker she needed bilateral HRAFO's - hip, knee, ankle, foot orthotics with a pelvic band and leg braces with plastic boots to support her joints, hip and knee. Due to the cost of the assistive equipment, ongoing medical bills and therapy her family could not afford what she needed.

"Ava is motivated to walk by herself. Ava will only be able to do this with the leg braces" - Ava's Physical Therapist

Through the grant program Ava’s family was awarded funds for all the equipment she required. Ava is now able to stand by herself and walk by herself with a walker. Ava is happy that she gets to do what she loves, painting, while standing all by herself without her parent’s support. The assistive devices will help train her muscles to work correctly so she will be able to walk without the braces one day.

"We cannot describe how thankful we are for the Grant for Ava. It has completely changed her and our lives. We are so lucky to have found your organization. Thank you so, so much" - Ava’s Mom

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria are written to be as inclusive as possible. All children having special needs will be considered for grant assistance providing the following criteria are met:
1. A resident of Texas
2. Up to age 18, extended to age 21 if still enrolled in school
3. Whose special needs are neither fully covered by a private or public insurance carrier
4. Whose special needs are not fully met by either a state and/or federal agency
5. Whose special needs are not fully met by another grant program
6. Whose financial needs justify assistance

Application Process

Application for these grants begins at the local Elks Lodge. Applications are evaluated by a special committee appointed by the local Lodge, and are approved by the Lodge. After Lodge approval the applications are to be forwarded to TECSSI for final processing, verification and funding.

Grant Award Notification

Application feedback will be routinely given in a timely manner to all appropriate parties, and specifically to the referring Lodge. TECSSI will notify the Lodge, the vendor and the applicant, once the processing of the application is complete.