



## The History and Meaning of Clothe-a-Child

Sometime around 1989 the late John House enjoyed playing poker with his buddies in the back room of the Lodge. His brothers Bob and Lee were usually right there with him. It was John's idea to put some of the winnings toward some good works for his native New Albany community. That idea was the start of Clothe-A-Child and in the first year the Lodge clothed 30 children at a cost of over \$2500. In 1990 John was named chairman of the group and the tradition began and it grows every year.

Lodge 270 raises money all year long to take at risk kids shopping for new clothes in December. The major fund raiser is a June Golf Scramble. The annual scramble was initiated in 2001 and was spearheaded by the late Harold Beebe, Jr. Today, proceeds from the CAC golf scramble generates over half of the revenue it takes to fund the CAC program. Lots of other mini-fundraisers are sponsored by the Lodge throughout the year to raise well over \$20,000 annually to fund this generous cause.

Clothe-A-Child is a completely volunteer program. The Golf Committee does an amazing job each year planning the scramble to make sure that the golfers have fun and spend money. There is also the gift crew that shops for toys and a wrapping crew that gets them all ready for Santa to pass out after the big shopping trip at Wal Mart. We can't forget the dedicated breakfast crew who arrive at the Lodge at 5:00 am on shopping day to prepare a huge hot breakfast for the kids. And then there is Santa Claus himself, who arrives and spreads good will, joy and toys.

Clothe-A-Child is unique to our Lodge #270. It is powered by the motivation and participation of the membership. So please step up in December and do your part. Remember each family needs an Elk member or guest to help them through the shopping trip or you can help in the kitchen or just by donating to the cause. Let's keep this longtime tradition going strong!