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Your News

JENSEN BEACH, STUART, PALM CITY, HOBE SOUND

A GOOD CAUSE

Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge gives back

Keep Martin Beautiful presented with \$1,000

By **Jayne Johnson**
Your News contributor

MARTIN COUNTY — As Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) launches its efforts to mobilize volunteers and sponsorship support for the annual International Coastal Cleanup, a new partner with a 60-year history in the community and more than 700 members has stepped up to support the nonprofit, volunteer-based organization. The Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge 1870 recently presented KMB with a \$1,000 check and a commitment to raise even more through their upcoming fashion show in October.

The national Elks organization donates more than \$80 million each year to charitable, educational and patriotic community-minded programs. "The national Elks organization encourages the individual lodges to become actively involved in their communities," said Stewart Smith, the exalted ruler of the local lodge. "Partnering with Keep Martin Beautiful by supporting their local coordination of the International Coastal Cleanup is a perfect way for the Elks to get involved in our community by donating our time, as well as providing



MELISSA ZILKA

The Stuart-Jensen Elk's Lodge presented Keep Martin Beautiful with a \$1,000 check to support the upcoming International Coastal Cleanup. Pictured (from left) are Keep Martin Beautiful President Jim Dragseth, Elks Treasurer Alice Hurd, Elks Exalted Ruler Stewart Smith, KMB staff Carley Moss and Jayne Johnson, and Elks House Committee Chair Della Nelson.

funding to support this important community-wide improvement event in Martin County."

Keep Martin Beautiful coordinates the International Coastal Cleanup as part of a larger initiative involving more than 400,000 people in 90 nations around the world. What makes the International Coastal Cleanup unique is its data collection component. Volunteers record specific types of marine debris they find, allowing the Ocean Conservancy (the global coordinators of the event) to compile, analyze and track

this data year-by-year. The final information is used to educate the public, and in turn, change behaviors that cause the littering problem. Like the Ocean Conservancy, Keep Martin Beautiful believes that understanding the problem is the key to finding long-lasting solutions.

In addition to the Elk's support of the cleanup, proceeds from their upcoming fashion show fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 19, will benefit Keep Martin Beautiful and the Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge Beautification Fund. "This is our second annual fashion

show fundraiser, which will feature clothing and accessories from Bealls, as well as other vendors. It's a fun way for the Elks members and the women in our community to get together for an entertaining afternoon of fun, fashion and philanthropy," Smith said.

For more information about volunteering or sponsoring the International Coastal Cleanup, please contact Keep Martin Beautiful at 772-781-1222 or info@keepmartinbeautiful.org. To attend the Elks Fashion show, please contact Della Nelson at 772-287-0278.