

Bend Area Rotary Clubs Donate \$60,000 To Local Charities

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The four Bend area Rotary Clubs have raised \$60,000 for local charities, including the Boys and Girls Club, Deschutes Children's Foundation, Kids Center, Shots for Tots, Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery, Volunteers in Medicine, Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance (COBRA), Lions Sight and Hearing Projects, Lions Children's Projects, and the Alzheimer's Association. "This year, our Great Drake Park Duck Race helped raise more than \$60,000 for local charities - it's one of our best years ever," said John Bushnell, president of the Rotary Club of Bend. "Every dollar raised is going directly to the selected non-profit agencies in support of their programs. This year's event was a tremendous collaborative effort and we want to offer a special thanks to the title sponsor for the event, the Bank of the Cascades. The Deschutes Children's Foundation is one of the agencies benefiting from the Rotary efforts. The Foundation supports other non-profits that provide vital services for children. Funds that we receive will go towards our capital campaign to add 3,100 square feet to our KIDS Center at the Rosie Bareis Community Campus and to build a new 13,000 square foot building on Daggett Lane," said Executive Director Jan Eggleston. "These donations will go toward our ability to provide services to an additional 3,000 children and families per year." "This contribution is going towards our capital campaign and is vital because it allows our expansion and enables us to help more children every year," added Bob Smit, Executive Director of the KIDS Center, which is dedicated to the evaluation and treatment of child abuse, as well as programs on child abuse prevention. According to Andrea Gibson, director of development for the Boys and Girls Club, the donation will go directly towards a rejuvenation project for the Bend club's Teen Center. "We will be able to purchase tables, chairs, and technology for the teens and refurbish it in the latest colors and styles, so that teens feel that it is truly their space," she said.

Julie Miller, EVP, Regional Manager of Bank of the Cascades added, "During these past ten-plus years, it has been an honor for the Bank of the Cascades and our employees to be part of this creative way to have fun and give back to valued Central Oregon community programs and services."

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