

Gingerbread Junction Satisfies a Charity's Sweet Tooth

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Prizes awarded, winners announced and \$5,000 donated at Sunriver Resort. Gingerbread creations on display through Dec. 30.

Gingerbread Junction is the largest collection of gingerbread houses in the Northwest on display at Sunriver Lodge. This "sweet" event raised \$5,000 for local beneficiary, Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery, through lot "sales," a matching donation (dollar for dollar) from Sunriver Resort and a contribution from Central Oregon Builders Association (COBA).

A check for \$5,000 was presented to Tim Rusk, executive director, Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery, which is the only program in Deschutes County that provides comprehensive services to prevent child abuse and neglect in at-risk families with children, ages six weeks to four years.

"The recognition and financial support we have received as the beneficiary of Gingerbread Junction is fantastic," Rusk said. "We love that children and families benefit from the creativity of the community."

Not only is Gingerbread Junction a fundraiser, but it's a competition as well. With representatives from the Nursery, COBA and Gusto Magazine serving as judges, the gingerbread creations were evaluated on originality, style, use of food and technical merits. The winners in the individual categories were:

Adult Individual - "Jodie Brenamen and Marlene Brown
Business - "A Kleene Sweep Chimney Service
Children's Individual - "Travis, Miles and Jarrett Boynton
Elementary School - "Fast Camp
Middle School & High School - "Mountain View High School Culinary (Brock Grenfell, Brett Bascom, Lauren Herr and Dallas Urig)
Gusto Lane "Pronghorn
Best in Show - "Pronghorn
People's Choice - "Jodie Brenamen and Marlene Brown

The winners of the adult category and People's Choice award spent more than 150 hours creating a two-foot tall shoe, honoring Mother Goose's nursery rhyme, "There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe."

The first annual Gusto Lane, sponsored by Gusto Magazine, showcases professional gingerbread houses made by local restaurants. This year's participants include Ariana's, Bellatazza, Café 3456/Vanilla Moon, Pronghorn, Scanlon's and Sunriver Resort. Pronghorn's exact replica of its clubhouse captured the inaugural Gusto Lane honors.

The homes in Gingerbread Junction will be on display until Dec. 30 in the North Pole at Sunriver Lodge. For more information, call Sunriver Resort concierge at (541) 593-4609.

Gingerbread Junction Satisfies a Charity's Sweet Tooth by Bend Weekly News Sources