Local Childrensâ€™ Charities To Benefit From The Great Drake Park Duck Race

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Expansion of the KIDS Center and renovations on the Boys & Girls Club Teen Center are just a few of the community projects that will receive a much-needed financial infusion from the 16th annual Great Drake Park Duck Race slated for Sunday, September 10, 2006. This yearâ€™s recipients are primarily non-profit organizations that help children, including the Boys and Girls Club, Deschutes Childrenâ€™s Foundation, Kids Center, Shotâ€™s for Tots, Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery, Volunteers in Medicine, COBRA, Lions Sight and Hearing Projects, Lions Childrenâ€™s Projects, and the Alzheimerâ€™s Association. The Deschutes Childrenâ€™s Foundation is one of the agencies that will benefit from this yearâ€™s Duck Race. The Foundation supports other non-profits that provide vital services for children. â€œFunds that we receive from the Duck Race will go towards our capital campaign that we currently have underway 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,â€• said Executive Director Jan Eggleston. â€œThese donations will go toward our ability to provide services to an additional 3,000 children and families per year.â€• â€•The money raised from the Duck Race that is going towards our capital campaign is vital because it allows our expansion and enables us to help more children every year,â€• 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, funds raised from the Duck Race will go directly towards a rejuvenation project for the Bend clubâ€™s Teen Center. â€œWe 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 â€˜their space,â€™â€• she said. Sponsored by local Rotary Clubs and Lions Club of Bend and the title sponsor, Bank of the Cascades, the Duck Race is a day-long family event featuring live music, food, and fun. There will also be a free Kids Race at 12 noon, before the big race. â€• Last yearâ€™s Duck Race raised nearly $50,000, which was distributed to local charities,â€• said John Bushnell, president of the Rotary Club of Bend. â€œThis is one of those amazing events where literally every dollar raised goes directly to the selected non-profit agencies in support of their programs. So buying a duck is directly supporting those agencies that provide such worthwhile services to our communityâ€•. The activities begin at 11 a.m. and the Kids race kicks off at 12 noon. At 1 p.m. the pre-race ceremonies get underway and at 2 p.m. the race officially begins at the Galveston Bridge and finishes at the Mirror Pond footbridge. At 3 p.m. the winners and prizes will be announced. The grand prize winner of the duck that finishes first will get his or her choice of a 2006 Chevy Equinox SUV supplied by Bob Thomas Chevrolet or 2006 Bayliner Ski Boat with trailer supplied by All Seasons RV & Marine. Both the SUV and ski boat can be viewed at various locations around Bend during the next month. More than 20 other great prizes will also be given away.

Ducks can be purchased for $5 each from any Rotary or Lions Club members or at any branch of Bank of the Cascades. This year, they can also be purchased at several other locations, including Newport Market, AmeriTitle, Bob Thomas Chevrolet, Mountain Comfort Furnishings, Pahlish Homes, Steve Scott Realty, Tumalo Feed Company and Niblick & Greenâ€™s Restaurant. Ducks can be purchased right up until the day of the race. 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. We look forward to yet another Great Race!" Additional information can be found on the event website at www.greatdrakeparkduckrace.com.