

Mazatzal Hotel & Casino Donates to 52 Charities



Representatives from 52 non-profit organizations in Arizona's Rim Country packed the Tonto Apache Tribe's Mazatzal Hotel & Casino Event Center recently for the casino's largest non-profit check distribution event since the Charity Contribution Funding Program began. Over \$26,000 from forfeited jackpot funds was distributed, and each charity received \$507.73.

"This is the first year we've been able to give funds to every eligible non-profit in our program," explained Hubert Nanty, General Manager for Mazatzal Hotel & Casino.

The beneficiaries were asked what they could do with the donation. The Payson Senior Center will use it to provide 66 meals for the Meals on Wheels Program. The Society for St. Vincent DePaul will give eight families boxes of food. Payson Community Kids will keep its facility open on Fridays in June and provide breakfast and lunch to participating children. The Humane Society will be able to vaccinate, spay or neuter and microchip 15 dogs and cats, and Habitat for Humanity will buy a stove for their twenty-ninth house. Robert Horne of Katie's Closet wrote to the editor of the local paper, "Forty children this year will wear new shoes because of their kindness. In a time of such political brokenness in our country, I am simply overwhelmed by this caring action by the Tonto Apache Tribe."

Gun Lake Casino Donates to Charities During Burger Challenge Launch at Sandhill Café



Gun Lake Casino recently hosted a launch party for its new 4.5 pound food challenge. During the party, local charitable organizations and media participated in a new food eating

challenge while receiving donations to their organizations.

"Sandhill Café has become known for its amazing build-your-own burger, and we have created a delicious challenge around that burger with 4.5 pounds of food," commented Sal Semola, President and Chief Operating Officer for Gun Lake Casino. "Gun Lake Casino is committed to strong partnerships in our communities and we are excited to kick off this new challenge with local charitable partners."

Local charities nominated food-eating champions to participate in the event with each charity being presented with \$1,000 donations. Charities included the Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids, Ele's Place, the Humane Society of West Michigan, Gryphon Place, and the Michigan Parkinson Foundation. Ele's Place representative John Fitzgerald won the challenge by being the first to finish and received an additional \$5,000 donation.

2019 Table Mountain Casino Celebrity Invitational Donates \$10,000 to Valley Children's Healthcare



L-R: Mike Haynes, Eric Dickerson, Gary Payton, James Lofton, Pat Hill, Jerry Rice, George, Rob Goslin, Marcus Allen, Rollie Fingers and Robb Nen.

Table Mountain Casino, located in Central California, recently presented the nationally ranked children's healthcare network, Valley Children's Healthcare, with a donation for \$10,000. This donation represents the proceeds from the 2nd Annual Table Mountain Casino Celebrity Invitational, held at the tribe's scenic Eagle Springs Golf and Country Club. A host of celebrity athletes participated in this spectacular day on the greens that featured an array of superstars including Jerry Rice, Eric Dickerson, Gary Payton, Marcus Allen, Mike Haynes, James Lofton, Rollie Fingers, Robb Nen and former Fresno State Football Coach Pat Hill. The popular Valley Children's mascot, George, was also on hand to 'fan' over the celebrities and pose for pictures with the players.

Rob Goslin, Table Mountain Casino President and General Manager said, "The Table Mountain Casino Celebrity Invitational is the valley's premier charity golf tournament. Not only did everyone have a great time golfing and visiting with the celebrities, more importantly, we raised resources for our local shining star, Valley Children's Healthcare; that's what this

day is really all about. Table Mountain and Valley Children's share a long-standing commitment to improving the health and wellness of the Valley's 1.3 million children."

This year's Invitational included an opportunity for sponsors and players to take photos, visit and engage with the celebrities, all while enjoying the panoramic views of the foothills that the challenging Eagle Springs course offers. The tournament culminated in a delicious meal followed by an awards ceremony, where prizes and medals were awarded to the top teams and players.

Goslin concluded with the following thank you, "We appreciate all those who contributed to the overwhelming success of this memorable day. We are already looking forward to next year's Table Mountain Casino Celebrity Invitational."

Record Breaking Fundraising Event Held for Phoenix Indian Center



L-R: Patricia Hibbeler, Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, Jr., Cheryl Stevens, Roylynn Bilagody, Governor Stephen R. Lewis, Traci Morris

The Phoenix Indian Center's key fundraising event, Silver & Turquoise Ball, recently took place at The Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale, AZ. With more than 500 in attendance, the event raised well-over \$300,000 dollars to benefit programs and services provided by the Center; supporting American Indian families and children in Maricopa and Coconino counties, and rural communities across Arizona.

"What a tremendous night we had," said Patricia Hibbeler, CEO of the Phoenix Indian Center. "This year's event was record-breaking for us with the largest attendance and dollars raised in 36 years. We are truly thankful for the generous support and contributions from our attendees, sponsors, committee members, and our American Indian artist community who donated beautiful artwork to both our silent and live auctions," Hibbeler added.

The 2019 event chairs were Governor Stephen R. Lewis from the Gila River Indian Community and Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, Jr., with his wife Cheryl, representing the National Indian Gaming Association. Auction chairs were renowned American Indian artists, Rykelle Kemp and Jacob Meders. With more than 100 silent and live auction items to bid on, attendees enjoyed a musical-themed evening highlighted by



Brooke Simpson receives the honorary Leon Grant Spirit of the Community Award from Joy (Grant) Manus, daughter of the late Leon Grant, and actor Rodney Grant.

painted vinyl records as art centerpieces, created by American Indian artists from communities throughout the U.S.

Each year, the Phoenix Indian Center highlights an American Indian chef who creates an Indigenous-inspired menu. Chef Freddie Bitsoie, from the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C., offered a 3-course plated for attendees, and in addition, offered his culinary talents to a live auction package, with one lucky winner bidding on a private dinner for six prepared by the chef at a private home.

Brooke Simpson, who was a top finisher in NBC's vocal talent competition, *The Voice*, was honored by the family of Phoenix Indian Center's first executive director and contributing founder, the late Leon Grant, with the Leon Grant Spirit of the Community Award. Simpson, who is from Haliwa-Saponi Tribe in North Carolina, was recognized for her work as a young American Indian female who continues to use her success to engage American Indian youth by sharing her personal story of struggles, determination, and commitment. "We want our youth to know they don't have to be in their later years to be recognized and honored for the work they are doing right now. We want to encourage and support our young people," said Joy (Grant) Manus, daughter of Leon Grant. The evening was capped-off with a riveting 30-minute musical set by Brooke Simpson and her four-piece band, leaving attendees in awe of her talented vocal ability.

Sponsors of the 2019 event included APS, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Desert Diamond Casinos, SRP, Gila River Indian Community, National Indian Gaming Association, Cox, Discover, Arizona Diamondbacks, Arizona Complete Health, Burch & Cracchiolo, CopperPoint, Freeport-McMoRan, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Wells Fargo, and Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort.

The Phoenix Indian Center is in its 72nd year directly serving more than 7,000 people each year, and reaching more than 20,000 annually through the Center's many grassroots educational activities provided to the community at large. ♣