AMCR Donates $5,962 to Ironworkers Local 440 Benefit Fund

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort recently presented a check for $5,962.40 to Ironworkers Local 440. The funds were raised as part of the 2014 Ironworkers Festival, an annual competition held at AMCR that celebrates and showcases Ironworker talent. Each year, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort donates 100% of the proceeds from the event’s competitor registration fees, t-shirt sales, and chicken wing contest.

Emily Lauzon, AMCR Assistant General Manager, presented the check to Local 440 Representatives along with Patrick Bassney, AMCR General Manager and Craig Fuller, Director of Marketing. Representing the Local 440 Benefit Fund was Tom “Gulla” Thomas, Business Manager, Bill Sears, and Mike Swamp, former Business Manager. The Local 440 Benefit Fund is a program that provides support for active and retired Local 440 ironworkers who get hurt on the job or become ill. Mike Swamp added that the program has been in place for 10 years and has dispersed over $25,000 in aid. “We look forward to working together with Local 440 for 2015 and raising monies to assist the ironworkers who are in need of financial support due to injuries or illness,” stated Emily Lauzon.

Each year, the Ironworkers Festival attracts competitors from Ironworker Locals throughout the Northeast who compete in seven skills competitions and vie for the top prize of being crowned “Ultimate Ironworker.” In 2014, Christopher Prophet of Local 401 took home the top prize, which is awarded based on points tallied from all seven competitions. Dan Hoban of Local 401 set a new record for the Column Climb event in which he scaled a 30-foot steel column in 4.97 seconds.

The 13th Annual Ironworkers Festival is being held on July 25th, 2015 at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. “Each year the Festival grows in size and it’s great to see the community come together to honor and celebrate the talent and courage of Ironworkers,” said Benjamin Herne, AMCR Promotions/Special Events Manager. The festival-style event also includes live music, a beer tent, local vendors, a watermelon eating contest, and the infamous chicken wing cook-off.

Memorial Children’s Hospital Selected as Beneficiary of Fourth Annual Four Winds Invitational

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds Casinos announced recently that proceeds from the fourth annual Four Winds Invitational would once again be donated to Memorial Children’s Hospital. Money raised this year will help fund a new multi-story building that will be constructed above the Memorial Leighton Trauma Center. More than $187,000 has been donated to Memorial Children’s Hospital over the past three years. The 2015 Four Winds Invitational, as part of the Symetra Tour – Road to the LPGA, will be held Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21 at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend.

“We continue to stand in awe of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and all of the sponsors associated with the Four Winds Invitational,” said Philip A. Newbold, CEO of Beacon Health System, the parent organization of Memorial Children’s Hospital. “It is only through the support of these generous organizations that we are able to provide this life-changing care for families when they need it the most.”

The new building will include space for the General Pediatrics Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic, and Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The building will also have Couplet Care and single family rooms, along with playrooms and teen hideout spaces, Family Enrichment Centers, a rooftop garden, and a butterfly room for families grieving the loss of a child. The new facility will feature all-private patient rooms, which are proven to enhance outcomes, reduce length of stay, improve safety and efficiency, strengthen communication, and promote healing. Money is being raised for the building as part of the SHINE Campaign.

“The Pokagon Band is proud to continue our support of Memorial Children’s Hospital as it seeks to build a new state-of-the-art facility that will serve Michiana’s children,” said John P. Warren, Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. “The Four Winds Invitational is just one example of the various ways in which we give back to the community that we have called home for hundreds of years.”

Soboba Raises Over $100,000 During Charity Golf Tournament

The 3rd Annual Soboba Casino & Soboba Foundation Charity Golf Tournament was held recently at the Country Club at Soboba Springs. With 172 participants, and over 85 volunteers, the golf course was filled with a healthy mixture of competition and playful spirit. Attendee Jeff Shepard said, “This was such an exciting event and everybody was so positive and happy to be here. It’s great to see a lot of local support.”

After a fun filled day of golf, the 3rd Annual Tournament exceeded its $100,000 fundraising goal, and was able to support a number of local non-profit organizations. A total of four non-profit organizations were chosen as this year’s beneficiaries,
which received support from tournament funds directly. Beneficiaries include: C.A.S.A., a foundation that assists assault survivors and their families through crisis counseling, services, and advocacy; EEK Fitness, a nonprofit organization that provides exercise, recreation, and learning programs for the special needs community and their families; The Ramona Humane Society (RHS), a nonprofit, open-admission animal shelter, animal control agency and high quality, low-cost spay/neuter and wellness clinic; and V.I.P. Tots offers both center-based and home-based intervention services as well as special programs for children with autism, behavior support needs, and basic child care.

“All of our sponsors, volunteers and tribal members that attended were equally important,” said Golf Tournament Committee Chair Isaiah Vivanco. “Without their support the tournament would not have been as successful. It shows how a tribal, local, and business community can come together as one and make a difference. We are grateful for all of our sponsors, committee members, the tribe, the volunteers and the Country Club’s tireless assistance in making this event a huge success.”

Ray Shalizi, General Manager of the Country Club at Soboba Springs mentioned, “The Country Club was elated to have been able to facilitate this significant display of community support for local nonprofits and economic development. A fun day filled with kindness and generosity will be remembered for years to come.”

Agilysys Continues Commitment to Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Agilysys, Inc. continues its commitment to helping Boys & Girls Clubs of America with a technology donation to the Brookhaven chapter of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta. The donation, which included an external hard drive and three Adobe Creative Cloud licenses, was presented to Ziggy Asfaw, Executive Director of the Brookhaven Boys & Girls Club, in conjunction with the Agilysys annual sales kick-off meeting, held recently at Mandarin Oriental Atlanta.

The Boys & Girls Club donation is part of the ‘Lasting Connections’ initiative at Agilysys, which supports local outreach and encourages its employees and others to give back to the communities in which they live and work. It will enable Brookhaven club members to use software in real-world applications and learn more about how technology shapes the world around them.

“Partnerships like this one help our children and teens build critical skills that will serve them well in the classroom and beyond,” said Asfaw. “This donation, in particular, will give our kids a chance to explore technology, unleash their creativity and see their work come to fruition. We are grateful to Agilysys for their support of our club and their commitment to helping our kids reach their full potential.”

“We are grateful for the opportunity to help young people in need through Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta,” said Jim Walker, Vice President of Sales at Agilysys. “We hope our partnership enables club members to learn more about technology and encourages some of the kids to pursue a career in the technology industry. We also hope our donation will prompt our employees to become involved with their local Boys & Girls Club chapters and make a positive difference in the lives of children and teens in their own communities.”

For more than 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America have enabled young people in need to achieve great futures as productive and responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,100 clubs serve nearly 4 million young people annually through club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located throughout the country and on U.S. military installations worldwide, providing fun, friendship, caring adult mentors and high-impact youth development programs that emphasize academic success, healthy lifestyles, good character and citizenship. Boys & Girls Clubs of America is headquartered in Atlanta.

VizExplorer Establishes the Chris Korpi Tribal Development Foundation

VizExplorer recently announced at the National Indian Gaming Association’s annual conference, the creation of the Chris Korpi Tribal Development Foundation. Chris dedicated his life to working with tribes to improve their lives by providing actionable insights to enhance a number of tribal functions including land and water management, agriculture and retail space optimization, and casino operational efficiency. A non-profit organization, VizExplorer’s Chris Korpi Tribal Development Foundation was started to continue Chris’ legacy of supporting underserved Indian tribes.

The foundation seeks to directly benefit underserved Indian tribes that are unable to provide technology resources to their members. By establishing computer labs and by providing remote assistance in basic computer skills, the foundation hopes to promote significant, long-term changes in the lives of tribal members. The foundation strongly believes it is the right of the underserved tribes to have access to the latest in computer technology and training.

In order to fund this technology training and development, the foundation’s sponsor, VizExplorer, has committed to contribute a percentage of every tribal sale to the fund. In addition, the foundation will hold an annual golf tournament as its main fundraising event and will request partners at different commitment levels to assist in the effort to provide technology resources to these underserved tribes.