CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS BENEFIT HELPS MORE THAN 1300 AREA CHILDREN; RAISES $50,000 FOR CHARITY

Lake Ozark, MO, January 3, 2011—Thanks to the Christmas for Kids (CFK) benefit, more than 1300 children (1379 to be exact) had presents under the tree this year. Organized by the Christmas for Kids Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Ozark Coast, the benefit also raised some $50,000 collectively.

The annual event was held Sunday, December 11, at the Country Club Hotel & Spa. The event featured a VIP party for table sponsors this year, but was open to the public an hour later with admission being one unwrapped toy and a $10 cash donation. Since its inception 18 years ago, the annual event has raised approximately $550,000 in cash donations and proceeds from the silent auction. Most importantly, it has brought Christmas joy to thousands of needy children in the form of presents and clothing vouchers to area not-for-profit thrift shops.

According Wayne Marlow, who managed gift distribution, there were many requests for bikes—more than 40—this year.

"Thanks to the Linn Creek Police Department and the generosity of many bike angels, we fulfilled every one of those requests," he said.

Missy Martinette Hills, who is the chair for the CFK Committee and also in charge of table sales and the live auction, indicated that the event—including the silent auction organized by the Kiwanis Club of Ozark Coast—raised more than $50,000. Checks for $3000 each will be presented to eight lake area charities that the event sponsored this year, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Tri-County YMCA, Camp Wonderland, Kids' Harbor, CADV (Citizens Against Domestic Violence), Hope House, Lake Regional Pediatrics, and Share the Harvest.

"This year's event was the most successful we've had thanks to the efforts of the Christmas for Kids Committee, the Kiwanis Club of Ozark Coast, and the many volunteers we had from the community."

Additional disbursements to Lake area charities will be made through the Kiwanis Club of Ozark Coast.

The event, now in its 18th year, drew some 600 people and, in addition to the silent and live auctions, featured refreshments and entertainment.

Be sure to mark December 9, 2012 on your calendar and be part of the event next year.

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