

Mayor's Ball delivers thousands to local groups

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Eighteen Silverton organizations have much to be thankful for this holiday season. The classic end-of-summer Silverton Mayor's Ball procured a whopping \$27,000 to be distributed to various causes around town.

"I think this is excellent," Silverton Mayor Ken Hector said, citing that the event raised a little more than \$40,000 in revenue.

And the Ball compares favorably with past years.

"We raised more in grant dollars this year than last," he said.

Among receiving organizations are the Silverton Area Community Aid, the Silverton Art Association and Silverton Together.

The Silverton Chamber of Commerce received \$2,000, which, according to Chamber Manager Stacy Palmer, will be used to help offset the costs of Silverton's Community Christmas Tree tradition.

"All of our ornaments cost more than \$100 each, and they are made of hard resin," Palmer said. "We spent over \$6,000 on revitalizing the tree this year, but it should be more like a one-time deal; this is not an ongoing cost," she said. "It's so wonderful what Ken and the committee does for the community every year. We're very fortunate to be recipients."

Since the Community Christmas Tree's beginnings 14 years ago, Palmer suggested that the event has grown to become a huge town tradition, saying that this year brought nearly 2,000 people to downtown to partake in the tree lighting.

"We went through 55 gallons of hot cocoa this year. That's 1,200 cups," she said. "This is the epitome of small-town living."

But the Community Christmas Tree is not the only deserving community organization.

"There is a broad spectrum of organizations, and a wide variety of need in the community," Hector said. "This is an opportunity to further the good things that they do. The Rotary Foundation, for example, has been on a role fundraising for defibrillators, which will benefit the entire community."

And if you were unable to attend this year's Mayor's Ball, it's not too late to reap the benefits. Detroit Lake trips are still up for grabs at \$400 each, and designer purses are

being auctioned off on eBay, said Hector.

“This is only the first disbursement,” he said. “We’re hoping to give away more throughout the year.”

## Organizations

receiving funds

Eugene Field Parent-Faculty Club \$500

Habitat for Humanity \$500

Mark Twain School \$500

The Oregon Garden \$1,500

Providence/Benedictine Nursing Center Foundation \$1,000

Roth’s Benefit/Education Foundation \$2,500

St. Joseph Shelter/Mission Benedict \$750

Silver Falls Family YMCA \$1,000

Silver Fox Foundation \$1,000

Silverton Area Community Aid \$1,500

Silverton Area Seniors \$2,000

Silverton Art Association \$1,000

Silverton Chamber of Commerce \$2,000

Silverton Hospital Foundation \$7,000

Silverton Mural Society \$550

Silverton Rotary Foundation \$1,200

Silverton Together \$1,500

Silverton Zenith Women's Club \$1,000