



Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch Awards Nearly \$80,000 in Grants

Proceeds Earned from the club's Suncoast Food & Wine Fest

LAKEWOOD RANCH – The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch presented nearly \$80,000 in grants to 20 deserving local nonprofits and Rotary projects with money raised Nov. 13 from the club's annual Suncoast Food & Wine Fest.

Rotarians, grant recipients and sponsors gathered for the awards presentations at a special club meeting March 17 at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club.

Ticket sales fund putting on the event that features cuisine from the area's top restaurants and samples of fine wines and other beverages, event sponsors essentially fund the grant awards.

Presenting Sponsor: Publix

Co-Host Sponsors: Suncoast Porsche, Lakewood Ranch Communities

Platinum: Critter Ridge, JP Morgan Chase, Marketing by Design, Palm Printing

Gold: Homes by Towne, Najmy Thompson, P.L., Premier Sports Complex, Raymond James, Dr. Joan Renz, US Tent

Titanium: E&J Gallo Winery, HERC Rentals, Kerkering, Barberio & Company, Lakewood Ranch OBGYN, Moffitt Cancer Center, Midguard Self Storage

Silver: Adamchak, Bordes & Associates/Wealth Management-Merrill Lynch, Affiliated Products, Inc., Caldwell Trust Company, Cruz Portrait Design, Gulfside Wealth, Jax Car Wash, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, R.E. Crawford Construction, Ursula Heitman, UPS Store-Lakewood Ranch Market St, Waste Management

Bronze: Around the Bend Nature Tours, Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, Bill & Lois Ditman, Great Clips, Goodfellas Pizza, Hautamaki & Horiuchi, Heart Specialists of Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch Signs & More, Midyett-Dutoit Property Team-Keller Williams Realty, Optical Services, Ringling College of Art & Design, Sabal Palm Bank, Sean McCutcheon's Air Conditioning & Heating, South Tech, Susie Jackson-State Farm, Tutschulte Polis Jerome/Merrill Lynch, Vonda Johnson, WBRC Architects Engineers, Willis Smith Construction

To date, the club has used festival proceeds to give about \$2 million to charitable causes. Club member Ladd Waldo, a past Rotary District 6960 governor, who chaired the Grant Awards Committee presented awards totaling \$79,153 to:

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS SUNCOAST – \$1,053 to purchase conference room technology for training volunteers and staff

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MANATEE COUNTY – \$5,000 to purchase reading program materials for at-risk elementary-age students

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SARASOTA AND DESOTO – \$3,000 to benefit the homework help and academic enrichment program

CHILD PROTECTION CENTER – \$2,000 to help pay for the supervised visitation program at neutral locations

CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN FUND – \$3,000 for summer camp expenses clients

COMMUNITY HAVEN – \$5,000 to fund online programming for special needs students

FEEDING EMPTY LITTLE TUMMIES – \$7,500 to provide weekend meals for students at 55 Manatee schools

FOUNDATION FOR DREAMS – \$3,000 for supplies for summer camp for special needs children

LECOM – \$4,000 to buy supplies for a back-to-school dental clinic for Title 1 schoolchildren

NEURO CHALLENGE – \$3,000 to help fund a support group for families

PARENTING MATTERS – \$2,600 to purchase equipment and supplies for musical motion program

ROTARY CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH BOOKS FOR KIDS – \$2,000 to support book purchases impacting up to 3,000 students

ROTARY CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE – \$5,000 for a global grant for a clean water and sanitation project in Peru

ROTARY CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH CLEFT LIP/PALATE PROJECT – \$5,000 for a global grant to provide surgeries for children in Peru

ROTARY CLUB OF PALMETTO – \$3,000 for a global grant to alleviate malnutrition in Haiti

ROTARY GIFT OF LIFE – \$5,000 to provide heart surgeries for children in developing countries

SHELTERBOX USA – \$5,000 for disaster response as needed throughout the world

STILLPOINT MISSION – \$4,000 to provide diapers and wipes for local families in need

TEEN COURT – \$5,000 for program to prevent school suspension and expulsion

TIDEWELL HOSPICE – \$6,000 for Blue Butterfly bereavement program for Lakewood Ranch youth

The Suncoast Food & Wine Fest will hold its 20th annual event this year on Saturday, Nov. 12. Tickets will go on sale in the fall at www.suncoastfoodandwinefest.com.

More Information

For more information about the awards, contact Grant Committee Chairman Ladd Waldo at ufoundwaldo1213@gmail.com or club President Mark Midyett at mark@suncoasthomepros.com. Chartered in 2001, the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch has grown to over 100 active and honorary members. Weekly club meetings are being held in person and via Zoom. For general inquiries, email rotarylwr@gmail.com or visit lakewoodranch-rotary.com. Follow the club's social media channels at facebook.com/RotaryClubLakewoodRanch, twitter.com/Rotary_LWR and instagram.com/lwrrotary.



Tidewell Foundation received a \$6,000 grant for its Blue Butterfly program for grieving children. Shown, from left, are Tidewell Foundation Philanthropy Advisor Kaitlyn Reeves, left, with Rotarians Ladd Waldo and Judy Berlow, and Tidewell Foundation Senior Philanthropy Advisor Chris Pfahler.



Mathew J. Bateman, dean of the LECOM School of Dental Medicine, talks about how a \$4,000 grant will help the school buy supplies for Super Sealant Saturday. Dental students and professional will screen 100 Title I children, give X-rays and put sealant on their teeth before school starts. Shown with him are Shirley Parrado, left, LECOM's director of outreach, and Thomas Yoon, D.D.S., assistant dean of clinical education.



Katy McBrayer-Lynch tells the audience how Teen Court of Sarasota gave her a third chance 21 years ago; today, she's the organization's board president and married to a sheriff's deputy. Student board member Max Schoenfeld accompanied her to accept a \$5,000 grant to help reduce school suspensions and expulsions.



Hallie Peilet, director of mission engagement for The Haven, left, listens as Travis Ebersole, director of Haven Academy talks about how the \$5,000 grant will help fund online programming so special needs students can adapt learning to their individual skill levels. Rotarian Ladd Waldo, right, presented the award.