

HARBOR SPRINGS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jody Ewbank, Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
231-526-6201 or jodye@staffords.com

HARBOR AREA GINGERBREAD CONTEST SUCCESS FOR CHARITY GROUPS

The Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce a tremendous success in this year's gingerbread contest. The contest included 26 entries and took on a new philanthropic twist whereby entrants chose a charity of choice that would benefit from donations connected to the success of their gingerbread creation.

Entries were submitted in one of six categories: Adult Individual, Adult Group, Teen Individual, Teen Group, Youth Individual, and Youth Group. Judged in five specific areas by a panel of three professional judges, prizes were awarded to each category. First place winners included the Harbor Springs Area Historical Soc., Roy Hall, Jennifer Hall, Ashley Maxwell and Valerie Grubagh, Lilly and Abby Hackman, and Perry Bower. A total of 24 different NFP groups were represented through the event.

\$2,489.00 was raised for local, national, and international non-profit groups. Stafford's Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs hosted the event where supporters arrived Friday night to witness the awarding of prizes and the announcement of the coveted People's Choice Award.

As promised, the entry raising the most in financial donations received a match from the Chamber (up to \$500). Raising a total of \$1,065.00 in public donations was the R.F.C. Fire Rescue team, a volunteer fire and emergency response team servicing Readmond, Friendship, and Cross Village townships.

Jody Ewbank, current Chamber President, hopes that the contest will continue to grow in years to come. "We're excited for next year and what we want everyone to understand is how critical it is to promote your entry. The fire and rescue group won the People's Choice Award because of grass roots hard work. They were really excited and they spent a lot of time getting the word out for donations. That's really what we want this contest to be about - creativity and the cause."

The contest would not have been possible without the strong support of many people. Personal thank you notes have been sent to those who helped. Area painters and builders provided the base boards used for entries. Local businesses donated fantastic prizes. Professionals volunteered time for judging, and Chamber members provided creativity and support to the contest. The Chamber wishes to thank the community for embracing this event and making it the success that it was.

For additional information please contact Jody Ewbank at jodye@staffords.com or 231.526.6201.

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