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**Bikes, Blues & BBQ Revs Up Donations to Local Nonprofits**

*Event helps to raise more than \$150,000 for local nonprofit organizations*

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Dec. 13, 2010** -- Bikes, Blues & BBQ held its annual donation announcement today at the Fayetteville Town Center revealing the 21 local nonprofits that received cash donations totaling \$80,000 for their admirable work in the community. Bikes, Blues & BBQ provided \$11,200 in in-kind donations of booth space at the 2010 rally, so that an additional 19 nonprofit organizations were able to raise another \$60,630 for their charities.

“This is what it’s all about,” said Nelson Driver, director of Bikes, Blues & BBQ. “We look forward to this time of year, when we can honor and donate to those organizations in the community that do such great things.”

Mayor Lioneld Jordan was in attendance, saying that “Bikes, Blues & BBQ is one of the top events we bring to the city of Fayetteville. It’s like a melting pot because we see such a variety of people visiting Dickson Street during the event, from families to motorcyclists and everyone in between. We are so proud of what Bikes, Blues & BBQ does for the advancement of this city. Anytime you can bring 400,000 people to a city, you’ll see a significant rise in sales and HMR taxes, and businesses see an increase as attendees take part in amenities offered here in Fayetteville,” said Jordan.

“In addition to our donations to the 21 nonprofits in northwest Arkansas, we are happy to have the resources to provide space within our event for other nonprofits to participate in an effort to raise money and awareness through the Bikes, Blues & BBQ audience of over 400,000 attendees. We realize that this event would never be possible without our sponsors and volunteers, and we want to thank them for all of their hard work and support,” said Driver.

Nonprofit organizations receiving donation checks for 2010 include: NWA Economic Development/Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Club of Fayetteville, Fayetteville Band Boosters, Youth Bridge, NWA Free Health Clinic, Southeast Fayetteville Community Center, Peace at Home Family Shelter, Jackson L Graves Foundation, Single Parent Scholarship Fund of NWA, Pagnozzi Charities, Fayetteville Sequoyah Kiwanis Club, 7 Hills Homeless Shelter, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NWA, CASA of NWA, Sheriff Ralph Baker Memorial Scholarship Fund, Horses for Healing, Big House Youth Outreach, LifeSource International, Ozark Military Museum, NWA Child Care Resource and Referral Center, and Jones Television.

“The relationship we have with Bikes, Blues & BBQ means a lot to our organization. It is a tough time for nonprofits, so donations like this are very valuable, especially during the holidays. This donation will

help support the kids here in our community,” said Erin Rongers, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Arkansas.

Sarah Eldridge, executive director for Pagnozzi Charities, noted “We rely heavily on the donations from Bikes, Blues & BBQ and make sure that these funds go back into the community, benefiting youth sports scholarships. This event does so much for so many organizations.”

Additional organizations that participated throughout the 2010 in donated event space include PepsiCo (representing Lou Gehrig’s disease), Chili’s (representing St. Jude Hospital), Washington County Fairboard, Fayetteville Fraternal Order of Police, Fayetteville Fire Fighters, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, Progressive Insurance (representing Corn Roast for Kids), and Washington County Explorers (sponsored by the Washington County Sheriff’s Office).

The annual Bikes, Blues & BBQ rally completed its 11<sup>th</sup> annual year and is the largest motorcycle rally in the United States benefitting local charities. To date, Bikes, Blues & BBQ has donated more than \$625,000 to local nonprofit organizations. Additional information may be found at [www.bikesbluesandbbq.org](http://www.bikesbluesandbbq.org).

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