

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

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RELEASE DATE: May 25, 2023

Thunder By The Bay Raises Record Amount For Suncoast Charities For Children

The 25th Annual Thunder By The Bay Music & Motorcycle Festival, held this past February at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, raised a net revenue of \$315,000 for Suncoast Charities for Children. This exceeded last year's net revenue of \$267,000.

In addition to the traditional three-day Festival, other events included a sporting clay tournament, a "Taste of Thunder" tequila tasting event, and a Thunder By The Bay "Rocks The Runway" Fashion Show. Suncoast Charities for Children Executive Director, Lucy Nicandri, stated: "We are extremely grateful for the generous support received from Festival sponsors, individual donors, vendors, dedicated volunteers, and everyone who attended the Festival. Their combined support allows us to continue with funding allocations to help local children, teens, and adults with special needs and their families." Allocations to the local non-profits included:

Children First – New adjustable tables and chairs for preschool classrooms and assistance packages for at-risk children needing shoes, dental hygiene supplies, and food vouchers.

Loveland Center - Construction of a new outdoor therapeutic activity area and support for their recreational program in Bradenton so clients can experience more stimulating activities.

Special Olympics Florida/Sarasota County - Equipment and activity materials for the "first-ever" Summer Camp Shriver here in Sarasota.

The Florida Center For Early Childhood - Testing materials for occupational therapists and speech/language pathologists, as well as sensory tool kits and calm-down supplies for mental health clinicians.

The Haven - Therapy scholarships for children requiring speech, occupational, physical, feeding, and/or aquatic therapies.

Venice Challenger Baseball - New dry-fit uniform shirts and funding support for individuals who are blind attending Summer camp.

Suncoast Foundation - A grant in support of necessary maintenance and repairs needed at the agencies listed above so that their program and service budgets are not impacted.

Special recognition awards were also presented to the following individuals and businesses:

- "Big Heart" Award – **Steve White / S&S Motorsports**
- Volunteers Of The Year Award – **Paul & Barbara Duval**
- "Unsung Hero" Award – **Linda Carson/ABC7**
- Community Partnership Award – **Rory Martin /Sarasota Fairgrounds**
- "Behind The Scenes" Award – **Nico Dinca**

- “Helping Hand” Award – **Chuck Downs**
- Motorcycle Media Award – **Ron & Deb Galletti/Born To Ride TV & Magazine**
- Overall Volunteer Commitment & Dedication Award – **Jim & Helen Reed**
- Business Development Award – **Darrell Turner**
- “Behind The Lens” Award – **Tim Britt**
- Loyalty & Commitment Business Awards (15+ Years) – **Caldwell Trust Company, FCCI Insurance Group, Gold Coast Eagle Distributing/Budweiser, Infinium Spirits, Republic National Distributing, Sarasota Ford, Mullet’s Aluminum, ABC7, iHeart Media Sarasota, Observer Media Group, Sarasota Herald-Tribune|Local IQ, SNN, and SRQ Media.**

The 26th Annual Thunder By The Bay Music & Motorcycle Festival is scheduled for February 16-18, 2024 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. For updates and additional information visit:

www.thunderbythebay.org