

## Blowing Rock Rotary Charity Auction a Huge Success

Written by Ashley Wilson

Monday, 16 September 2013 11:10

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The First Annual Blowing Rock Charity Auction held August 24 was a resounding success netting over \$25,000 to be donated by the club to various charitable organizations. An estimated 300 residents and visitors to the High Country assembled at Blowing Rock's American Legion Building on Wallingford Street to enjoy the heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages catered by Blowing Rock Market and of course bid on a myriad of valuable items, from vacations and football tickets to art and Civil War era relics.

"We are extremely thankful," Rotary President Jim Clabough stated, "for all of the local merchants, artists, residents and Rotary members who donated items for sale or provided other support for the event, not the least of which was Blowing Rock Park & Recreation, Blowing Rock Fire & Rescue, and Blowing Rock Community Club. Of the 80 items in the live auction, all but two were sold. Everything, more than 60 items, sold in the silent auction portion of the event. We truly appreciate the support of those who came out to participate. So many people told me that with their purchases they found great value, not just in the goods and services that they acquired, but in the knowledge that they were helping a good cause. They know that our Rotary Club is committed to putting funds earned with our fundraising activities to good use, serving local, national and international well vetted organizations of need.

"I want to express a special note of thanks to all of our event committee members who made this event such a success," concluded Clabough, "but especially our event Chairman, John Calvin, who brought the idea for this event to us well over a year ago and worked tirelessly in the planning and with creative insight. I also want to give a special shout out to Cullie Tarleton, who not only served as our auctioneer, but also did a tremendous job in getting the word out. This year's event was prefaced by, 'First Annual.' Considering how much fun everyone seemed to have and the support the event attracted, rest assured that there will be a 'Second Annual Blowing Rock Charity Auction' next summer."

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Funds raised each year by the Rotary Club of Blowing Rock are donated to local, national and international non-profit organizations and causes. Local organizations that are recipients of these funds include Blowing Rock Fire & Rescue, Watauga Education Foundation, OASIS, Hospitality House, Hunger & Health Coalition, Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S., Blowing Rock School, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. In addition, national and international support is awarded Wheelchairs, Polio Plus, Shelterbox and the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Blowing Rock meets each Monday at Chetola Mountain Resort & Spa, in the Appalachian Room, at 11:45 am.