



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Best Attended Cincinnati International Wine Festival Results in its Largest Annual Charitable Donation on Record

A formal check presentation is set for June 20 from 6-8:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Country Club.

The highly-acclaimed wine festival has been fundraising for local non-profits for the past 28 years.

CINCINNATI – June 14, 2018 – The Cincinnati International Wine Festival announced today that it will make its largest annual charitable donation on record, thanks to record-setting attendance at festival events this past year.

On Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Country Club, the festival will present a check to 35 Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky organizations and two California wine country fire relief charities which benefited from the festival's fundraising efforts over the last year, totaling a **historic \$453,000**.

"We had the best attended Cincinnati International Wine Festival ever this year," said Debbie Dent, Executive Director of the Cincinnati International Wine Festival. "Thanks to the support of our wonderful community, we will be able to present our largest annual donation ever to 35 wonderful, local charities."

The Cincinnati International Wine Festival is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 to raise funds for local charities focused on furthering the arts, education, health and human services. In its 28th year, it has now raised more than **\$5.6 million** in total for these causes.

The annual celebration is now recognized as one of the Midwest's largest and most prestigious festivals, and more than **5,000 people attended** the March festival weekend, an **increase of 25%** over last year. The festival consists of four events held in March and June each year: winery dinners, grand tastings, a charity auction and luncheon, and the Russ Wiles Memorial Golf Tournament. Proceeds of these activities translate into these significant grants given to local charitable organizations on an annual basis.

"It's an honor for us to carry out the mission of our founder, Russ Wiles, and we cannot thank our patrons and donors enough for making this year's festival such a historic success," Dent said. "We so appreciate our enthusiastic and dedicated sponsors, distributors, volunteers, committee members and board, and look forward to many more thrilling years of giving back to our community, one glass at a time!"

What: The Cincinnati International Wine Festival formally presents a large check in the amount of \$453,000 in total to 35 local arts, education, health and human service charities and two California wine country charities, along with individual portion checks to each. Massive, historic photo opportunity.

When: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 6-8:00 p.m.

Where: Kenwood Country Club 6501 Kenwood Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Who: Media are invited to capture a photo or video of the check presentation. The public is NOT invited. Interview opportunities with organization leadership, sponsors and volunteers will be available.



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About the Cincinnati International Wine Festival

The Cincinnati International Wine Festival is a Cincinnati-based 501(c)(3) organization established to raise funds for local charities through the celebration of the wine industry. It features 700 wines from 200 wineries across the globe, all for a great cause. The festival benefits 35 Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky arts, education, and health and human services charities, and has given back more than \$5.6 million to the community since its inception in 1991. The patronage and support of the Greater Cincinnati community has enabled the festival to continue giving back locally, one glass at a time. The 29th annual Cincinnati International Wine Festival is set for March 7-9, 2019 at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Learn more at winefestival.com.

2018 Cincinnati International Wine Festival Beneficiaries

Abilities First

ALS Association Central and Southern Ohio

Alzheimer's Association Greater Cincinnati

Art Links

Asian Community Alliance

Cancer Family Care

Carnegie Arts Center

Catholic Inner-city School Education (CISE)

Children's Home of Northern Kentucky

Cincinnati Ballet

Cincinnati Symphony Club Audrey Dick Scholarship

Cincinnati Works

Concert Nova

Conductive Learning Center

Crayons to Computers

Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts of America

De Caval Family SIDS Foundation

Dress for Success

Fernside

Freestore Foodbank

Kentucky Symphony Orchestra

Leadership Scholars

Linton Chamber Music Series

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

Master Provisions

May Festival

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries

Miami University Foundation - Donald E. Becker Memorial

Midwest Culinary Institute at Cincinnati State

Project Peace



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Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati
Special Olympics Hamilton County
Stepping Stones Center
Tender Mercies
WGUC 90.0 FM
Women Helping Women

California Wine Country Beneficiaries – In Support of California Fire Relief

Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund (Napa Valley Community Foundation)

Sonoma County Resilience Fund (Community Foundation Sonoma County)