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Hunterdon County balloon festival helps non-profits raise funds



The QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning in Association with PNC Bank proudly supports the hundreds of volunteers who help make the largest summertime hot air balloon and music festival in North America a successful event year after year, such as the Whitehouse Rescue Squad. Pictured (from left) PNC Bank Senior Vice President of Community Relations Joe Whall, Whitehouse Rescue Squad Chief Jeff Herzog, Bryn Pflieger-Schweer, Nina Olds and Mike Stano of the Whitehouse Rescue EMS Bike Team.

By **Community Bulletin**

The QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning in Association with PNC Bank has raised more than \$2.87 million for dozens of local charities, non-profit groups and children's hospitals over the past 26 years.

Among the beneficiaries is the Whitehouse Rescue Squad, which provides medical treatment services at the annual event, the largest summertime hot air balloon and music festival in North America. This year's festival drew 164,500 attendees, the fourth-highest total in its 36-year history.

"The Festival, QuickChek and PNC, are all very proud that we can continue to give back and support our community," said Festival Executive Producer Howard Freeman. "Volunteer organizations are one of the many reasons the festival is so successful year after year. They provide many services, either behind the scenes or directly, such as the Whitehouse Rescue Squad, which provides medical services throughout the festival weekend."

"PNC Bank is again pleased to make a financial contribution this year to support the dedicated efforts of the Whitehouse First Aid & Rescue Squad to ensure the health and safety of all festival patrons," said Joe Whall, PNC Senior Vice President and Director of Client & Community Relations.

Formed in 1950, the Whitehouse Rescue Squad is a non-profit, career/volunteer agency that provides Emergency Medical and Rescue Services to Readington Township as well as parts of Tewksbury and Clinton Township. Premium services differentiate Whitehouse Rescue Squad from other volunteer squads and private ambulance services.

These include 24/7 Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Rescue Division, Mass Casualty Response, Rehabilitation Unit, EMS Bike Team, and being a member of the Hunterdon County Technical Rescue Task Force.

For the 26th consecutive year, the QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning also joined forces with the Children's Miracle Network to raise money and awareness for this prominent national charity benefiting specialized children's hospitals.

Other organizations who benefited from performing various functions at this year's festival include the Readington Volunteer Fire Company, Readington Township Community Emergency Response Team, Flemington Food Pantry, Civil Air Patrol, Cultural Care Kids First Foundation, Hugs for Brady, Kiwanis of North Hunterdon, Navy Ball Committee (Lakehurst), New Centre Dairy 4-H Club, Readington Reformed Church, Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, the Somerville High School Marching Band Boosters, Somerset County 4-H Alpaca Club, Spruce Run Lutheran Church, and Teen Challenge New Jersey.

The festival has been fundraiser for many local organizations through either direct contributions or through their volunteering to help produce the festival. To learn more visit www.balloonfestival.com or contact the festival at info@balloonfestival.com.