

For Immediate Release

October 15, 2018

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SMITHFIELD VA EVENTS ANNOUNCES 2019 BENEFITING ORGANIZATIONS

Smithfield VA Events (SVAE), the organization that hosts the (3) annual festivals, the Smithfield Wine & Brew Fest; Smithfield Bacon, Bourbon Music Fest; and the Smithfield BOB Fest & 8K Chilly BOB Roadrace has announced the organizations that will be the benefiting charities and community groups for the 2019 festival season.

For 2019, SVAE will donate \$80,000 to benefiting organizations, which is a \$10,000 increase from previous years. SVAE also donates annually between \$90K - \$100K to over 40 different volunteer organizations and various non-profits selected by individual volunteers who work on behalf of their favorite charitable cause. SVAE is awarding (6) \$5,000 and (5) \$10,000 to a total of (11) different benefiting organizations. The Isle of Wight Optimist Club, who organizes and administrates the 8K Race with the annual BOB Fest, will receive the proceeds from the race.

The Smithfield VA Events Benefiting Organizations for 2019 are:

2019 BOB Fest – Jan 19, 2019

Smithfield Rotary Club - \$10,000
American Legion Post 49 - \$10, 000
Isle of Wight Optimist Club – 8K Race Recipient

2019 Wine & Brew Fest – April 13, 2019

Smithfield Lions Club - \$10,000
Windsor Castle Park Foundation - \$10,000
Sunday's at Four - \$5,000
Isle of Wight Arts League - \$5,000
Isle of Wight Academy - \$5,000
Pop Warner Football & Cheer - \$5,000

2019 Bacon & Bourbon Festival – Oct 5, 2019

Isle of Wight Museum - \$10, 000
Voices for Kids CASA Program of Southeast VA - \$5,000
Isle of Wight Education Foundation - \$5,000

Organizations make an application to be considered over the summer and the SVAE Board reviews and make selections for the upcoming year in the fall. Checks are presented to

both benefiting organizations and volunteer groups after each festival. Eligibility requirements to become a benefiting organization or volunteer group can be found on the SVAE website.

The purpose of selecting benefiting organizations by Smithfield VA Events is to help local organizations improve, expand and/or initiate programs and/or services that benefit the Smithfield/Isle of Wight Community. The anticipated donation amount is either \$5,000 or \$10,000 to each pre-selected Benefiting Organization. (Note: The final amount to each organization is dependent on the financial success of the event. Since SVAE was founded in 2012, it has always been able to distribute the anticipated donations in full.)

Since 2012 and thru the 2018 Wine/Brew Fest, Smithfield VA Events has donated over \$818,000 back into the local Smithfield and Isle of Wight community through over 70 organizations. SVAE has donated in a multitude of ways-through the benefiting organizations for each event, donations to volunteer groups and SuperStar Volunteers who assist with the events, with donated “product” (tickets, tables, party chalets) to other organizations to raise funds at their events, and when possible through donations to support other various community needs. It is anticipated that SVAE will hit the \$1 Million mark in total donations at the 2019 Wine & Brew Fest next year.

Randy Pack, President of Smithfield VA Events noted, “There were many great applications, and it is an inspiration to us to continue to move forward and become more sustainable to be able to do even more for the community. We are excited to be able to increase our overall donations this year, and hope to continue to do so in order to meet the needs of the community. ”

It is the mission of Smithfield VA Events to bring well organized, first-class events to the Town of Smithfield and in doing so, support local non-profits, charities, civic groups and strengthen the community by benefiting tourism and local business.

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