

For Immediate release:

The Lake Ozark Rotary Club is proud to announce another successful Candyland event. Candyland is an event that promotes generosity during the Christmas season through gift donations for underprivileged children in the lake area. Candyland was founded in 1984 and to date has served over 10,000 local children.

Candyland was headquartered at the Stonecrest Mall, next to Saffee's. Local residents stopped into Candyland and selected 373 canes off our trees this year! These canes represented the Christmas wishes of many deserving children around the Lake Community. The gifts are then returned to either the YMCA or to Candyland headquarters where they are wrapped and delivered by a team of Rotarians to Osage Upper Elementary, Osage Beach Elementary, Leland Mills Elementary, Eldon South Elementary and Eldon Upper Elementary. The schools then distribute the gifts to the children's families. The average value of the gifts was estimated to be around \$75 per child translating to over \$27, 000 in community giving.

Once again Candyland benefited from the support of great local business partners! Bootleggers and their Gala of Trees have been partners with Candyland for the past ( ) years. The Gala of Trees partners with businesses throughout the lake community. Great community minded businesses purchased and decorated trees which were then auctioned off at Bootleggers. The Gala was the brainchild of event founder and coordinator Christie Janssen. Clint Ladouceur, Candyland committee member said, "Christie's tireless dedication to making certain the Gala of Trees is a first class event, is always looking for opportunities to make the event more successful allowing them to give more help children in our community." Christie was happy to report record attendance to the opening night party with over 200 guests in attendance. This allowed JG Gorman and Bootleggers to make a \$10,080 to the Lake Ozark Rotary Club's Candyland event. JG Gorman, Bootleggers owner, is so grateful for Christie's efforts and for the support of all the great lake businesses and community members that made this year's event such a great success!

The Lake Ozark Marine Dealers Association continued their commitment to supporting Candyland with another \$500 contribution. Saffee's, the long time women's clothier located in the Stonecrest mall organized a silent auction where the bidders were able to choose a charity. Saffee's was able to contribute over \$300 to Candyland! The Lake Area Realtors Association joined the party this year, donating the proceeds from the silent auction at their Annual Dinner. Kathy Beeler, association President presented the Lake Ozark Rotary Club and Candyland a check for \$2086!! Chris Colter, Lake Ozark Rotary President elect said, "I am so proud to live and work in such a giving community!"

Nicole Kever, 2013 Candyland Chair, noted that that the impact of Candyland extends well beyond Christmas. This past year the Rotary Club combined Candyland proceeds with the profits from the Greg Gagnon Memorial Golf event, allowing the club to contribute over \$20,000 to:

*YMCA Soccer Program  
Miller County Habitat for Humanity  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters*

*Greater Lake Area Chorale  
Boy Scout Troop 232  
Camp Wonderland*

*Citizens Against Domestic Violence  
Kid's Harbor  
Lake Area Helping Hands  
Woman to Woman  
Pregnancy Help Center*

*Hope House  
Lake Area Community Orchestra  
Lake Regional Foundation  
Lake Arts Council  
Fellowship for Christian Athletes*

We ask that everyone get May 9<sup>th</sup> on their calendars and join us at this year's Greg Gagnon Memorial Golf Event, held at The Oaks Golf Course. Chris Colter, 2014 Rotary Chair said, "It is our goal to make the Greg Gagnon Memorial Golf event the premier golf outing in the lake area"

For more information on the Lake Ozark Rotary Club, please contact Karen Hughes Rotary Club President at [khughes@susresort.com](mailto:khughes@susresort.com) or Chris Colter, Club President Elect at [colters91@gmail.com](mailto:colters91@gmail.com)