Four Rotary Clubs Donate To National Child Protection Training Center

*Checks from Clubs in Bentonville, Bella Vista and Rogers Total $44,500*

**BENTONVILLE, Ark. (February 6, 2013)** – Four Benton County Rotary Clubs put the organization’s “Service Above Self” motto into practice on Wednesday, Feb. 6, with grants to the Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center totaling $44,500.

Checks were presented during a ceremony in the Walmart Community Room of the Bentonville Public Library. Donations presented included $25,000 from the Bentonville Noon Rotary Club, $15,000 from the Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary Club, $2,500 from the Bella Vista Sunrise Rotary Club and $2,000 from the Rogers Early Risers Rotary Club.

The gifts go toward the $3 million campaign for renovation, furnishing and transformation of the former Highlands Oncology building into the Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center. Northwest Arkansas Community College has been the Southern Region location for the national center since 2010 and, even without dedicated lab facilities, has trained thousands of child protection students and professionals from its 16-state service area. The renovated building will feature a two-story mock home, mock courtrooms, child forensic interview rooms, a practice medical exam room, online crimes against children training space, interactive video capabilities and flexible use spaces to train child abuse professionals with the latest techniques to identify and respond to child abuse situations.

“We are very grateful for the dedicated support area Rotarians have provided for this project,” said Amy Benincosa, development coordinator for the National Child Protection Training Center. “They truly have demonstrated a commitment to Rotary’s guiding principle of service above self — service in the community, in the workplace and around the globe. Not only have they pushed us closer to our renovation funding goal, but they also have generously given of their time and talents to help us...
reach out to other Rotarians within the four-state area served by Rotary District 6110, which includes clubs in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.”

In addition to the check presentations, a video was debuted that discussed the work of the National Child Protection Training Center and Rotary’s commitment to the initiative. Johnny Haney, a member of the Bentonville Noon Rotary Club; Ken Colley, Rotary District 6110 governor-elect; Fayetteville Police Detective David Williams; and an unnamed abuse survivor are featured.

The Gator Choir from Central Park Elementary School led in the Pledge of Allegiance and “The Star-Spangled Banner” and performed a song from the musical “Wicked.” Bentonville Mayor Bob McCaslin was a special guest speaker.

The campaign to fund the renovation of the former oncology building has reached 85 percent of the goal, and leaders hope to begin the renovation project later this year.

For more information about the Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center or to donate, visit http://www nwacc edu/web/ncptc/.

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