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Festival of Trees Raises \$27,000 for Local Charities

This year's Festival of Trees auction raised \$27,000 which was distributed to the four Charity Partners selected by the Elko Convention & Visitors Authority (ECVA) Board of Directors. The 2020 Charity Partners, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Friends in Service Helping (FISH), Great Basin College Child & Family Center and Northeastern Nevada Special Advocates for the Elderly (SAFE) were each awarded \$6,750 Thursday morning. The continued support and generosity of Elko residents, business owners and service organizations made the 30th Annual Festival of Trees a tremendous success, even with the Covid-19 restrictions in place throughout the event. The ECVA extends its gratitude to all who participated in the event by donating items for auction and those who purchased the beautiful items contributed. The funds will help these local non-profits in their continued efforts to serve area residents.

“The Festival of Trees is a wonderful annual event showcasing the generosity of the Elko Community,” says Katie Neddenriep, Executive Director of the ECVA. “I can’t think of a better way to get into the Christmas spirit and demonstrate what this season is about. The Board selected great organizations serving many needs throughout the community to benefit this year, and the Elko community didn’t disappoint. Thank you all for making the 2020 Festival of Trees a success and helping our community end the year on a positive note.”

This year's theme was *A Classic Christmas: Celebrating 30 Years of The Festival of Trees*. The public was able to view auction items in-person and online December 2nd through 6th at the Elko Conference Center. The ECVA had anticipated fewer contributions this year due to negative economic impacts resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and continued restrictions on events and gatherings. In anticipation of a smaller event, fewer charity partners were selected compared to previous years and while total funds raised were down, the charity partners selected received awards comparable to recent years.

2020 marked the 30th year of this heartwarming community tradition. Next year's theme will be *My Favorite Things*. We encourage the community to participate in the annual Festival of Trees the first week of December 2021 in the Elko Conference Center. Additional information can be found online at www.ExploreElko.com or by calling (775) 738-4091.

About the Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees has been an annual tradition for Elko for decades, bringing the community together to support organizations providing for the Elko area. Local businesses and citizens donate decorated trees, wreaths and other décor which are then available for purchase through a silent auction. Proceeds generated from the event are donated to charitable organizations selected by the ECVA Board of Directors.