

# Miracle in the Desert at Sunshine Acres

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The 17th annual Miracle in the Desert benefit event took place for and at Sunshine Acres Children's Home on Saturday March 17. This facility is located at 3405 N Higley Rd in Mesa. This is always a very heartwarming gathering, and it was wonderful to see such a good turnout. This event is organized by the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

Sunshine Acres Children's Home has been serving the youth of AriZona and their families since 1954. This extraordinary facility takes no government support and depends entirely on donations. They do not solicit, or host fundraisers of their own. It is truly a testament to community effort.

When we got there, the kids were on the front lawn playing. No doubt some of those footballs being tossed around were flying off course... due to the windy conditions. There were about 55 Sunshine Acres kids onsite; plus another 20 or so who came with their folks in support of the day - making a total of around 75 kids. There was a change to the schedul-

ing of some stuff ~ the motorcycle rides were done earlier in the day. The kids love riding the bikes and usually jump off of one and get on another one as soon as they can. Additional activities organized for the kids were Bottle Rocket launches, Water Balloons, and a Hula Hoop version of Musical Chairs.

There were 23 bikes on display for the bike show. The kids vote for 'Best of Show'; and you almost always have a least one owner who brings treats as part of their display. ☺ This year's Kid's Choice honor was a tie between Jeff Hexamer's purple & green '01 Yamaha R1 and the Shadow of Zvonimir Frankovich Jr.

Redbone and his Bonettes were cooking & serving up a storm.... burgers, dogs, pulled pork & sides. CMA extends a Big Thank You to Redbone and all of his volunteers.

Once lunch was all served it was time for the baked goods auction. If you weren't thinking about dessert before, you were now. ☺ There was a large se-

lection of tempting home-made items, plus some store-boughts as well. Pies, cakes, cookies... and 2 jars of home-made salsa. Bidding got intense at times, with much laughter and good-will mixed in. One particular cheesecake, boasting a prize-winning pedigree, fetched \$105. The auction made \$1100. It was crazy... and fun ☺

The day always wraps up with a Bike Blessing; this year again offered by Pastor Cliff.

There were 148 people registered. In addition to the independent riders, seven CMA chapters were in attendance ~ from Show Low, Tucson, Yuma, and all four Valley ones. The Christian Sport Bike Group was there. East Valley ABATE was well represented. The donation to Sunshine Acres was a total of \$2570.

Learn more about SACH at <http://sunshineacres.org> When you are trying to decide where your charitable donations should go, you can not do any better than this.

Bruce & Betsy

