

Chili Cook-off Kicks Off New Year at Desert Wind HD

On January 9, 2016, Desert Wind Harley-Davidson, located at 922 S Country Club in Mesa, hosted a Chili Cook-off to benefit the Colon Cancer Alliance. This gathering took place from 11a-3pm.

Live music was provided by performer Rob West.

Nine cooks presented their chili recipes for judging. Categories were People's Choice and Judge's Choice. The winners' names were unavailable at the time of this writing. But medals and prizes totaling more than \$500 were distributed. Congratulations to each of you.

Janelle Hill, Chairperson of the Colon Cancer Alliance's Central AZ Chapter shared information about their organization. CCA is a 501c3 non-profit organization that promotes Colorectal Cancer (CRC) awareness and advocacy. Their national office in Washington DC.

She said, "We feel blessed to be a part of the Desert Wind Chili Cook Off for the second year in a row. We do not specifically participate in the chili cooking etc, however we are fortunate enough to be the designated charity. We cooked and served hot dogs and hamburgers at the event. Desert Wind

was gracious enough to provide the food so our group did not have to incur any expenses. We raised a total of \$668 in donations this year. All of the proceeds that we raised at the event benefit our Blue Hope Financial Assistance Program. It is a one-time \$300 grant that goes directly to benefit CRC patients in active treatment. Our funds are specifically designated to go to residents of the State of Arizona." Janelle also clarified, "The program used to be called the Blue Note Fund. The name of the program changed when we added colonoscopy screening assistance. The program is now called the Blue Hope Financial Assistance program."

She also sent along some statistics... "The government regulated guidelines state that CRC screening begin at the age

of 50 unless you have symptoms or a family history.

"Colorectal Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths (behind lung cancer). The good news is that we are being successful in our efforts to educate our community and our population over 50 is getting in and getting screened. Unfortunately however, the trend is increasing in those under the age of 50. Another disappointing fact about colorectal cancer is that it is one of the only preventable cancers. If you get your colonoscopy screening and you have polyps removed you are not going to get colon cancer. It is really quite simple."

These links will give you more information ... Blue Hope Financial Assistance Program www.ccalliance.org/get-support/screening/ & Colon Cancer Alliance <http://www.ccalliance.org/>

Thank you, Missi {DWHD} and Janelle {CCA}, for sending along information to share with our readers.

Betsy
photo caption: Volunteers who helped out this year. From left to right ... Janelle Hill, Shelia Conway, and Kelly Arredondo

