



Contact: John Buchna
 EDP CEO
 814-882-7345
john.buchna@eriedowntown.com
www.eriedowntown.com

2014 Erie Downtown Partnership Block Parties Raise Record-breaking \$50,691 for Local Charities

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:30 A.M. SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 - Erie, PA- The 2014 Erie Downtown Partnership Block Parties have come to an end, but their positive impact will ripple throughout Erie County for seasons to come. At a press conference this morning at La Rue Dix, 21 West 10th Street, downtown Erie, the EDP awarded a record-breaking donation of \$50,691 to nine nonprofit organizations. The funds were donated by patrons of this year’s Block Parties, part of EDP’s Summer Event Series.

John Buchna, CEO of the Erie Downtown Partnership, said, “We are inspired by the generosity of Erie County residents and visitors who came alongside local businesses and nonprofits to raise this record donation. Block Parties are about community. I can think of few better ways to show you care for your community than giving a few dollars to a worthwhile cause.”

These nonprofit organizations received donations raised from Block Parties in 2014:

NONPROFIT	BLOCK PARTY HOST	DONATION
MECA	Scully’s Pub	\$15,021
The American Red Cross	U Pick 6 Tap House	\$9,600
Autism Society of NWPA	The Plymouth Tavern	\$7,955
Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial	Molly’s/Sherlock’s	\$5,045
Therapy Dogs United	Park Place/Boardwalk	\$3,449
Y.M.C.A. of Erie, Downtown Branch	The Erie Seawolves	\$3,428
Strings for a Cure	The Brewerie	\$3,041
A.N.N.A. Shelter	Sullivan’s Pub	\$2,362
Make-A-Wish	Slugger’s	\$790

Each year, more than 20 nonprofit organizations inquire for the opportunity to raise funds alongside a Block Party host. Only 10 nonprofits can be chosen, depending on the event schedule. As the highest earning 2014 nonprofit organization, MECA was awarded a 2015 Block Party and can bypass the formal application process. MECA serves the disabled community and their families; for more information, visit mecaerie.com.

MECA Executive Director Laura Eaton said, “Our volunteers and families worked hard to raise these funds so that kids and adults of all capabilities can enjoy America’s pastime. A portion of these funds will be used to transform the city’s Haggerty Field into a wheelchair-friendly facility, and our ‘League of Champions’ adapted baseball team will finally have a beautiful field to call their own.”

Planning will soon be underway for the 2015 Block Parties. Nonprofit organizations and downtown businesses interested in participating are encouraged to follow the EDP’s blog at www.eriedowntown.com.

Buchna said, “Over the past two years, our donations to nonprofit organizations have doubled. With that kind of growth, I can only imagine the impact Block Party patrons and downtown businesses can have on issues that matter most to Erie County.”

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The Erie Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Erie by improving its image, business climate, physical environment, and design. Learn more at www.eriedowntown.com.