

"BACK TO THE LAND" DINNER A SUCCESS FOR ALL

BY KATE VENI

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF) presented its second annual fundraiser on Saturday, June 18, at Alder Creek Adventure Center, raising nearly \$9,000 for local non-profits and scholarships. Nearly 100 people attended the convivial "Back to the Land" farm-to-table dinner and silent auction. The proceeds from the event will benefit the Tahoe Food Hub and TDGF's 2016 grants program.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted with a glass of champagne and enjoyed passed hors d'oeuvres, courtesy of Waltman Construction, founding sponsor of TDGF.

Spirited bidding ensued during the silent auction before dinner, thanks to popular sports and culture items donated by Tahoe Donner; Gray's Crossing, Resort at Squaw Creek and Shaffer's Mill Golf; Truckee Community Theatre; Tahoe Shakespeare Festival; Bar of America; PJ's Bar and Grill; Performance Training Center and Greg Booth; La Galleria; Mountain Hardware; Carmel Gallery, and others.

Dinner was served family-style in the Alder Creek Adventure Center's main room against a beautiful forest backdrop and setting sun. The menu and cuisine were planned and prepared by Tahoe Donner's food and beverage crew. Food for the meal was sourced within 100 miles of Truckee through the Tahoe Food Hub's local distribution network for small farmers and food producers. The Tahoe Food Hub also shared in the evening's profits with over \$2,400 representing their second grant from TDGF.

Dick Gander, TDGF founding co-chair, welcomed guests and recapped the fund's first grants in 2015 – \$12,000 to five area non-profits – and announced ambitious growth for the 2016 grants program. The success of this event means the TDGF will be able to approach \$20,000 in grants and scholarships this year.

"Given our size," Gander said, "Tahoe Donner can have a tremendous impact with its support of the Giving Fund. If just 15 percent of our owners gave an average of just \$100 per year, we could raise nearly \$100,000 for our community. Please consider making a donation as a part of your annual giving."

Following dinner, the "Back to the Land" theme came into focus with Truckee Donner Land Trust Stewardship Director John Svahn's presentation on the recent acquisition of Crabtree Canyon by Tahoe Donner and the Land Trust's current campaign to protect Carpenter Valley. Land Trust staff also led an exclusive hike for Tahoe Donner residents to Crabtree Canyon earlier in the day.

TDGF's Suzanne Sullivan and Marilyn Disbrow chaired this successful event, with support of fellow committee members Pam English, Lois Ermak, Merle Fajans, Dick Gander, Jennifer Jordan, Norm Nichols, and Kate Veni. The Giving Fund operates under the authority of the Tahoe Donner board of directors and is an affiliate fund of the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. Homeowners interested in helping build this philanthropic fund to show our Truckee/North Lake Tahoe community that Tahoe Donner cares are welcome to contact us at TDGF@tahoe-donner.com.

For more information on making your 2016 annual gift to the Giving Fund, which funds health and human services, environment, youth development, and arts and culture programs, go to tahoedonner.com/givingfund.



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