

Local groups get \$41K from Critz Tybee Run

Remainder of \$75,000 goes to Savannah Community Foundation

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The Critz Tybee Run Fest has donated more than half of its 2012 proceeds to six local organizations involved with education and healthy lifestyles and contributed the rest to the Savannah Community Foundation.

In February, the weekend event raised \$75,000 through sponsors and entry fees from more than 4,000 participants. Of that, \$41,500 was distributed Wednesday among six groups who volunteered and helped sponsor the run. The remaining \$33,500 was contributed to the Savannah Community Foundation, where the Run Fest accumulates part its proceeds for future grants to non-profits.

The Critz auto-dealership began sponsoring the event in 2009 before it was transformed this year into a five part event that, in total, covered the distance of a full marathon. Participants can run any combination of five different races, ranging from a mile run to a half-marathon.

“This event works because of Tybee and our sponsors,” said Dale Critz Jr., the Run Fest’s co-founder and title sponsor.

Critz said the six grant recipients were chosen based on their connections with the community, their emphasis on education and their role with the Run Fest.

The Lady Bamford Early Learning Center was awarded a \$15,000 grant. The money will be used to help young children in low income families go to the center, according to Tammy Mixon, executive director of the organization that manages Lady Bamford.

The Tybee Island YMCA sponsored the Run Fest’s 1K race and organized volunteers. It received \$10,000, which executive director Gina Casagrande said will go to funding YMCA memberships for families, children and the elderly. The YMCA’s work with the Run Fest was a natural fit, she said.

Savannah State University and the Savannah College of Art and Design each received \$5,000 in scholarships.

Michael Sergi, the head coach of SCAD’s cross-country and track and field teams, said the scholarship will go to Sally Francis, a rising-sophomore from Ohio who runs track and cross-country.

Jim Kluttz, president of the Tybee Post Theater board, said the Run Fest was a “great thing for Tybee” and the sponsors involved in the program. Amy Kagan, the theater’s director of operations, said the \$4,000 grant would be used to host events that will raise money for renovations at the theater.

Fresh Air Home at Tybee/Froebel Circle also received a \$2,500 grant.

Proceeds that weren't distributed Wednesday will go into the Run Fest's fund with the Savannah Community Foundation.

Foundation President Russ Simpson said the Run Fest is accumulating portions of its annual proceeds to build a sizable fund, which will allow it to give larger grants in the future.

Critz said they haven't set a fundraising goal for next year's race. But he expects the Run Fest to continue to do well after another successful turnout this year.



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Dale Critz Jr., in the middle, awards six local organizations for their work in the 2012 Critz Tybee Run Fest. The money was a portion of \$75,000 raised from the event.
