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## **Air Show Gives Back \$64,800 to Valley Youth Organizations and Charities**

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**Columbus, Ga., August 24, 2017** - Ten youth organizations in the Chattahoochee Valley will be presented with donations totaling \$50,000 from the 2017 Thunder in the Valley Air Show.

The presentation of checks will take place during the "kick-off" planning meeting for the 2018 Thunder in the Valley Air Show on Thursday, September 14. The event will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Columbus Airport.

Checks will be awarded to the executive directors and program administrators of the following youth organizations and programs:

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| * <b>Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home</b>                 | * <b>Jeeah's Hope</b>                   |
| * <b>Chattahoochee Council, Boy Scouts of America</b> | * <b>L10:27</b>                         |
| * <b>Columbus Ironclad Division</b>                   | * <b>May Institute</b>                  |
| * <b>DeMolays International - Columbus Chapter</b>    | * <b>Storybook Farm</b>                 |
| * <b>Ft. Benning Santa's Castle</b>                   | * <b>Young Eagles - EAA Chapter 677</b> |

The Thunder in the Valley Air Show also provides fund-raising opportunities for youth groups through the operation of air show concessions, carnival activities and other needed duties. Tickets were donated to youth groups and trainees from Ft. Benning, enabling soldiers and underprivileged youth to experience the air show. \$14,800 in contributions and tickets were donated to nine youth groups and 880 soldiers, **bringing total donations to area charities and causes to \$64,800.**

The mission of the air show is to raise funds for youth organizations throughout the Chattahoochee Valley. Thunder in the Valley Air Show is a non-profit event managed and operated by more than 300 volunteers each year. The air show brings in top performers from across the United States, all paid for by local and regional supporters.

"Twenty years of giving sums it up best," said Phaedra Childers, event coordinator. "The Thunder in the Valley Air Show continues to be a sustaining supporter of area youth charities. The amount of donations is a reflection of the patronage by the community and air show fans alike. Despite various setbacks such as weather cancellations and sequestration over the years, the community stuck with us and the air show has persevered. Fortunately, we've never missed a year of funding area youth organizations. The planning committee looks forward to organizing 20 more years of thrilling air shows!"

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Thunder in the Valley Air Show, scheduled for Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8 at the Columbus Airport. The line-up of performers and static displays will be announced in January.

**About Thunder in the Valley Air Show:**

The Thunder in the Valley Air Show began in 1997 as a local fly-in for aviation enthusiasts and has grown to become one of the largest outdoor family events in the Chattahoochee Valley. National attention has been given to the Thunder in the Valley Air Show by the International Council of Air Shows for excellence in marketing. The Thunder in the Valley Air Show is a fun, family-friendly event that is both alcohol-free and tobacco-free. Contributions totaling more than \$850,000 has been donated to area youth organizations. For more information, visit [www.thunderinthevalleyairshow.com](http://www.thunderinthevalleyairshow.com).