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Air Show Gives Back More Than \$71,000 to Valley Youth Organizations and Charities

Columbus, Ga., August 29, 2016 - Eight youth organizations in the Chattahoochee Valley will be presented with donations totaling \$57,000 from the 2016 Thunder in the Valley Air Show.

The presentation will take place during the "kick-off" planning meeting for the 2017 Thunder in the Valley Air Show on September 8. The event will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Columbus Airport.

Checks will be presented to the executive directors of the following youth organizations and programs:

Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home	Muscogee County Sheriff's Office - Rising Star Program
Chattahoochee Council, Boy Scouts of America	Russell County Child Advocacy Center
EAA Chapter 677 - Young Eagles	Storybook Farm
Ft. Benning Santa's Castle	The Literacy Alliance

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; and tickets for youth groups, Wounded Warriors and trainees from Ft. Benning, enabling soldiers and underprivileged youth to experience the show. \$14,700 in contributions and tickets were donated to 12 youth groups and 860 soldiers, bringing the total contribution to area charities and causes to \$71,700.

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.

"The 2016 Thunder in the Valley Air Show was one of the best in the air show's 19-year history," said Phaedra Childers, event coordinator. "Our success is measured by the dollar amount we are able to donate from the proceeds of the air show. This year ranks as the fourth most profitable year for the Thunder in the Valley Air Show, and exceeded last year's contribution by 97 percent."

Mark your calendars for the 2017 Thunder in the Valley Air Show on Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9 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 \$800,000 has been donated to area youth organizations. For more information, visit www.thunderinthevalleyairshow.com.