

## Fourth Annual Poker Tournament Sets Record Raises \$11,250 for DFO in 2013

A crowd of over 70 people, including players and volunteers, filled the second floor at Group Mackenzie offices on Saturday, February 2, 2013 for the DFO Charity Poker Tournament, sponsored by Bnk Construction and Group Mackenzie. The 4th annual Texas Hold'em tournament raised over \$11,250 to support DFO programs like the Tooth Taxi.

The crowd enjoyed pizza dinner and adult beverages, while several "rookies" learned how to play the game at the Bnk practice table where taking chances was encouraged and laughter was the soundtrack. At 5:00 p.m. the game got underway, with eight tables of players, each trying to outlast their opponents in hopes of winning prizes that included an Ipad, golf games and lessons, a Kindle Fire, and gift certificates to a variety of local stores.

**Jason Bajuscak outsmarted all comers and won first place for the 2nd year in a row.** This puts a large target on his back for next year. Runners up in order were: 2 Steve Close, 3 Adam Solomonson, 4 Joel Dietzman, 5 John Hobson, 6 Norm Duffett, 7 Bob Liddell, 8 Allen Rahrch and 9 Michael Matsuda.



*"It was a fantastic evening," said Charlie LaTourette, DFO's Executive Director. "And everyone knew it was all for a really great cause – helping to provide free dental care to low-income children."*

The tournament was started five years-ago by Bill Ludwig, President of Bnk Construction, who hosted the tournament at his home for a number of customers and friends. Bill's company is known for its work building and remodeling professional offices for dentists and physicians, and retailers.

"It is a great pleasure to be able to support the DFO and Tooth Taxi," said **Bill Ludwig, President of Bnk Construction** and Co-Sponsor of the tournament. "Our greatest accomplishment with the Poker Tournament is to make people, both individuals and companies, outside of the dental community aware of the great service that DFO provides. The overwhelming comments we receive are "What a fun event" and "Count me in for next year. So, planning has already begun for next year's event."

As the tournament grew over the years, it became clear we needed a larger place to hold it. Enter **Dennis Woods with Group Mackenzie** a regular tournament player and friend of Bill Ludwig. Group Mackenzie is one of the Northwest's leading design and engineering firms and their large Portland office is conveniently located downtown near OMSI. Dennis offered to host the tournament this year at his offices, and work tirelessly to make it happen.

"Group Mackenzie was thrilled this year to join Bnk Construction in sponsoring the DFO's annual Charity Poker Tournament," said Dennis Woods, Partner with Group Mackenzie. *"We embrace the organization's mission to help underserved children in our communities through its Tooth Taxi program. It was great to see the level of enthusiasm and support from all attendees. We had a fantastic time, and look forward to future opportunities to get involved."*

A Tournament Committee included Bill Ludwig, Dennis Woods, Heather and Darren Hippenstiel, Susan Higbee, Judy Edgerly and LaTourette. But many others volunteered to help including several Bnk employees and friends.

"We couldn't do the poker tournament on our own," said LaTourette. "BnK Construction and Group Mackenzie, along with many volunteers make it happen. It is a real labor of love by people who care deeply about helping underserved children."

**Prizes and contributors to the event included:** Henry Schein, Oregon Heating, Five Star Electric, Don Rhyne Painting, Pacific Continental Bank, Sam Agnew, Ashland Concrete Cutting, Stuart Smart Golf Pro, The Reserve Golf Course, Burkhart Dental Supply, Steel Stud Choppers, Gunderson Construction, Spectra Flooring, First Citizens Bank, Keith Linn, DFF Dental Lab, Mt. View golf, Cascade Plumbing, Dynalectric, R&B Innovations, Massage Envy, Bank of America, Scott Hodson, O'Brien Dental Lab, and Langdon Farms Golf Course.



*(See a wide range of photos from the tournament on the DFO Facebook page. And don't forget to "like" us.)*