

# Bend Poker Tournament a Big Success!

## Tournament raises \$9,000 for Kemple and DFO



The energy in the room was electric on Saturday night September 20, 2014 at the Moda building in Bend as 51 players, along with 16 volunteers, enjoyed a fun evening raising over \$9,000 to support the Kemple Memorial Children's Dental Clinic and Dental Foundation of Oregon programs like the Tooth Taxi.

The Texas Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament, presented and hosted by BnK Construction, was a joint fundraising event for the two dental charities that both work to serve children in Deschutes County and across Oregon. "It was a great turnout for a first-time event," said Charlie LaTourette, DFO Executive Director. "We are very grateful for all our sponsors and players who made the event such a success."



The evening started at 4:00 p.m. with registration and a poker training table, sponsored by Paltzer Wealth Management, where new players could learn the rules and experienced players could practice their poker faces. Guests enjoyed delicious beverages donated by Rat Hole Brewery and Ascendant Winery, and dinner included pizza, submarine sandwiches, salad and desserts.



Local musician, Gary Fulkerson, serenaded us with original music and generously donated his time to help Oregon children.

The tournament officially began a little after 5:00 p.m. with instruction from Bill Ludwig, President of BnK Construction, and over the next several hours players dropped off one-by-one as they ran out of poker chips, but kept their dignity and sense of humor intact. By 10:00 p.m. the last eight players were standing (or sitting) for the final table and vying for a number of great

prizes.

Top eight finishers all won prize packages including a number of golf foursomes, restaurant and hotel gift certificates, theatre tickets and other fun prizes valued at over \$3,500.

"The local support of this inaugural charity poker tournament was outstanding!" said Suzanne Browning, Executive Director of the Kemple Memorial Children's Dental Clinic. "Oregon businesses, both state and local, are to be congratulated for their sponsorships and prize donations. Special thanks to MODA Health for providing the venue for our event. A good time was had by all and we look forward to continuing this event next year... with even more attendees, more fun and prizes, and of course, increased funding to meet the oral health needs of Oregon's



children. Who knew that the dental community could have so much fun and competitive spirit playing Texas Hold'em Poker with each other and other engaged community members. Well Done!"

**And the Winners Were:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Dr. Ben Grieb; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Henrik Jahn; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Dr. Thomas Rheuben, 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Dr. Mehdi Salari; 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Dr. Tony Battistella; 6<sup>th</sup> Place, Ian McLean; 7<sup>th</sup> Place, Eric Nielsen; 8<sup>th</sup> Place, Charlie LaTourette (Mr. LaTourette donated his prize back to the charities.)

"We couldn't have done this tournament without the support of BnK Construction, Eric Nielsen and the good folks at Moda Health who let us use their space," said LaTourette. "Our thanks to them, as well as the players, the volunteers, and all the companies and individuals who supported the event with financial and in-kind contributions."

Presenting Sponsor:



Lava Butte Sponsors:



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Visit the DFO Facebook page to see photos from the tournament.

*A special thanks to the members of the Central Oregon Dental Society who helped promote the tournament for these two dental charities, and who joined in to help secure sponsors and play in the event.*

**SAVE THE DATE - THE PORTLAND TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY 1/31/2015 AT THE MODA PLAZA BUILDING IN MILWAUKIE, OREGON**