

# Taste of Sisters hits the spot

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

When 24 food establishments from Sisters donate mouthwatering cuisine for the fourth annual taste of Sisters organized by Karen Kassy, folks take notice. Crowds of hungry guests flocked to the outdoor courtyard at Eurosports to enjoy the food, the entertainment, and support two local nonprofits.

From vegetarian beer mac & cheese from Cork Cellars to smoked coho salmon from Rock'n Troll Seafood, everyone dined on their favorite "Taste of Sisters."

The event originated as the Mayor's Ball four years ago when Brad Boyd, owner of Eurosports, was mayor and it was held indoors at The Belfry. They changed the name to The Taste of Sisters, and last year (and again this year) Boyd donated the courtyard space at Eurosports.

"Now all the proceeds can go to our two Sisters charities, The Kiwanis Food Bank and Furry Friends Foundation," Kassy said. "This year was truly a community effort with 24 food establishments donating food compared to 10 our first year."

Furry Friends Foundation had their table set up with some super items for the raffle. Broken Top donated a gift certificate for cold laser treatments for your pet (a \$350 value), along with a basket full of Éminence Organic Skin Care products valued at \$208 donated by Karen Keady from Essentials. They also had a vintage dog quilt donated by Tracy Foteff from Barefoot in Sisters and a framed Three Sisters poster by artist Paul Leighton.

"We had a great response to our raffle items. I think

everyone here purchased a ticket," said Furry Friends Foundation founder Kiki Dolson. "The food was fantastic, with a huge variety and plenty for everyone. I am so thankful to organizer Karen Kassy, the 24 local restaurants who participated, and all the volunteers who helped put on this event."

Central Oregon Aerial Arts lead instructor Kendall Knowles watched two groups of her students perform aerial silks acrobatics for the guests during dinner.

"This year we have our professional performance troop (AURA) performing," Knowles told *The Nugget*. "They are a professional troop, and you have to be invited to try out. We also have our Level 2 group again. We're really excited because it's for a great cause."

Entertainment by crowd favorite Juju Eyeball, a Beatles cover band, kicked off the second half of the evening with music and dancing.

Sisters Cascade of Gifts owner, Ginny Patskowski, was happy to be at the event for the first time.

"We've been here (Eurosports) on a few Friday nights for food and music before and have enjoyed it, and we usually bring our dog. Furry Friends is a great cause for us," Patskowski said. "This is fun; we've heard the band before and are loving the food."

The first year of the event Kassy set it up all on her own; this year a heap of volunteers helped out with just about everything.

Sisters Park & Recreation District adult Program Manager Shannon Rackowski volunteered to help for the Kiwanis Food Bank.

"I have been selling tickets, setting up, and I get

to bring out the desserts tonight," Rackowski said.

"Our volunteers have created a system, and everything went smoothly and many patrons came up and mentioned that the food was amazing," said Kassy.

Realtor Ali Mayea said she wanted to support Furry Friends Foundation, and it was her first time at the event.

"I'm such a dog person and I sponsor a dog up for adoption in *The Nugget* each week, so I thought I should be here to support Furry Friends who helps pets in need in Sisters," she said.

Furry Friends Foundation helps families keep their pets in their homes by operating a pet-food bank and providing spay/neuter sponsorships and assistance with emergency medical needs to families in financial hardship.

Kiwanis volunteers maintain and staff the community food bank, which provides emergency food supplies for Sisters residents at or below the poverty level. This year, Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank gave emergency food supplies to over 100 families in the community each month.

"I am grateful that in the four years of Taste of Sisters, we've raised more than \$10,000 and awareness for the Kiwanis Sisters Food Bank and Furry Friends Foundation," Kassy said.



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Kendall Knowles, aerial arts instructor, entertains patrons at the fourth annual Taste of Sisters event.

4th Annual  
**TASTE OF SISTERS**

**Furry Friends Foundation and Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank would like to thank everyone who made "Taste of Sisters" such a great success this year!**

*Very special thanks to organizer Karen Kassy & venue donor Brad Boyd of Eurosports.*

Dan Stearns, Kiwanis & Volunteers  
Kiki, Teresa, and *The Nugget* staff • Eurosports staff  
Wes & Teagan at The Pony Express  
Vern & Monica Rendon and David Douglass  
Spud at the door  
The Band: Juju Eyeball  
*The Source* and Bend Wire: Pick of Week  
Kendall and students of Central Oregon Aerial Arts

**Prize Donors:**  
Barefoot, Broken Top Vet, Essentials, Paul & Laura Leighton

**Food Donors: 24 food establishments!**  
Cork Cellars • The Depot Café • Dog Town Hot Dogs  
The Gallery Restaurant & Bar • Hop & Brew  
Kokanee Café • La Magie Bakery & Café • Los Agaves  
Martolli's Pizza • Melvin's Fir Street Market  
Navigator News • New Public Café • The Open Door  
R Spot • Rancho Viejo • Ray's Food Place  
Rock'n'Troll • Sisters Bakery  
Sisters Meats and Smokehouse • Sisters Olive & Nut Co.  
Sisters Saloon & Ranch Grill • Sisters Drug & Gift  
Sno Cap Drive In • The Porch

**And thank you to all the patrons who dined with us!**

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