

Valley Girls donations were larger than ever for their 10th anniversary

By **Laura Mancuso**
IVN Editor

Donations from the Valley Girls quilters exceeded expectations this year. On Nov. 26 at the I.V. Senior Center, Valley Girls handed out \$9,000 to selected nonprofits (\$3,000 each), which included the I.V. Boys and Girls Club, I.V. Little League and I.V. Youth Soccer.

In October, the Valley Girls put on their 10th annual quilt show at the I.V. Senior Center and they reported the turnout was the best ever.

According to Verla Beck, the current Valley Girls club president, “We are very happy to support the kids in Cave Junction. This was a very successful quilt show.” Beck also mentioned how thankful the Valley Girls were that their selected nonprofits assisted them

with putting the event together.

Ten years ago the Valley Girls put on their first quilt show for youth nonprofits and donated \$750 each to the I.V. Boys and Girls Club and the SMART program. Over the years the donations have increased and they now can report they have donated \$51,000 overall to their selected nonprofit organizations.

Shelly Davis, the I.V. Little League representative, told the Valley Girls that her organization would be using the donated money to help with the expenses for the children who can’t afford to pay for the sport, and also to replace fencing, backdrops and the very expensive lighting. “We are very thankful for the donation and I enjoy the quilt show every year.”

Amy Beck, the representative for I.V.

Youth Soccer, said that they were going to use their money for new equipment. “We are going to buy brand-new nets and other equipment that has been needed for a long time.” Beck explained that in Grants Pass it cost \$150 for youth soccer and that in the I.V. they keep the costs low at \$30, and as a result they have had to use duct tape to hold some of their equipment together, so the donated money from Valley Girls was much appreciated.

Amy Beck also spoke for the I.V. Boys and Girls Club and said that the donated money was used to pay the club fees for families that couldn’t afford it.

Another donation that the Valley Girls recently made was to the Crocker family. At the I.V. Holiday Tree Lighting Nov. 24, quilter Carol Dickson



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Amy Beck from I.V. Youth Soccer (left) with the youngster Isla, Shelly Davis from I.V. Little League, Valley Girls President Verla Beck and Walter Hulsey from I.V. Boys and Girls Club.

delivered two comfort quilts to the children who just lost their father, Oley Crocker.

Stay tuned for the next Valley Girls

nonprofit application deadline scheduled for March. The quilters will be publishing the announcement in the *Illinois Valley*

News. And mark your calendar, because the 2019 quilt show is already set for Oct. 18 – 20.

STRAW ...

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“Scientists at the the UGA New Materials Institute conducted a new study which discovered microplastics particles smaller than dust or powdered sugar inside baby sea turtles. Of the turtles (studied) in this research, 100 percent were found to have eaten plastic. These baby sea turtles were likely dying due to ingested plastic pollution, which threatens the species’ survival.”

Slowly but surely, the public eye has shifted to glimpse the hazardous effects of continued plastic straw usage, as evidenced by the plethora of local governments and large companies that have sanctioned them in this country alone. Starbucks has declared that they will end the use of straws in all of their 28,000 stores worldwide, offering instead “recyclable, strawless lids on most of its iced drinks,” according to Caron. For beverages that require a straw, the retailer will provide “a

straw made from either paper or compostable plastic.”

Large corporations are not the only entities that have the power to end the use of plastic straws. You as a consumer can contribute to the cause by simply saying no when offered a straw at a restaurant, coffee shop, or any other locale that would provide one. But for all you smoothie drinkers out there, a good alternative would be to purchase reusable straws, made from such materials as bamboo or even stainless steel. The latter of which, as reported by Nourished Life, can last years, a span of time which you’d be using countless of the single use variety.

It can be hard to change little habits like using a plastic straw to drink beverages, but when the stakes are the health and well-being of our planet, surely it is worth trying. And although cutting back on straw usage may seem like a minuscule effort toward the ultimate goal of reversing man-made climate change, we have to start somewhere.



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