**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Reno Mardi Gras raises almost $100,000 for community and world service programs**

**RENO, Nevada — April 18, 2017 —** During its 25th year, Reno's biggest and best Mardi Gras party, Reno Mardi Gras, raised more than $97,000 for community organizations. The event is the largest fundraiser for the region’s oldest Rotary club.

“We’re thrilled at the results of this year’s event and can’t wait to start using this money to make our community and world better,” said event chair Phil Mahoney.

Rotary Club of Reno distributes all proceeds to local and global services projects. In its 2015-2016 fiscal year, the club gave more than $155,000 to organizations and projects such as the Rotary Club of Reno Sculpture Park in Bicentennial Park, Truckee Meadows Community College, Dorothy Lemelson STEM Academy, Nevada Youth Empowerment Project, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Sierra Nevada Journeys, KNPB Public Television and more. Globally, Rotary is committed to eradicating polio worldwide. Along with its partners, such as the Gates Foundation, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide since its first project in 1979.

The 2017 Mardi Gras party featured more than 20 food and drink vendors, and brought together seven of the state’s top alcohol distributors and hundreds of wines, bourbons and beers for sipping.

More than 1,800 people attended the Tuesday night party — an event record.

“The community really embraced the event and came out to have a good time and raise funds for a good cause,” Mahoney said. “We can’t thank our sponsors, vendors and supporters enough for their generosity and enthusiasm.”

**Sponsors, Supporters, Vendors and Volunteers**

* Art Rangel
* Atypical Events
* Bill Boon
* Bristlecone Holdings
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* Sunshine Litigation
* TapSnap
* TMCC EMS Student Volunteers
* University of Nevada, Reno
* University of Nevada, Reno Army ROTC
* Washoe County
* Yelp

**Participating Food and Drink Vendors**

* Bibo Coffee Company
* Café de Thai
* Cemetery Gin
* Cherry Bomb Catering
* Eldorado Resort Casino
* Francovich Manhattan
* Harrah's Reno Hotel and Casino
* India Kabab and Curry
* Liberty Food and Wine Exchange
* Magic Bullet
* Men Wielding Fire
* Mix Cupcake Co.
* Nothing Bundt Cakes
* Oxbow Cafe & Bistro
* Rounds Bakery
* Sierra St. Kitchen & Cocktails
* Silver Legacy Resort & Casino
* SoDo
* Sushi Pier
* Tahoe Blue Vodka
* The Gas Lamp Restaurant & Bar
* Verdi Local Distillery
* Wedge Cheese Shop
* Winey Munkies

**Participating Distributors**

* 1855 Distributors
* Barone Distribution
* Breakthru Beverage Nevada
* Encore Beverage
* Sapphire Family of Wines
* Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits of Nevada
* Vin Sauvage

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