

Around Town: Time to plan 2014 giving

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Dec. 31 is almost here and it's time to complete your charitable donations for this year and plan for 2014.

The Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund has already set the date and named the chairpersons for its 2014 benefit, Red Tie Night, the state's largest single-event fundraiser.

The black-tie (red tie if preferred) gala will take place March 1 at the Cox Convention Center's Grand Ballroom. Co-chairpersons are Michael Laird and Paula Love, who already have their committees at work. Red Tie Night provides thousands of dollars each year to the Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund, an organization founded by Oklahoma City residents Barbara and Jackie Cooper, who lost a son to AIDS. The OACF then makes grants to HIV/AIDS agencies.

The 2013 grant recipients include AIDS Support Program Inc; the Winds House; Be the Change Inc.; Expressions Community Center, Oklahoma City; Guiding Right Inc., Oklahoma City and Tulsa; HeartLine Inc.; H.O.P.E. Inc., Tulsa; Latino Community Development Agency; Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Inc.; MaMa Knows Inc., Ardmore; Northern Lights Alternatives Oklahoma City Inc.; OACF Education Project; OACF Emergency Assistance Program; OACF HIV/AIDS Testing Fund; Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa; Other Options Inc.; Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma; RAIN Oklahoma; Red Rock Behavioral Health Services; and Tulsa CARES.

For information, visit www.okAIDScarefund.com by Jan. 22.

Thanks to Epic Events, here are other dates for upcoming benefits:

- Feb. 6: Chocolate Decadence benefiting Automobile Alley.
- March 8: Green Tie Gala, Catholic Charities' Sanctuary Women's Development Center.
- April 5: Reach for the Stars, Youth Service for Oklahoma County.

- May 5: Golf tourney, Metropolitan Car Dealers Care Foundation.
- May 15: Fandango, Harn Homestead.
- June 14: Golf tourney, Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa.

Bulls coming back

The Professional Bull Riders' elite Built Ford Tough Series is heading to the Chesapeake Energy Arena for its 14th appearance in Oklahoma City Jan. 24-26. You'll see the top 35 bull riders in the world and the best bucking bulls in the business.

Each rider will face off with an opponent weighing nearly 100 times his weight in sinewy brawn during an 8-second battle from which only one athlete will be left standing. My goodness, some of these press releases get exciting, don't they? For information, call (800) 745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Read more: <http://journalrecord.com/2013/12/18/around-town-time-to-plan-2014-giving-opinion/#ixzz2nxNMVFVM>