

AZ Insider: Celebs & Record Crowds at 2018 WM Phoenix Open GREAT for Charities

Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket reports on the people who make a difference.

Thursday, 01 February 2018 14:34 - Last Updated Thursday, 01 February 2018 15:39



As celebrities took to the fairways at this year's Waste Management Phoenix Open (Michael Phelps, Aaron Rodgers, Bruce Arians, Larry Fitzgerald and Emmitt Smith, to name a few) - a record crowd of 83,034 turned out to watch!

That's great for Arizona's charities as those early records, along with the predicated good weather for the tournament week- will translate again into charity dollars.

Last year, for example,(as pictured above at the 2017 check presentation) the Thunderbirds, hosts of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, (drum roll please) raised a record **\$10,147,441** for local charities through proceeds raised from the 2017 tournament,

It broke 2016's record total of **\$9.3 million** and for the first time eclipsed **\$10 million** in tournament history. It also marked the third-consecutive year breaking the tournament record for charitable dollars raised in a single year.



The Thunderbirds and the Waste Management Phoenix Open have raised more than **\$56 million (\$56,154,683)** for charities since 2010 when Waste Management became title sponsor. In its history, dating back to 1932, the Phoenix Open has raised more than **\$122 million (\$122,201,249)** for charities in Arizona.

The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 "active" members and more than 250 "life" members.

Early congratulations to the Thunderbirds who are on their way to another record setting Phoenix Open!



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