

PortlandTribune

Blues fest hits high note with record-breaking donations

Four-day event collects about \$100,000 more than last year

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This year’s Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival broke records for fundraising, attendance and food collection.

Oregon Food Bank officials said the four-day event July 1 to 4 collected \$748,000 in cash and 110,454 pounds of food, breaking last year’s goal of by nearly \$100,000 and 10,450 pounds.

Donations picked up quickly as the holiday weekend continued. By Sunday night, the third day of the festival, the event had collected about \$380,000 in cash and about 59,000 pounds of food.

More than 120,000 people took advantage of the good weather to listen about 125 bands at the 24th annual event (including a handful of celebrities, like actor William H. Macy, who was spotted enjoying the music on Sunday). The record-breaking donations come at the right time for the food bank, which is seeking an increase in requests for help from families hard-hit by the recession.



Saxophonist Patrick Lamb performed Sunday evening with a blues-tinged set that included Ray Charles' classic "Let the Good Times Roll."

KEVIN HARDEN / PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP

Boaters enjoyed music all day on the water



photoburist

“As we close one fiscal year and begin another, we face a growing need and declining food supplies,”

said Rachel Bristol, Oregon Food Bank chief executive officer. “The festival gives us a tremendous boost in taking on those challenges.”

The Oregon Potters Association also broke a record, contributing \$20,760 to Oregon Food Bank through sales of hand-made pottery and glass at its Empty Bowls booth.

The annual Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, presented by First Tech Federal Credit Union, is Oregon Food Bank’s largest fundraising event. Every \$10 donation allows Oregon Food Bank to move more than 40 pounds of food through the food bank.

The festival is owned and operated by Oregon Food Bank, so 100 percent of the entry donations go to help Oregon Food Bank fight hunger throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.

This year’s festival includes rip-snortin’ performances by six-time Grammy Award winner Buddy Guy, three-time Grammy Award winner Lucinda Williams, Maceo Parker, Robert Cray, Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band, Rebirth Brass Band, Ivan Neville’s Dumpstaphunk, Orgone, Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears, Curtis Salgado, Patrick Lamb and Meschiya Lake and the Little Big Horns.

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