

East Valley Firefighters Charity Run



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The 16th Annual Firefighter Charity Ride & Pancake Breakfast took place on Friday April 5, 2019. Registration at Superstition H-D, located at 2910 W. Apache Trail in Apache Junction, AZ included a Pancake Breakfast prepped & served up by local firefighters, aptly nicknamed the Grillas.

This self-paced ride took 460 motorcyclists on a route that included stops at The Drift Inn in Globe, Jake's Corner Bar & Grill {Payson}, and Mesa Fire & Medical Department Station #214 in Mesa before ending at The Monastery on McKellips Rd, also in Mesa.

Last stop included entertainment by David Voss and Big Country Band, so there was plenty of dancing to be done if you like ☺

The high hand winner collected a \$500 prize with an ace-high full house. Low hand was 8 high, bringing in a \$250 prize. The 50/50 was \$465. Congratulations to all the winners!

This year's event raised around \$20,000 for East

Valley Firefighter Charities and the communities it serves. This 501C-3 organization is run completely by professional firefighters; members of the Mesa, Gilbert, Superstition, Gila River, Salt River, Ft. McDowell and Florence Fire Departments. "We seek to plant positive seeds in and around our communities for the benefit of those communities." <https://firefightercharities.com> Monies they raise go to support organizations including Cesar Chavez Foundation, Child Crisis Arizona, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Pykare Cancer Foundation, United Food Bank, YMCA, and others.

In writing this story up a number of years back I spoke with a firefighter who explained, "The job of these firefighters is to make the best of everyone else's worst day." They deal with a lot of tragedy. Their volunteer efforts through EVFC give them an opportunity to take the negative energy they are exposed to and re-direct it in more positive directions. From their website <https://firefightercharities.com>,

"Human Interaction that produces laughter or tears of joy is a fine medicine for us and our community."

Steve Heyer, EVFC Executive Director sent along this message, "We want to thank all the sponsors and riders who came out to support East Valley Firefighter Charities. You are the reason we are able to do great things in the community each year and help so many people." And "Thanks to Superstition Harley, Galloway Financial, The Monastery, Jake's Corner Bar and Grill, The Drift Inn Saloon, and Law Tigers."

EVFC also has several other fundraisers during the year, including the Hook & Ladder Golf Tournament, a 9-Ball Charity Tourney, and Fill the Boot for MDA.

This was a good day for a good cause. Anytime you can be supportive of a group of people who willingly run into a burning building to help people... *Just do it!*

Betsy & Bruce

