Daily Journal

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The Reserve at Lake Keowee Charitable Foundation surprises four Pickens County charities

FOR THE JOURNAL

SUNSET — Members of The Reserve Charitable Foundation's Board of Directors and Outreach Committee have distributed four $5,000 checks to Prevent Child Abuse of Pickens County, Pickens County Meals on Wheels, Mary's House and Helping Hands of Clemson.

These organizations, all based within Pickens County, were chosen by The Reserve's membership to receive the Foundation's annual gift which, this year, totals $20,000. Though the organizations were informed of their being chosen to receive the funds, the amount of the gift was a surprise.

Ashley Cummings, Executive Director of Mary's House — a shelter for victims of domestic violence — said these additional resources will funnel directly to meeting the needs and, for some, saving the lives of the women and their children who seek safety there.

"We are fortunately debt-free, so every penny of this will go straight into services," she said.

"With the economic recession, local groups have had to serve substantially more people and resources have been stretched thin. We recognized that and chose this year's recipients based not only on need but also focused on organizations that directly touch and improve the lives of Pickens County residents," stated Kathryn Coleman-Gravely, executive director of The Reserve's Foundation.

Charities that receive donations are suggested by property owners. Reserve property owners voted by e-mailed ballot on the slate of area charities under consideration. The Trustees give priority to the charities suggested by the results of the property owners' ballots.

A minimum of 10 percent of The Foundation's 2009 income as well as the proceeds from 2009 Reserve at Lake Keowee's Charitable Golf Classic were allocated for this outreach distribution. In addition, the four charitable organizations receiving money will also receive and split the proceeds from the Oct. 18, 2010, Charitable Golf Classic.

"Our members take great interest in the needs within the community," Coleman-Gravely added. "Any organization can approach us for consideration as a beneficiary. Historically, many beneficiaries have resulted from Reserve residents' service as volunteers."



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From left, Tina Propper of The Reserve, Jean Tulli of Helping Hands and Kathryn Gravely of The Reserve show off the $5,000 check presented to Helping Hands.