The Reserve raises $40,000 for charities

FOR THE JOURNAL

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

These four non-profit organizations, all based in and serving the families of Pickens County, were chosen by The Reserve's membership to receive the Foundation's annual gift which totals $40,000 in 2010, half of which was already distributed to the organizations in April. Though the organizations knew that they were beneficiaries of the funds, the amount of the gift was a surprise.

The funds making up last week's distribution of $20,000 were raised through The Reserve Foundation's annual charity golf tournament Oct. 18. The funds making up the $20,000 distributed in April represented 10 percent of the Foundation's budget for 2009, including the proceeds from the 2009 charity golf tournament.

meal program that serves the homebound who live out of the service area."

"This has been a tough year for Meals on Wheels to maintain its growth," Benko said. "The Reserve has once again come to our aid so we can continue to serve seniors who need us. This gift and their volunteerism are tangible examples of their compassion toward the people of Pickens County."

"This was a blessing to Helping Hands," Jennifer Barbour of Helping Hands said. "We have so many small children. We need so much for Christmas and this will help us with gifts, food, etc. The donations we have received in the past from The Reserve have primarily been used for milk, which is served with every meal and snack. Our milk bill runs about $600 to $1,000 per month, including formula and special milks needed by our children. (The Reserve's) donations have been an answer to our prayers."

Similar expressions of thanks were offered by Heather Witt, director of Prevent Child Abuse of Pickens County, and Mary's House's executive director Ashley Cummings.

"This gift, along with the previous donation of $5,000 this year, will purchase 2,257 hot meals that will feed nine people for an entire year. The Reserve at Lake Keowee also helps Meals on Wheels by delivering meals. Thirty-four residents make up The Reserve Driving Team," Meals on Wheels of Pickens County Executive Director Meg Benko said. "They drive three different routes and are on the road every week delivering a hot meal and hope to people who would otherwise go hungry. With their help, Meals on Wheels was able to complete its Six Mile expansion. The expansion added seven more recipients and divided one of our most rural routes. Reserve volunteers have also stepped forward to assist with the new frozen

"The Reserve at Lake Keowee is very much a part of the Pickens community," said Kathryn Gravely, executive director of The Reserve's Community and Charitable Foundation. "Many of our community members are deeply involved in volunteering in a variety of ways. Volunteering interests range from working with the arts, the environment, local animal shelters and organizations dealing with personal issues that we can all relate to. Being able to donate financial support to these four worthy organizations throughout 2010 has meant so much to The Reserve Community. We appreciate all that they do to make our area a better place to live and their commitment to help those that need it."