



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

TOPPENISH, Wa (May 30, 2018) – Legends Casino Hotel—through the Yakama Cares program—distributes almost \$480,000 to local nonprofit organizations today as the culmination of our 20th Anniversary celebration. 214 organizations will receive grants from Yakama Cares while the Community Impact Fund awards \$543,000 to benefit the law enforcement, fire and health care needs of the community.

Yakama Cares, an annual event, donates funds to create positive impacts in the community it serves, and it is funded through the Charitable Contribution fund. Program distributions have increased each year since 2008 with the 2018 contribution of \$479,550. Non-profit organizations submit their applications annually between January 1 and March 31.

The committee for the Charitable Contribution fund received almost 500 applications to evaluate for the 2018 distribution. The applications undergo multiple rounds of cuts before the final selection. The committee bases part of their selection on the areas of need in the community, and this year, those areas included programs dedicated to education, youth, elders, health, fire, law enforcement, animals and food. Education continued to move to the forefront of need for our local communities with 37% of the applications dedicated to educational support such as sensory items for autism, speech and language test kits, science and STEM materials and much more.

The organizations receiving a distribution comprise many communities ranging from Goldendale and Glenwood to Mattawa and Pasco to Cle Elum. Grants awarded in 2018 range from \$1,000 to \$7,000 per recipient including books, iMacs and other educational programs for schools to uniforms or equipment for sports teams, survival materials for homeless, vaccines for pet shelters and assistance for seniors.

The Community Impact Fund seeks to aid larger projects that benefit the community as a whole. This fund is administered by an independent committee including representatives of Toppenish or Wapato, Yakima, the state gaming commission, the Yakama gaming commission and Yakama Tribal Council. For 2018, \$543,056 has been designated for Yakama Nation Public Safety, City of Toppenish Fire Department, Yakima County Fire District No.5, City of Toppenish Police Department, Yakima County Sheriff's Office, and Yakama Indian Nation.

Legends Casino Hotel is Your Place to Play. The Casino includes nearly 1,500 slot machines, 18 table games including craps and roulette, a poker room, Keno, a buffet restaurant, and gift shop. It is located just minutes off 1-82 and exit 50, one mile west of Toppenish. For more information: 1-877-7-COME-11 or www.legendscasino.com. Legends Casino Hotel is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.