



Statesville, NC  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **National Balloon Rally Charities Awards \$100,000 to Beneficiaries**

National Balloon Rally Charities awards a total of \$100,000 of 2016 Carolina BalloonFest proceeds to community nonprofit organizations. Dozens of organizations will benefit; Designated Volunteer Groups will accept \$85,000 and \$15,000 Honor Gifts will be presented from 2016 Board Members.

Over 25 thousand hot air balloon enthusiasts arrived in Statesville to celebrate the joy of hot air ballooning during the 3-day weekend of October 21-23, 2016. National Balloon Rally Charities thanks everyone who contributed their time and support to the success of our 43rd annual Carolina BalloonFest - an event that can only be hosted with the participation of hundreds of volunteers, dozens of sponsors, over 50 hot air balloon pilots and dozens of media partners, entertainers and vendors.

The designated volunteer organizations awarded monies include American Cancer Society - Relay for Life of Statesville, Statesville Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scout Troop 335 / Wilkes County Boy Scout Troops, Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont Region 5, Statesville Kiwanis, Iredell SCAN, Boy Scout Troop 174, Boy Scout Troop 609, Mitchell Community College Endowment for Excellence, North Iredell High School Junior ROTC, North Iredell High School Cheerleaders, Power Cross Ministries, Civil Air Patrol Iredell Squadron, Children's Homes of Iredell County, West Iredell High School Band & Choral Group, Balloon Federation of America Youth Scholarship Program, Carolinas Balloon Association Youth Scholarship Program, Friends of the Animals in honor of Patrice Reynolds, Fifth Street Ministries in honor of WAME 92.9FM/550AM.

The Honor Gifts from 2016 Board Members to area organizations are Mitchell Community College Endowment for Excellence, United Way of Iredell County, Power Cross Ministries, American Cancer Society - Relay For Life of Statesville, In His Steps, Fifth Street Ministries, My Sister's House, Diakonos Veterans Transitional Housing, Tribute To The Troops NC, Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, March of Dimes, Iredell Christian Ministries, Iredell County Special Olympics, Boys & Girls Club of the Piedmont.

Save the Date for Carolina BalloonFest - October 20-22, 2017! Carolina BalloonFest is an annual event held in Statesville, NC every third weekend of October. As the second oldest hot air balloon festival in the United States, Carolina BalloonFest attracts tens of thousands of visitors from across the country. For more information and 2017 sponsorship opportunities, please visit [CarolinaBalloonfest.com](http://CarolinaBalloonfest.com).

National Balloon Rally Charities, Inc. is an incorporated 501(c)(3) charitable organization dba Carolina BalloonFest whose mission is to continue the heritage of hot air ballooning in Iredell County, spotlight the community of Statesville and donate a percentage of Carolina BalloonFest proceeds to local nonprofit organizations.

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