



COURTESY PHOTO

The Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center received the award for the most individual voters in the 2014 Big Bang-quet Challenge.

Charities compete to win Big Bang-quet challenge

Top vote-getter gets extra \$10K

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Twenty-one local charities are vying to be the winner of the University Club of MSU's Big Bang-quet Community Charity Challenge.

The event, now in its fourth year, launched last week.

Here's how the challenge works: You go online and "vote" for your favorite charities. A "vote" is a \$5 tax-deductible donation to the Capital Region Community Foundation. Online voting will close March 24.

"About 1,000 votes have been cast so far," said Karen Grannemann, University Club general manager and CEO. "The Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan is in the lead, with Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan right behind them."

Last year's winner was the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

CHARITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE BIG BANG-QUET CHALLENGE

Care Free Medical & Dental, Child and Family Charities, Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan, East Lansing Rotary Foundation – Weekend Survival Kits program, Ele's Place, EVE Inc., Fenner Nature Center, The Firecracker Foundation, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Hannah's House, Helping Hands Respite Care, Hospice of Lansing, Impression 5 Science Center, Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC), Lansing Promise, Lansing Reading is Fundamental, MSU Community Music School, Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center, REACH Studio Art Center and Women's Center of Greater Lansing.

On March 25, the community is invited to attend the "reveal" reception at 5:30 p.m. at the University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. Each charity will have an exhibit and a ballot box so people can place their final votes and learn more about the organizations.

There is a \$10 admission charge. For that, you start off with two tickets (votes) to put in whichever ballot box you want. If you want to buy more votes, you can. There will also be complimentary food and a cash bar.

Those attending will witness the final outcome of the challenge.

Each organization will receive a check for 85 percent of the funds raised through voting and be in the running to win one of three grand prizes.

The two organizations that raise the most votes will receive a \$10,000 or \$5,000 credit toward a fundraising event at the University Club.

The organization with the most individual donors will win a \$5,000 credit toward a fundraising event at the Univer-

sity Club. "This is a wonderful feature we added before last year's event," said Grannemann.

"It was designed to allow smaller organizations that might not have deep-pocket donors to work hard, get a lot of grassroots support and earn a prize based on reaching the most individuals."

The challenge is sponsored by the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and the Capital Region Community Foundation.

The charities are listed at www.universityclubofmsu.org/theclubwithaheart

