



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mount Angel Oktoberfest Best in Oregon

Bend, Oregon. The Mount Angel Oktoberfest was judged by Oregon Festivals and Events Association as the state's **Best Festival or Event with a Budget Over \$150,000 or more than 40,000 Attendees.** The award was presented to Oktoberfest at the association's annual conference in Bend, Oregon.

Oktoberfest in Mount Angel is a traditional harvest festival that celebrates the bounty of the earth and the goodness of creation. It honors Bavarian heritage and rural life in the Willamette Valley. Scott Ingalls, Ovation Awards Chairperson said, "This year's Oktoberfest got rained out! I know, I was there getting soaked myself. We all dread a rain out. Event organizers huddle under cover and wonder how bad it's going to be financially. Not in Mount Angel. The festival, with an estimated attendance of over 300,000 people, rain or shine, draws visitors from all over the world!" Oktoberfest is the state's best attended folk festival year after year. This year Oktoberfest saw record attendance in its entertainment venues and made a record breaking distribution of cash

to worthy non-profit organizations in the region.

Oktoberfest also won the Ovation Award as **Best Philanthropic Event**. “The festival is quite possibly the ‘most’ philanthropic one in the state” said Ingalls. It is run by an all volunteer board of 19 directors supported by over 7,500 volunteers.

“Harvesting Family Traditions” was the 2010 theme. “A bountiful harvest rained down on our festival, allowing us to share this bounty with many worthy organizations and non-profits here at home and in the surrounding communities,” said Oktoberfest President John Gooley. The festival will distribute over \$121,925 to forty-two other non-profit organizations and schools. St. Joseph Shelter, Northwest Senior & Disability Services, the Oregon Garden Foundation, Silverton Hospital, many youth activities, veteran and service organizations, the new Mount Angel Historical Society, the Festival Chorale Oregon, and others will share in this harvest, the second largest distribution in the festival’s history. Oktoberfest provides opportunities for non-profits to earn cash by operating food booths, parking cars and performing other services. The fifty non-profit booths grossed \$530,000 at Oktoberfest 2010!

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Photograph, John Gooley, Mount Angel Oktoberfest accepts Best Festival Award from Steve Clark, Oregon Festivals and Events Association President. OFEA Staff Photo by Jerry Lauzon.

The OFEA Assists its members in achieving the goals of their respective events by providing opportunities for education, promotion, networking and leadership development so to enhance the quality of life within the community and promote a better understanding of the contribution of Special Events within the State of Oregon.