

Lutz Guv'na Allots Money

Children, Boy Scouts, soldiers and Nye Park will benefit.

By ELIZABETH LEE BROWN
The Tampa Tribune

LUTZ — Newly elected Lutz Guv'na Michele Northrup handed out more than \$27,000 to 20 local groups recently in the culmination of a record-breaking Guv'na year.

The check giveaway on Thursday means summer library programs for children, new tents for Boy Scout troops, scholarship money for cancer survivors, more care packages to soldiers, and a shade shelter at Nye Park.

The honorary Guv'na title is given to the candidate who raises the most money in a months-long community fundraiser billed as a faux election campaign.

"This is the most fun part of what we do, being able to give the money away," said Eleanor Cecil, vice-president of the Lutz Civic Association.

Cecil, who is stepping down from the civic board, praised this year's crop of candidates.

"These ladies, you don't know how hard they worked," Cecil said. "I know because I saw them. It was a good campaign, and you all worked so hard."

The three candidates raised \$27,634 — a record-breaking total for a Guv'na election year. Northrup, a professional fundraiser for Learning Gate Community School, raised more than half the total with \$16,912. She set a record for the largest amount for an individual Guv'na candidate.

Candidate Annie Fernandez, with the Lutz-Land O'

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Lakes Woman's Club, came in second with \$8,239, and Nancy Rehling, from Nancy's Good and Fast Food on U.S. 41, raised \$2,483.

The biggest financial winners were the Old Lutz School and the Lutz Volunteer Fire Department, which each received \$4,000 checks. The money will help pay for new uniforms for firefighters, and a new well and insurance costs for the historical school.

A \$3,500 grant went to the Lutz Nature Park for a boardwalk. An additional \$1,800 went to Nye Park to help build

a shade shelter over the playground. And the woman's club will use part of the \$1,500 for scholarships for young cancer survivors.

Northrup chose to designate the Guv'na's 10 percent portion to Learning Gate. The school will use \$3,263 to buy supplies for its organic garden and pavers for the new "green" school building.

Local Scout troops who each received \$500 grants include Troop 12, Tierra del Sol Lutz Girl Scout unit, Brownie Troop 8, Boy Scout Troop 21, Cub Scout Pack 37, and Cub Scout Pack 339. Troop leaders said the money will help pay for camping and educational trips.

Other recipients and the sti-

pend amounts include: The Lutz-Land O' Lakes Lions Club, \$700 for a DVD projector; The Lutz Patriots, \$500 to send care packages to troops; Lutz Elementary, \$500 for a mural in the cafeteria; Maniscalco Elementary, \$500 for a program to promote healthy eating; Friends of the Lutz Library, \$600 for more landscaping and children and adult programs.

The Junior Master Gardeners club will use \$500 for a solar fountain. Angels Unaware, a nonprofit group that runs three group homes in Lutz, received \$500.

Reporter Elizabeth Lee Brown can be reached at (813) 865-1502 or ebrown@tampatrib.com.

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