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Terry Testolin

Team Big Top Chautauqua Reinvests in Our Communities!

(Richland Center) Neighborhood Housing Services of Southwest Wisconsin distributed net proceeds to community partners in a photo awards ceremony on Monday July 14 at 3:30 pm in the Community Room of the Park Hotel Senior Center Apartments in the amount of \$14,351 from the resounding success of the Big Top Chautauqua VI collaborative community building annual fundraiser. Representatives of the Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination (GRACE) partnership and the Richland County Veterans Honor Roll, partners in organizing and presenting the sold out Big Top Chautauqua performance earlier in 2014, each received checks in the amount of \$2,870.20. NHS of Southwest Wisconsin received \$8,610.60 in Net proceeds.

According to NHS of Southwest Wisconsin Executive Director Terry Testolin, *“The Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua annual partnership fundraisers in the last six years through the hard work of Team NHS and a community coalition of volunteers have netted and reinvested into our communities over \$60,000 through six great organizations! This year we established sponsorship, net and ticket sales records, selling out the 757 seat Richland High School Auditorium event. We thank all our generous sponsors for making this special family friendly fun event sing! This year we know from ticket outlet and Big Top Chautauqua Toll Free sales that we had our largest regional audience estimated at nearly 150 people or about 20% of our audience travelling longer distances to see the show, some from out of state boosting area tourism, increasing local hotel room stays and expenditures in the local economy.”*

According to Phil Anich – Manager and Lead Vocalist of the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua Orchestra, *“we love coming to Richland Center, you folks are very organized, friendly and always have great to sold out shows with engaged audiences - you are leaders with a purpose doing the best of any of our many Wisconsin Tour locations!”*

The NHS of Southwest Wisconsin Board of Directors, GRACE and Richland County Veterans Honor Roll partners all agreed quickly recently based on strong community input to proceed with Big Top Chautauqua VII in early 2015. Testolin said positive discussions are already underway with Big Top Chautauqua management for the 7th consecutive show in Richland Center! For more information on great shows this summer at the “Big Tent” near Bayfield please see the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua’s great website at www.bigtop.org