

GRAND
BOULEVARD
— Sandestin® —
TOWN CENTER

Building Homes for Heroes Repeats Festival of Trees Win

A dozen non-profit organizations showcased, \$7,000 in prizes

Miramar Beach, Fla., (December 22, 2015) – [Building Homes for Heroes](#) took home Best of Show for the second year in a row at the sixth annual Festival of Trees in Grand Boulevard at Sandestin and was awarded the top prize of \$2,500 by the panel of judges. Their display includes a military themed Christmas tree, small wooden houses and a flag presentation that reflects their mission, to build homes for returning disabled veterans.

For the first time ever, there was a tie for second place with [Heart Animal Rescue](#) and [Emerald Coast Theatre Company](#) each winning \$1,250 for their organizations. [The Boys and Girls Club of the Emerald Coast](#) won the People's Choice Award and received \$2,000.

The judges' panel was made up of eight area business leaders and media representatives who judged the trees based on visual impact, creativity, how the decorations reflect the non-profit organizations' mission and overall impression. The charities were encouraged to get as creative as possible.

Festival of Trees is a decorating contest held annually at Grand Park in Grand Boulevard, showcasing uniquely decorated Christmas trees from area non-profit organizations. The trees debut the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and remain in the park through Christmas for the public to enjoy and learn more about the missions of these organizations.

The 2015 Festival of Trees participants are: Building Homes for Heroes, Emerald Coast Relay for Life, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center, Children's Volunteer Health Network, Children in Crisis, Junior League of the Emerald Coast, Emerald Coast Theatre Company, Alaqua Animal Refuge, The ARC of Walton County, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast and Heart Animal Rescue and The ARC of the Emerald Coast (formerly Horizons).

Festival of Trees remains on display in Grand Park through Christmas, free and open to the public.

This event is presented as part of the Coastal Culture Calendar of Events made possible by the Grand Boulevard Arts & Entertainment Program.

About Grand Boulevard

Grand Boulevard is the shop, dine, play and stay Town Center located on Northwest Florida's Beaches. Based on the prominent mixed-use architectural model, Grand Boulevard offers a dynamic lifestyle experience with convenient access to a multitude of exclusive shopping and dining options, entertainment, professional services, corporate offices and lodging. Grand Boulevard is a Howard Group and Merchants Retail Partners property. For more information, please call (850) 654-5929 or visit www.grandboulevard.com.

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Caption: Building Homes for Heroes won Best of Show for the second year in a row at the sixth annual Festival of Trees presented by Grand Boulevard at Sandestin. L to R: David Switzer; Building Homes for Heroes; five year-old Cameron Hale, Kelly Hale, Building Homes for Heroes Director; Stacey Brady, Grand Boulevard; Chelsea Calhoun, Grand Boulevard; Bill Bubel, Grand Boulevard and Howard Group.

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Alternate photo below, same caption.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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