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Smiles on Faces raises Over \$7,800 for area nonprofits

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Courtesy photos

SPEARFISH — For the past three years, Jenny Yackley and friends have put together a memorial cornhole tournament and silent auction through an organization they founded called Smiles on Faces that honors the memory of her late husband, Ben Yackley, who passed away in 2020, as well as a close family friend Derek Snyder (aka Cheese), who passed away in 2016.

Funds raised go to the same two area nonprofits every year, the Spearfish Rams Youth Football League where Ben coached and Hobo's Healing Heart because 'Cheese' loved animals, and would do anything for them, especially his dog, Zeus.

In September 2022, the Spearfish Rams Youth Football League installed a flagpole at their field off Grant Street in honor of Coach Ben Yackley who was a long-time supporter of the league and football enthusiast using funds received from the 2021 and 2022 events.

“It means the world to us to honor someone who had as much love and dedication to our organization as Coach Ben did,” said Commissioner Lyndsay Schriber. When asked how funds received from this year’s event would be used, Schriber said, “typically we use donated funds for scholarships to help kids whose parents can’t afford registration.”

“Jenny does an amazing job putting this event together. I know exactly how much work, time, and dedication it takes to organize and host events like these. It can become very overwhelming, especially as they start to grow bigger.” said Kelly Harnett, founder of Hobo’s Healing Heart. “We are so grateful for the funds we have received over the past three years. It helps us continue our mission of providing grants to families in the Black Hills who are experiencing financial hardship cover emergency veterinary care, diagnostic testing care, and cremation services when their pet is in need. Jenny always brings me to tears when she hands me the check. I know how much Smiles on Faces means to her; I founded Hobo’s Healing Heart to honor Hobo and carry on his legacy of helping other animals. To express what it means to have Jenny choose us as a recipient of Ben and Derek’s legacy is impossible.”

“The 2024 Smile on Faces event is scheduled for Saturday, July 13.” Yackley said. “If you or your organization would like to help sponsor the event, donate an auction item, or volunteer, we would love your support!”

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