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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **RIB FEST ROCKED AND RAISED MORE THAN \$75,000 FOR CAMP HIGH HOPES**

**Sioux City, IA** - Ribs, music, and fun, oh my! Camp High Hopes is pleased to announce that Rib Fest 2019 raised a record amount of funds for the special needs camp! Rib Fest brought in \$75,000 for Camp High Hopes, more than 2,700 people came to enjoy the food and fun, and more than 140 volunteers made the event possible! The proceeds raised from Saturday's event will go directly to the programs and services Camp High Hopes provides to kids, teens, and adults with disabilities, special needs, and chronic illnesses.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City hosted Rib Fest in Battery Park. Hard Rock provided the musical acts and venue, Tyson supplied 1100 racks of raw ribs and 1540 pounds of chicken, and Famous Dave's provided the sides. This year, 13 teams smoked the meat and competed for cash prizes and bragging rights in the KCBS sanctioned event, and four additional teams smoked ribs and chicken, giving the public a chance to taste 17 unique and delicious flavors of barbeque. Barbeque teams came from across Siouxland and the region and put in hours of work to provide the best tasting barbeque for the public to sample.

The team, Patti's Pit Stop, from Battle Creek, Iowa received the People's Choice award. The Reserve Champion in the competition went to Hillbilly Smoke from Turin, Iowa. Ferg A Que from Sioux City won it all and went home as the Grand Champion of Rib Fest 2019. They received cash, trophies, and a special guitar from Hard Rock for their big win.

"Rib Fest 2019 was bigger and better this year and Camp High Hopes is proud to team up with our sponsors and partners to provide a family-fun event," says Chris Liberto, the Executive Director of Camp High Hopes. "This event is the perfect way to kick off summer, and the proceeds stay local and will help provide recreational experiences for our campers with disabilities."

In addition to delicious barbeque, people enjoyed the Rib Eating Contest, Kiss-A-Pig booth, musical acts, Brainwreck, The Ruralists, and Ultra Violet Fever, face painters, a balloon artist, and a dunk tank with some familiar faces. The festival ended with a raffle drawing for a grill donated by Bomgaars and a dinner for 18 people donated by Famous Dave's. Two lucky winners walked away with those awesome prizes.

With more money raised, more Rib Fest goes, more sponsors, and more fun, Camp High Hopes is calling Rib Fest 2019 a rockin' success!

Camp High Hopes offers barrier-free, recreational experiences that are fun, safe, and adaptive for children, teens, and adults with disabilities in the tri-state region. For more information on Camp High Hopes, call 712-224-2267 or visit [www.camphighhopes.com](http://www.camphighhopes.com).