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Scavenger Hunt Raises Money and Food for Local Pantry

By Mark "Road Kill" Tilkens

(Wausau) On Sunday, October 2nd and with unusually warm temperatures in the low 70's, about 24 two-person teams took part in the first annual Black & Chrome - OFFICE Bar "Scavenger Hunt for Food" to benefit the Wausau Area Salvation Army Food Pantry. Although open to any mode of transportation, more than 70% of the participants opted to enjoy the day even more by hunting with their motorcycles.

With a list of 35 items to collect, participants left the starting point at Black & Chrome with only three hours to find their list of items and return back to the OFFICE Bar to tally their sheets. "Most teams did pretty good", said event organizer and promoter Mark Tilkens, "but one team emerged the clear winner with only 3 items missing, but they all expressed that they had a lot of fun searching for the items".

After the event, teams enjoyed free food and DJ music by Sparky's Sounds at the Office Bar, along with plenty of prizes furnished by several local area merchants. But the big winner here was the Food Pantry which was presented with a \$300 check and several cases and bags of food items donated by participants.

Jackie Strassburg, Black & Chrome owner said, "I wanted to do something to help people at the local level, in our own community, because it seemed everyone was working to help the hurricane victims down south and were forgetting our own neighbors right here at home". Jackie also added, "Although it was a small amount for our first year, we are extremely pleased with the participant turnout and the business support that we received, that we are already planning to make this an annual fall event to help offset the growing need of the food pantry during the pre-holiday season."

Wausau Salvation Army Director, Captain Kirk Schuetz, was surprised and thankful that this event was dedicated to helping them serve local area families and their children who rely on the food pantry for assistance all year long, but especially during the Holiday Season. "We are grateful and want to thank everyone involved, and we look forward to this continued support in the future."



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