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WSU students host fundraiser for Pullman Regional Hospital

By Garrett Cabeza, Daily News staff writer Updated Nov 28, 2016



Kai Eiselein/Daily News

Washington State University student Max Christman shows his throwing style as he takes part in the sPAIR-UP for Pullman Regional fundraiser at Zeppo's Saturday evening.

Every available bowling lane was filled at Zeppoz in Pullman late Saturday afternoon for a fundraiser for Pullman Regional Hospital that was organized by five Washington State University students.

Austin Giem, one of the five WSU seniors who organized the event as part of a class project for a sports management course, said he and his four classmates have been working on the project since the first week of the fall semester.

"We spent the whole semester making this plan so that on the day of the event, everything runs smooth and we're prepped and ready for everything," Giem said.

Giem said more teams showed up to bowl than what he and his classmates were expecting.

"Seeing everyone out here having fun while also knowing that Pullman Regional Hospital is going to benefit from it feels good," Giem said.

Each team was made up of four people, and the money collected from entry fees will pay off bowling costs to Zeppoz and other expenses, Giem said. The remaining proceeds will go to the hospital.

"Pullman Regional Hospital obviously does a lot for the area, the community," Giem said. "And we heard from some friends they're actually trying to raise money for this new operating room and so with them being right across the street we felt like that was a great fit."

Each team bowled two games and the team with the highest combined score won a trophy and first aid kits from Pullman Regional Hospital, said Craig Silver, another WSU student who organized the event.

Silver said he and his classmates also raffled off a football and WSU jersey signed by WSU coach Mike Leach, and tickets to a WSU-University of Washington men's basketball game. All the raffle proceeds will go to Pullman Regional Hospital.

Silver said it was awesome that he and his classmates were able to fill every available lane.

"It's just great for Pullman Regional Hospital," Silver said. "That's what it's all really for, to get donations for them, and if people can have fun bowling along the way it's awesome."

Tucker Harmon, a WSU student who was bowling, said his mom is in the medical field, so any opportunity to support hospitals is great.

"My roommates all just wanted to come bowl," Harmon said. "It is a good idea for a Saturday night."

Matt Martin, a WSU senior who was also bowling with friends, said he likes bowling and he knows the event is benefiting the hospital, which is a good cause.

Scott Adams, Pullman Regional Hospital CEO, and Alison Weigley, assistant director of development at Pullman Regional Hospital Foundation, said it was impressive but not surprising that the WSU hosts were able to fill every available lane.

"It's incredibly impressive but no surprise because Megan Presler (one of the WSU organizers of the event) and her team have just been outstanding, professional, organized and really exceptional representatives of WSU," Weigley said. "So it doesn't surprise me that this is going to be a great success."

Weigley said the money raised Saturday will go toward opening a fourth operating room and medical technology upgrades of the three existing operating rooms.

"It's such an incredible thing that WSU students want to choose their community hospital to be the beneficiary of all their hard work, so we're really appreciative of it," Weigley said.

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