

News Release

For Immediate Release

Rainbow Girls Raise \$24K for Honor Flight Dayton

What happens when more than 450 young women decide that America's veterans deserve recognition? They put effort behind their belief and raise more than \$24,000 to support Honor Flight, an organization that flies veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit their war memorials.

"At a cost of approximately \$250 per veteran, the Ohio Rainbow Girls' generous donation will allow 95 more veterans to see how our nation honors their service and sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy today," said Bill Nicklas, Vice President and member of the Board of Directors of Honor Flight Dayton.

Ohio Rainbow, part of an international Masonic youth organization, annually chooses one or two statewide service projects to focus on. Previous organizations to benefit from Ohio Rainbow's efforts include Fisher House at Wright Patterson AFB, Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Miracle Flights, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"We chose Honor Flight Dayton this year because I thought it was important to remember our veterans. And many Masons are veterans, so this was a way to say thanks to both groups," said Erin Dauber, who just completed her year as Grand Worthy Advisor, the girl's top officer in Ohio Rainbow.

To raise money for Honor Flight, the members sold totes, candy bars and stuffed bears; held a wide variety of fundraising activities in assemblies across the state; and made gift baskets for the silent auction at their annual charity dance held last April in Dayton. That event alone brought in \$2,345.

"A major part of Rainbow is service to others. But in things like our state dance and other fundraisers, we do have lots of fun," said Dauber.

Some of the most creative fun included a Polar Plunge into the cold waters of Maumee Bay, Lake Erie, and a rock-a-teeter thon (24 hours on a teeter-totter) in Circleville, Ohio.

According to Nicklas, "Our flights on August 20 and September 17 will be dedicated to the Ohio Rainbow Girls, and all veterans taking those flights will know that their trip is given to them as a result of these girls' generosity. Also, two Rainbow representatives will be going with us as guardians to see how much their support means to us and to these military heroes."

The Rainbow representatives for the August 20 flight will be Erin and Gail Dauber. Erin will serve as the guardian for Carl Lubberger, a WWII veteran and Mason from Middletown, Ohio.

Honor Flight Dayton, Inc., is one of more than 100 members of the Honor Flight Network. Since

its inception in 2005, the network has taken more than 65,000 military veterans to see their memorials in Washington, D.C. The Dayton hub, which serves the greater Miami Valley of Ohio, has taken nearly 2,000 of those veterans. Applications for the trip can be obtained on the website at www.honorflightdayton.org or by calling the office at 937-322-4448.

Ohio Rainbow is one jurisdiction of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a Masonic youth organization. Members range in age from 11 to 20. Rainbow uses fun events and challenging workshops to develop leadership, confidence, and citizenship in its members. More information can be found on Ohio Rainbow's website, www.ohiorainbow.org or by visiting the international website, www.gorainbow.org.

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Cutline for attached photo:

Honor Flight Dayton representatives receive check from Ohio Rainbow Girls at Rainbow's annual meeting, July 7, 2011. Left to right: Larry Blackmore, member of the Honor Flight Dayton, Inc., Board of Directors; Angela Dettwiller, Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors, Honor Flight; Erin Dauber, Grand Worthy Advisor, Ohio Rainbow Girls; Bill Nicklas, Vice President and member of the Board of Directors, Honor Flight; Carol Watchorn, member of the Board of Directors, Honor Flight.