

## News Release

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### **Corporate Woods 4<sup>th</sup> of July event gets major sponsors**

OVERLAND PARK, Kan-- The Overland Park Rotary Club is proud to announce that Farmers Insurance and Baron BMW have become Major Sponsors of the 2008 Star Spangled Spectacular, Overland Park's Fourth of July Celebration.

These donations represent only part of Rotary's fundraising for the event. The event traditionally has over sixty corporate sponsors, and funds are collected from sales of merchandise and food and beverages during the event. The event funds four local Charities. Last year, each charity received a check of over \$12,500.

This year's charities are the Community Center of Shawnee, Gift of Life Foundation, and KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Inc and Rotary Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) program.

Community Center of Shawnee offers a hand up to help those in the community who have nowhere else to turn. They provide assistance to over 30,000 individuals and families in Johnson County. Gift of Life supports the 93,000 Americans waiting for life-saving transplants, 5,000 of them in Kansas and Missouri through education and awareness of the critical need for organ and tissue donations. KVC Behavioral HealthCare provides healthcare, social services and education to more than 3,000 children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. OP Rotary YLI is a week-long program helps expose students to leadership, ethics, team building and civic engagement. The program is intended for high school students entering their junior and senior years across the Kansas City area.

Donations can be made by corporations or individuals through the fundraising chair, Joe Johnson at 913-491-3993.

This year's Star Spangled Spectacular is the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Fourth of July celebration presented by the Overland Park Rotary Club. Rotary International is the largest and oldest service organization. Rotary was established 100 years ago and is providing monetary and hands-on service to people all over the world. The Overland Park Rotary Club currently has over 170 active members and meets every Monday at 11:30am at the Overland Park Marriott.