

CANSTRUCTION GEARING UP FOR SECOND YEAR TO STOCK FOOD BANK

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BILLINGS -- The possibilities are as endless as Disney Pixar movies when it comes to entering this year's Billings Canstruction® event to help the Billings Food Bank.

"That's the theme for 2011," said Jill Washburn, who is charged with organizing the event, which features teams competing to build the best sculpture using cans of food. "Teams may choose from Toy Story, Nemo, Monsters, Cars, Up and Ratatouille, among others. That makes for a lot of diversity and color in the presentations."

Washburn announced the call for teams to enter the competition and for sponsors, which will benefit the hungry and homeless. Each team has an architect to assist with the design.

Teams of architects, sponsoring businesses, and organizations compete to design and build colossal structures made from full cans of food. The results are giant "canned art" exhibits, Washburn explained.

This year a new organization, Campus Corps, is supervising the event, which will be held at the Billings Food Bank. The sculptures, which will be built April 9, will be on display April 10 -15.

To date, Campus Corps has a team with Sherrill Burke from HGFA (Harrison G. Fagg and Associates) as its team's architect. The RMC Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team has Jim Beal, of CTA, as its architect. Albertsons will have two teams in the competition: the first will be made up of directors/management; the second will be associates. Architects are still being sought to work with the Albertsons teams.

"Albertsons is always wanting to be a community partner and always wanting to give back to the community," said Dan Sloan, Albertsons manager.

Beginning Monday, February 21, Albertsons, at the Rehberg and Grand location, will also be a site to donate cans of food for the event.

After the entries are judged and admired by the public, all the food goes on the Food Bank shelves for distribution to needy families.

"It's a good way for people to know who we are, where we are, and what we do while having some fun for a good cause," according to Sheryle Shandy, Billings Food Bank

executive director.

Four tons of canned goods were used in the event last year, according to Karen Beiser, SIFE faculty advisor and Rocky Mountain College professor and faculty advisor to Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), which launched the event in 2010. The theme for the first annual Billings Canstruction® event was something about Billings, about Montana, and/or about a Billings organization.

In 2010, CTA entered one titled, “No place I’d rather be,” representing the plains running up to the mountains. A second CTA entry was “Bridging the Gap.” featuring the railroad bridge, east of Billings, and saluting railroad history. HGFA, which designed the new Food Bank, teamed with the Rocky Mountain College debate team, chose to replicate the Food Bank in cans. Dennie Stephenson of Architectonis, teamed with MSU-B’s Circle K Club to create Woodbine Falls near Nye, Mont. Robert E. Cummings, AIA, teamed with UPS, to create Sacrifice Cliff.

“Of course, the real winners are the people we helped feed with all those cans,” Beiser said after the event.

Prizes were awarded for People’s Choice, Jurors’ Favorite, Best Meal, Best Use of Labels and Structural Ingenuity. Winners last year were Best Meal & Best Use of Labels: HGFA/RMC Debate team; Juror's Favorite & People's Choice: Architectonis with SIFE and MSUB Circle K Club; Structural Ingenuity: CTA - "Bridging the Gap" team.

To enter a team, contact Jill Washburn, Rocky Mountain College Campus Corps Leader, email: jill.washburn@rocky.edu/ cell: 406-238-7394.

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