

(photos by Michael E Powell/The Eagle)



Photo 1

Sherry Reinhardt (left) gratefully accepts a check for \$1,000 from Lee Parris (right) for the Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse. The money came from a Knights of Pythias fundraising "shoot", and is one of the many charities the group collects money for and donates to, Parris said.



Photo 2

Seventeen-year-old shooter Thomas Camp draws a bead on the target as his grandfather Phil Camp of Cherryville "spots" for him. Thomas is considering becoming a member of the group, for whom he gives many volunteer hours, Phil said.

Pythians continue "shooting" for charities - \$1,000 donation helps local child abuse group

by MICHAEL E. POWELL

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The Cherryville Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge (Domain of North Carolina), have been doing turkey shoots throughout the year in 2010 and are continuing to do them to raise money to help out various local charities as well as some folks in Cherryville who are going through hard times with illnesses and such, Grand Secretary Lee Parris said at the Saturday morning, Feb. 12, shoot. This one produced a \$1,000 check for the Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse (LCCAA). The guys got there early and didn't stop shooting for the cause until about 10:30 to 11 a.m., he said.

Sherry Reinhardt, who is a Cherryville native, is currently the Executive Director of the LCCAA, and was on hand to receive the check.

"This will go a long way in helping us to help those who can't help themselves, or who don't have a voice," she said, as she received the check from Parris.

Parris said the Pythians group number about 55 members and they are currently in the middle of a membership drive. Member Tony Drum said about 25 showed up for the Saturday shoot to benefit child abuse victims.

"Our mission is to prevent child abuse in all forms," Reinhardt said. "Eighty percent of that abuse is in the form of sexual abuse." Reinhardt said the children as a result of their abuse have many medical and mental health problems, and the funds that are raised are a great help. "And all our services are 100 percent free!" she added.

One of the shooters was acknowledged as one of the youngest shooters there, according to Reinhardt.

Thomas Camp, 17, is the grandson of Phil and Anita Camp, owners of Phil's Starter of Cherryville, and the son of Chad and Cindy Camp. Young Camp was glad to get to be a part of the shoot for the cause, his grandfather said. Camp attends North Shelby High School, and is a dedicated 15-hour a week volunteer, also doing quite a bit of outreach, Reinhardt said.

"When Tomas turns 18, we'll sign him up as a Pythians member," Camp said.

Drum said the Pythians are still in fundraiser mode.

"We're still going to continue shooting for other charities," he said. Reinhardt said she was very happy for the donation from the Pythians. "They are wonderful youth supporters, and also support many other organizations here in Cherryville," she said. "In this economy, I find that just amazing!"