

Woody donates \$57,775 to vets via Cameron Veterans Assistance League



Photo by Jimmy Potts

From left, Jim McKinley, Barbara Caldwell, Neva Woody, Marvin Gordon and Wayne Pierson pose for a photo with Woody's \$57,775 check Tuesday.

By Jimmy Potts

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Shoot Like A Girl Charity President, Neva Woody donated \$57,775 to the Cameron Veterans Assistance League, eclipsing her 2019 contribution and totaling more than \$240,000 in contributions since the inception of SLAG just 9 years ago.

Woody said record turnout to her multiple shooting competitions resulted in the record total, which funds many of the amenities provided to residents of the Cameron Missouri Veterans Home.

"It was just the generosity of many folks stepping up to the plate and understanding the predicament we're in," Woody said. "[CMVH residents] are shut-ins and that touched everybody's heart. They haven't been able to see family and friends."

The funds raised came from three separate events held in August & September. Veterans Benefit shoot open to all competitors, then the Shoot Like A Girl Ladies only competition and a couple's shoot the following day. Due to COVID-19, Woody expected a low turnout but when RSVPs began rolling in, she realized her unfounded pessimism.

"I didn't set a goal for 2020. I didn't know what this year would bring. We came in higher than last year. We did \$55,000 in 2019. This year, we did \$57,775. I was just hoping to meet last year's donation goal," Woody said.

"I think it will go a long way. I expect even more to come next year. We had some people that didn't come that would have normally. Numbers were down in that area, but we had new shooters show up.

If we can get the perennial participants and the new additions together, then we will have record numbers for 2021."

Woody, whose father was a Korean War veteran, said the record numbers may have come from many activities not being safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with basic firearm safety requiring a modicum of distance already, shooting competitions were naturally safe from COVID-19. The complication, Woody said, was hosting dozens of competitors and providing basic necessities for the hours-long events.

"We had record turnouts at every event. It helped that they were all outdoor activities," Woody said. "We took every precaution. We served food outside, packaged things differently and wore masks and gloves when we served. Based on the numbers, everybody felt a large level of comfort."

"A good time was had by all"