

'Operation Desert Stage' gets big boost



NEIL YOUNG/The Daily News

MAKING IT HAPPEN: Ed Catalfamo (right), Bullhead City recreation supervisor, thanks Valley View Medical Center CEO Allen Peters (fifth from right) for a \$10,000 contribution made during Tuesday's city council meeting for "Operation: Desert Stage." Peters presented a ceremonial check to graduates of the Colorado River Women's Council's 2008-2009 Leadership Program to go toward the purchase of a mobile stage for community events. Once the stage is purchased, the leadership class will donate it to the city of Bullhead City.

Valley View helps set the Stage

CONTRIBUTED

BULLHEAD CITY — Valley View Medical Center has pledged \$10,000 to "Operation: Desert Stage," the campaign to bring a mobile stage to the Bullhead City area for community events.

Valley View CEO Allen Peters presented a ceremonial check to graduates of the Colorado River Women's Council's 2008-2009 Leadership Program during Tuesday night's Bullhead City Council meeting.

Operation: Desert Stage grew out of recommendations from Leadership Program participants who have actively been raising funds since June. The campaign revitalized efforts to replace using flatbed trailers with something safer and more upscale during community events. Organizers expect it to be more affordable for non-profit organizations and community members to rent for special events.

The \$10,000 donation is the largest single donation to date for the mobile stage project. Valley View will be a Producer Level sponsor, according to Leadership

Program graduate Lori Fonzi. About \$40,000 has been raised so far, a little more than half of the projected purchase price.

"This will bring some prestige to Bullhead City for these community events," Fonzi said. "The \$10,000 was phenomenal. Everyone was excited and thrilled with Valley View's contribution and willingness to support our community."

"It's fitting that Valley View is involved in this community program as we mark our fourth anniversary this month," added Peters. "We have had tremendous support from throughout the Tri-state area, but our patient growth from Bullhead City has exceeded expectations."

Once the mobile stage is purchased the leadership class will donate it to the city of Bullhead City. Valley View is located just south of Bullhead City in Fort Mohave.

"This will give our community a much-needed stage for performances and special events and I applaud Valley View Medical Center and the other organizations

that have contributed to bringing a professional mobile stage to our city," said Bullhead City Mayor Jack Hakim. "We also thank the 2008-09 Colorado leadership class for taking this on as their class project."

Since 2001 the Colorado River Leadership Program has graduated more than 200 knowledgeable community volunteers, many of whom have gone on to serve various boards, commissions and civic organizations. The Leadership Program is an intense curriculum one day each month for nine months designed for upcoming leaders of many businesses and non-profit organizations. The Women's Council has also partnered with Bullhead City to develop a Master Government Program.

Valley View is a 66-bed all private room acute care hospital with two adjacent medical office buildings and an on-campus rehabilitation complex. It is part of LifePoint Hospitals, Inc., a leading hospital company dedicated to providing quality healthcare in non-urban communities.