

22nd Annual Venice Nokomis Rotary Club Fine Art & Craft Festival

Traditionally the Venice Nokomis Rotary Club has made a significant investment in youth activities in our community as well as supporting international projects. Throughout the year we raise money through major fundraisers such as the Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Show in January and the Annual Toast to Venice in March/April. The Fine Art & Craft festival draws about 100 artists and around 10,000 participants many of whom spend money in Venice on room & board or in our retail stores downtown.

This year we are facing a significant increase in the fees the city charges us for various services at the Airport Festival Grounds. The amount of \$5,601 is twice the amount of past years and this expense will reduce our ability to fund various youth activities. Thus we are requesting that Council approve our request for relief from \$2,800 of the amount.

Our fiscal year begins on July 1st and concludes on June 30th. Historically the Venice-Nokomis Rotary Club has invested between \$40,000 and \$60,000 into youth oriented enterprises within our community. In recent years we have provided financial support to the following organizations.

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- Boy Scouts
- Habitat for Humanity
- Project Graduation
- Rotary Futures College Resource Center
- Shelter Box International
- SPARCC
- The Boys and Girls Club of Venice
- Venice Art Center
- Venice Little League
- Venice Theater – Children's summer camp
- Venice Symphony – Music in the classrooms
- Venice Youth Boating
- YMCA South County