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Velva’s Cook-Off for Charity was a huge success

Reporter Heather Tudor

This year’s Cook-Off for Charity event was held on June 28th at the Velva Wildlife Club, just a few miles west of Velva along Hwy 52. Event organizer Clint Hudkins and the Cook-Off for Charity Board did a wonderful job getting cooking teams lined up as well as getting sponsors, not to mention the countless hours of planning. Board members include Clint and Patricia Hudkins, Kyle Larsen, DJ Randolph, John “Bubba” Ulland and wife, Tracy Ulland, Jessy Haman, Dante Rancher, Brent Krueger, Ken Kitelinger, and Tyler Erickson.

This year there were thirteen teams, Gong Show BBQ made Baby Back ribs; 6 Guns BBQ who chose to make Cowboy Brisket Chili and hot dogs for the kids; Art-a-Q BBQ chose to make Rib parfaits; Stone Cold BBQ made Beef N Pork sliders with smoked queso; Mac Attack BBQ tried their hand at Smoked Salmon and Smoked Cream Cheese; Charcoal Monkey BBQ made Chicken legs and Cornbread; Tex Mex Grillers made Beef Cheeks, Stuffed Jalapeno Poppers with Shrimp; Mr. Real Wood made Shredded Beef Tacos, Mexican Cheesy Corn, and Mac & Cheese; Team Dove made Miss Piggy Pops, and Cobbler Fruit; Hammered Hog BBQ made Brisket Eggrolls; Team Smokey North BBQ made a Whole hog with Apple Coleslaw, Northern Slaw, and Smoked Cheesecake; Q52 BBQ made King Wings, Street Corn dip, and BBQ Turkey legs; and the last, but not the least, the thirteenth team called Team America made Ham & Cheese sliders, Cowboy Taters, and Bacon Cinnamon Twists. Now if that doesn’t get your mouth watering, I don’t know what will!

This year’s Cook-Off brought in \$25,000 that goes to local charities/organizations. Now, let’s meet the lucky recipients of this event. First, there was the Velva Wildlife Club, Velva Dollars for Scholars, Velva FFA Chapter, McHenry County Sheriff K-9 Fund, Special Olympics, Northern Pines Stables, Turtle Lake FFA Chapter, Granville FFA Chapter, Velva Area History Museum, and the Velva Bulls Wrestling Club.

Let’s not forget Mr. Main Squeeze was also there showing off his talents on making his homemade lemonade as well as his frozen drinks. McHenry County Sheriff’s Department K-9 unit was also there doing meet and greets with K-9’s Gringo and Rasco. Rasco showed off his talents by doing a “take down scenario” with someone in the bite suit, while Gringo took in all the pets and love he could from everyone willing to oblige.

Clint Hudkins mentioned “We wouldn’t be able to do this event year after year without our great partners/sponsors. It means a lot to have the support that we have from the sponsors, the teams, the community and not to mention the Cook-Off for Charity Board members. This takes a village, and we have the best of the best right here! We’re already looking forward to and planning the Cook-Off for Charity event for 2026! So, keep your calendars open for June 27th, 2026.”



Velva Dollars for Scholars



Granville FFA Chapter



McHenry County Sheriff K-9 Fund



Special Olympics



Northern Pine Stables



Velva Area History Museum



Turtle Lake FFA Chapter



Velva Bulls Wrestling Club



Velva FFA Chapter



Velva Wildlife Club

WordontheStreet

- ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH FALL SUPPER:**  
Sun., Sept 28 / 4-7pm / Velva. Delivery in Velva Available.
- VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:**  
2025 Dates: Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.  
The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.
- BLOOD DRIVE:** Sources of Strength blood drive on Wednesday, September 24th from 2:30-6:30pm in the Velva School lunchroom. Visit [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org) or call Mrs. Howe at 338-2022 to schedule an appointment.
- VELVA FARMERS MARKET:**  
Thursdays, 4-7pm, Main Street. Vendors welcome.
- VALLEY VIEW MANOR MEN’S COFFEE CLUB:** Inviting area men to the Valley View Manor “Men’s Coffee Club”, every Thurs. at 9am, in the Valley View Manor dining room. Stay connected with friends and neighbors.