

Bend Art Gallery Celebrates First Birthday by Giving Back

Art Hop Fundraiser to Benefit Nomad Charities

PHOTO BY AMY CASTANO



To celebrate the first anniversary of its opening, Shelley Hall Gallery is hosting a fundraiser for Nomad Charities (www.nomad-charities.org) during the April Art Hop in downtown Bend. The Anniversary Gala is scheduled for April 6, 5-9pm in the Shelley Hall Gallery, which is located at 833 NW Wall Street in downtown Bend.

Nomad Charities was founded by twin sisters Janette and Jenn Hofmann, who are from Bend. The grassroots charity is helping the residents of Kibwezi, Kenya

improve their community. Current ventures include a clean water project, establishing a basic health care system, sustainable organic farming, helping to empower women to a more equal position in the culture, and the feeding, care, and education of orphaned and underprivileged children.

"I discovered Nomad Charities at their annual fundraiser, where I found some stunning photographs by Amy Castano, a local photographer who has traveled extensively in Africa and Asia. She was donating the

proceeds of her art to Nomad. I bought one of her photographs, and when I met her, I invited her to show her work with the gallery," said Shelley Hall, an art consultant who owns downtown Bend's only upstairs art gallery.

She continued, "I liked Nomad not only because of the important work they do, but I felt it was important that it is a small, grassroots charity. You see exactly where your money goes, and the results are specific. I knew Bend was the kind of place that would want to help support this."

The April 6 Anniversary Gala is open to the public, with music, food, beverages and fine contemporary art provided. During the event, 15 percent of all profits from the exhibition will be donated to Nomad Charities. The public is also invited to browse and pre-purchase any of the works included in the exhibition fundraiser at a special preview on Thursday, April 5 from noon to 5pm. Information: 541/382-8696 or jenn@nomadcharities.org.