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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **SBS Bank customers vote for SPCA to receive \$10,000**

“We can’t believe it - you have just made our Christmas!”

That was the reaction from the team at the Southland branch of the RNZSPCA on hearing that they will be \$10,000 better off following the SBS Bank Golf Invitational 2010, after SBS Bank customers voted them as their favourite charitable group to receive the proceeds.

Treasurer Andrea Morrow said: “The Southland Branch RNZSPCA Inc. committee wishes to thank SBS Bank and all its wonderful customers who have voted to enable our charity to be the recipient of the \$10,000 donation from their 2010 Golf Invitational Tournament. As the SPCA relies entirely on donations such as this to enable it to help the public and animals of Southland we really appreciate all of your votes.

“The Southland SPCA vaccinates, de-sexes and microchips all cats and dogs adopted from its animal shelter at Woodend. This donation will be put towards our work in controlling the pet over-population problems we face in our community.

“We speak for those that cannot speak for themselves.”

The Southland branch of the RNZSPCA was one of eight local charitable groups to be selected from existing SBS Star account holders to be eligible for the customer voting process.

“It’s a fantastic thing to be able to announce giving \$10,000 back to a hard-working and valued charitable group at this time of the year,” Mr Bramley said.

“As part of SBS Bank’s commitment to supporting our communities and our sponsorship of the 2010 Golf Invitational, we came up with the idea that proceeds from next year’s event were to be donated to a Southland-based, non-profit charitable group that was an existing account holder with SBS Bank through our SBS Star banking package.

“We left it up to our SBS Bank customers to vote for their favourite charitable group to receive the proceeds and it was terrific to see the response. It shows how our customers really do value these hard working, non-profit groups and the valuable community services they are providing,” Mr Bramley said.

SBS Bank manager Neil Bramley said more than \$230,000 had been donated to Southland organisations from the Golf Invitational during the past 31 years.

“Just as the SBS Bank Golf Invitational has been giving back to the community, the team at SBS Bank is delighted to have been able to give \$220,000 back to our SBS Star non-profit account holders since the banking package was launched.

“The SBS Star banking package was developed specifically for non-profit clubs and societies, offering fee-free transactions alongside the opportunity to go in the draw to win one of ten \$1000 prizes every month.

“More than 130 of our SBS Star account holders have now experienced the excitement of an unexpected windfall after becoming an SBS Star monthly prize draw winner and now one of our local SBS Stars is going benefit even more from the proceeds of the 33<sup>rd</sup> SBS Bank Golf Invitational.

“If any non-profit clubs or societies want to find out more about how they could benefit from our SBS Star banking package and our SBS Bank commitment to non-profit groups, our customers and our communities they can just pop into their local branch and ask. We’re only too happy to help and they could then be eligible to be considered as the recipient for any future SBS Bank promotions – we’ll have the coffee hot and ready!”

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