? All the hard work that a dedicated core of volunteers put in on the 2008 Kids First Auction is apparently going to pay off.

The non-profit organization's preliminary total, what was raised in the 16-some hours the auction was conducted on Insight Cable TV Channel 25 and via the website scottcounty.tv was a sweet $27,178.70.

"We were very happy as we wrapped everything up about 1:30 a.m. Sunday (November 23)," related Ed Amick, a Kids First volunteer. "Now, we can't wait to see what our wrap-up auction does on Monday night (November 24). We'd really like to see a total over $30,000."

That total was what Kids First raised last year. Kids First's funds help children in need and their families year-round in Scott County. Some of the Kids First money goes to the Scott County Community Clearinghouse. Money is also given by the Kids First Board of Directors to meet special needs which arise in families. Additional funds are provided to such organizations as CRADLE, which helps expectant and new mothers, Kids Place and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Scott County.

Every dollar stays in Scott County to help children and their families.

Anyone who made a donation pledge to Kids First during the auction or who would like to contribute to Kids First can do so by sending their contributions to Kids First, P.O. Box 112, Scottsburg, IN 47170. Contributions are tax deductible because Kids First is a 501(c)(3) organization.