



For Immediate Release:

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Golfers raise \$50,000 at Benedictine's Inaugural DC/Baltimore Charity Golf Tournament

RIDGELY, Md. (June 13, 2017) – Under spectacular blue skies and warm, breezy weather, more than 70 golfers from as far as Oakland, CA and San Antonio, TX, participated in the inaugural Charity Golf Tournament at The Country Club at Woodmore on June 6, 2017. The tournament netted more than \$50,000 for the Benedictine Foundation, in Ridgely, MD, which benefits children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Thad Fletcher, a partner at Cooke & Bieler, L.P., and his wife, attorney (retired) Donna Rochelle, hosted the event at Woodmore located in Mitchellville, MD. Mr. Fletcher is a trustee on the Benedictine Foundation Board. The Fletchers' daughter, Gabby was Honorary Chairperson for the event. Gabby participates in Benedictine's Adult Services Program and works in the organization's greenhouse and landscaping services. Cooke & Bieler, L. P., was the lead sponsor of the event.

“We are grateful for the programs at Benedictine,” Mr. Fletcher said. “Our daughter Gabby has been a part of the adult services program now for two years, and she has blossomed and grown so much. The compassionate care that the staff shows Gabby and the rest of the young adults is indicative of the high quality of the organization and its programs.”

Don White, a colleague and friend of Mr. Fletcher's for more than 30 years, won a set of new clubs for the greatest distance travelled – Oakland, CA - to participate in the tournament.

Barry Smale, Director of the Benedictine Foundation, said that the Fletchers' generosity and the love and admiration their friends have for them and their family, is wonderful. “What a great day with fantastic people all coming out, many from great distances, to support Benedictine. We are sincerely grateful for their support!”

After the tournament, golfers and friends of the Fletchers were entertained by noted D.C. Jazz vocalist Changamire' and her ensemble of musicians.

For more than 55 years, the mission of Benedictine has been to help people with developmental disabilities achieve their greatest potential. Today, Benedictine provides more than 200 children and adults with special education, vocational training, supported employment and home-like residential living options on campus and in the community. The Benedictine Foundation's mission is to secure the financial resources needed to assure the future of the Benedictine School for Exceptional Children and its programs and services.