GIVING
Benedictine Foundation

GOLFERS RAISE $50,000 at Inaugural DC/Baltimore Charity Golf Tournament

Under spectacular blue skies and warm, breezy weather, more than 70 golfers from as far away 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., lead sponsor of the event, and his wife, 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.

“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 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,” he said.

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 Benedictine Programs and Services.
Against a background of leis, tropical flowers and palm trees, Benedictine supporters enjoyed a delightful evening in Tahitian Paradise, this year’s Spring Benefit, which raised about $230,000 for the Benedictine Foundation. Co-chaired by Cindy Doukas and Ashley Heffernan, and held at the gorgeous, historic Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland, Tahitian Paradise offered guests a photo booth, delicious hors d’oeuvres, open bar, a specialty punch created just for the evening, and a scrumptious dinner at tables graced with beautiful centerpieces made of pineapple, palm leaves, and bird of paradise flowers.

During the cocktail hour, dancers entertained the guests with their hula skills, which some members of the adult community enjoyed immensely.

The live auction featured items from monthly floral arrangements from our B Blossoms Garden Center, a birthday party at Dominic’s Farm, and a pizza party to a weekend in glamorous New York City. The evening’s program closed with a successful “raise the paddle,” where guests had one more meaningful opportunity to give from the heart to support Benedictine’s highly acclaimed initiatives for children and adults with developmental disabilities and autism, so that our youth and adults can receive individualized instruction, functional academics and residential living in a nurturing school environment and opportunities for adults to succeed in the workplace and in their community.

“This evening helped us raise significant dollars for the programs and services that help our kids and adults achieve their greatest potential,” said Scott W. Evans, executive director of Benedictine. “Co-chairs Ashley Heffernan and Cindy Doukas, along with the Foundation staff and volunteers, did an outstanding job recreating a tropical paradise for our donors and their guests.”
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