

Boca West Children's Foundation's tourney nets \$400K

By Gary Curreri

Boca West resident Robert Rifkin knew his foursome didn't have much of a chance to win the Boca West Children's Foundation's ninth annual \$100,000 Golf Challenge at the Boca West Country Club.

"It is definitely about the camaraderie and the charity," he said. "We knew going in that we didn't have much of a shot to win, and there are people here that look like they are excellent golfers and they are much younger than us and much stronger than us. We are trying not to come in last."

Rifkin was among the 400 golfers that turned out for the one-day event that featured golf on all four of the Boca West courses, an awards dinner and a live auction. The tournament netted \$400,000, which was granted to the participating children's charities.

"I am really, really happy with the turnout and I see so many people who don't live here at the club in today's roster of players," Rifkin said. "It is great to see that the community is involved. It is a great money-raiser and there are a lot of people in Palm Beach County who are not as fortunate as us and the fact that we can raise money for charities is a great thing."

Another Boca West resident, Howard Attermann, said the club is proud of what they do for the charities.

"Boca West does things for the children in the community," he said. "In the summer, they run an excellent tennis program, golf program and this helps fund that."

Nearby Boca Raton residents Jeff and Dede Janower teamed with Woodfield Country Club residents Steve and Doreen Yanofsky. Jeff has played in the tournament six times and said he likes the fact it benefits kids. This was his wife's first time playing.

"I have always been a cocktail hour person, but not a golfer," Dede said. "This is my first year being a golfer. It is nice that the whole community comes out to support it. It is also nice that the money stays locally."

Doreen Yanofsky said it is a great cause and more about the camaraderie.

"It's great to come out here and see other people that maybe we know," she said. "It is definitely about the camaraderie...if it was about the winning, I'd get another job."

Pamela Weinroth is entering her third year as executive director of Boca West Children's Foundation. She said she was happy to be back to a full field. Last year's event was initially shut down due to COVID-19 and then the makeup date of two days had to be canceled due to Hurricane Eta. The tournament was finally played on Nov. 23 to a limited field, however, vouchers were given to the remaining golfers to use during the year.

"The corporate people were so supportive of the foundation," Weinroth said. "No one asked for a refund, and we gave them all of their golf gifts and a certificate to come back and play."



Boca West resident Robert Rifkin follows his shot during the Boca West Children's Foundation's ninth annual \$100,000 Golf Challenge at the Boca West Country Club. **GARY CURRERI/CONTRIBUTOR**

"They all consider each other family," she said. "We actually capped it this year at 400 golfers, 100 for each course. We have had as many as 500 in past years. We were worried about being outside. We were worried about being inside and making sure that everyone felt comfortable as far as distancing. To me, the best thing about golf is you don't have the pressure to perform. You are playing against yourself and even if you are having a bad day, you are still socializing."

The Duck Drop winner was Lori D'Angelo. Entry into the tournament also included a duck that was dropped from a crane onto a green for a chance to win \$2,500. Additional individual ducks for the drop were sold for \$50.

Christina Irving, the charity and event coordinator for Boca West Children's Foundation, said there were no individual winners and the scores were collected by the foursomes who represented various charities. The charities then received the monies

thanks to the efforts of the foursomes.

"We get scores based on charity teams combined," Irving said. "Unicorn Children's Foundation won first place as a whole and we had about six foursomes playing for Unicorn. This is for the charities and not based on individual scores or foursomes — just about the charities we are focusing on."

The charities vied for a portion of the \$100,000 funds awarded at the conclusion of the tournament. Each charity received between \$2,000 and \$10,000, depending on its team's placement. During the past 11 years of its existence, the foundation has granted over \$16 million for projects that serve at-risk youth.

Unicorn Children's Foundation was the top winner with \$15,000, while Place of Hope was second and collected \$10,000. Third place and \$7,000 went to Sweet Dream Makers.

Four charities — JAFCO - Jewish Adoption & Foster Care Options, Joe DiMaggio

Children's Hospital, Fuller Center and the Rotary Club of Boca Raton — took home \$5,000, while 19 charities earned \$2,500.

Those charities were American Association of Caregiving Youth, Boca Helping Hands, Boca Raton Police Athletic League, Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Caridad Center, Education Foundation of Palm Beach County, Faulk Center for Counseling, Florida Atlantic University TOPS Summer Band Camp, HomeSafe, Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, KidSafe Foundation, Nat King Cole Generation Hope, Roots and Wings, SCOPE - Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education, Inc., SOS Children's Village — Florida, Spirit of Giving, Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County, Youth Activity Center and YMCA of South Palm Beach County.

Weinroth said they wanted to get away from the hurricane season so the next Golf Challenge is slated for April 4, 2022.

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