

## A DECADE OF GIVING

## Golf tourney raises \$450K for kids' charities

By Gary Curreri

A total of \$450,000 was raised for local children's charities through the recent Boca West Children's Foundation's 10th anniversary \$100,000 Golf Challenge.

The daylong event, which included brunch, golf, a cocktail reception and an awards dinner, along with an auction and raffle that took place April 4 at Boca West Country Club, attracted over 400 golfers and 550 dinner attendees.

"It is no surprise that the annual Golf Challenge sells out each year," said Howard Boilen, one of the golfers. "Not only do the golfers have the opportunity to play at one of the world's top clubs, we are helping local kids in need, which is so meaningful to all of us."

Since its inception in 2010, the foundation has granted over \$15 million for projects that serve at-risk youth, and, this year, the organization brought in the most money ever raised in a single year, \$1.5 million, which includes not only the golf tournament but additional events held throughout the year.

The Jay DiPietro Low Gross Award, which went to the best scoring foursome, was presented to Alex Lee, Richard Do, David Lukes and Alen Jsu — the team from Sky Alpha Asset Advisors, who represented the Caridad Center as their nonprofit.

DiPietro, who died March 6, was the CEO of Boca West Country Club and organizers honored him by naming the award after him.

The top four charity winners were Rotary Club of Boca Raton, Place of Hope, Sweet Dream Makers and Unicorn Children's Foundation.

"This is truly historic and remarkable," said Pamela Weinroth, the foundation's executive director. "This is



The Boca West Children's Foundation 10th anniversary \$100,000 Golf Challenge raised \$450,000 for local children's charities throughout Palm Beach County. Sharon DiPietro, center, and members of the winning foursome are, from left, Jessica Lavin, Richard Do, Alen Hsu and Alex Lee. Not pictured is David Lukes. **BOCA WEST CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION/COURTESY**

a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our board and supporters that we were able to raise record dollars in a year with an array of obstacles.

"More than \$450,000 will be distributed to our charity partners from this one event," she said. "We are so thankful for those from Boca West Country Club and from the community at-large who participated in our event."

Funds raised will benefit over 30 participating local children's charities. They vied for a portion of the \$100,000 awarded during the tournament with each charity receiving between \$3,500 and \$10,000, depending on its team's placement.

An annual golf challenge favorite, the duck drop, featured 500 yellow plastic ducks dropped from a crane for a chance to win

\$2,500. The winner was John Joyner.

The Boca West Children's Foundation was launched in 2010 and came about as a desire by the thousands of volunteers from the Boca West Country Club to give back to children in Palm Beach County.

"It just goes to show you that, despite the obstacles, good, caring people will come together for a great

cause," Weinroth said. "For 12 years, despite economic uncertainty, the pandemic and other issues, we have kept our focus on helping our children."

The foundation's mission is to identify and fund projects to assist children and their families in need in the area. Since its inception, the foundation has granted over \$15 million for specific programs for over 30 charities.

"The feedback from our sold-out event was tremendous," said Richard Zenker, chairman of Boca West Children's Foundation. "This plays such a big role in our ability to help children in need who live in our community. We are looking forward to our 11th annual Golf Challenge on March 27, 2023."

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