



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS/THE NEWS-HERALD 28TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC HOPES TO DRIVE IN GOLFERS DESPITE THE ECONOMY

Painesville -- On Tuesday, June 16, 2009 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio (BBBSNEO) along with The News-Herald will hold their 28th annual Charity Golf Classic at Little Mountain Country Club in Concord.

Stefanie Schaefer, co-anchor of FOX 8 News In The Morning, will be Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The Charity Golf Classic is open to the public. Fees will remain at their 2006 level so that the cost for a single golfer will stay at \$175, and the cost for a foursome will remain \$650. The agency has chosen to keep their fees the same because the downturn in the economy will force many companies and individuals to make choices in which outings they participate in.

“With people being bombarded with so many invitations to golf events,” says Tim Kehres, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio executive director, “we hope that they will put us at the top of their list. If they have to choose one, we want it to be us.”

Fees include continental-style breakfast, a round of golf, cart with state-of-the-art GPS scoring system, lunch at the turn; hors d’oeuvres and a complete steak dinner.

Registration will begin at 9:30 am, and play will get underway at 11:00 am with a shotgun start.

“We offer a lot more than the average golf outing,” says Kehres. “My staff makes a point of treating each participant as a valued guest. Without them we wouldn’t have an event.”

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BBBSNEO Charity Golf Classic Cont.

For the children BBBSNEO serves, the revenues generated by the event mean that a lot more will be able to get the Big Brother or Big Sister they have been waiting for and that the agency will be able to expand their mentoring programs to new segments of children.”

Current sponsors for the event include The News-Herald, Little Mountain Country Club, TEC, Inc., Pepsiamericas, Dan-Dee Potato Chips, and Village Dodge.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio is a non-profit organization and is in significant need of new volunteers and additional funding to meet the needs of the increasing number of children they serve. The Charity Golf Classic is one of three major fund raisers the agency holds each year. BBBSNEO asks that corporations and individuals that would like to become event sponsors contact the agency as soon as possible.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the US.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio has been part of the local community for 40 years providing mentors to children in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties through several distinct mentoring programs.

The programs are available at no cost to the children and their families.

In their traditional “match” program, caring adult volunteers, age 19 and older, are matched with children, age six to 15, in one-to-one relationships. At present, 20 after-school programs that are designed to help grade school children develop positive attitudes toward school, build self-esteem and have fun while improving their natural abilities and social skills are operating throughout their three-county coverage area. The agency has also begun a new Lunch Buddy mentoring program and has initiated an entrepreneurial learning program at Harvey High School. The goal of BBBSNEO is to provide a mentor to every child who needs and wants one.

Independent studies have proven that children matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister are:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 33% less likely to exhibit violent behavior

For children who participate in an after-school mentoring program:

- 64% have a more positive attitude toward school
- 58% get higher grades
- 60% improve peer relationships
- 64% develop higher levels of self esteem

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