



Center of Hope Foundation lands a “Hole in One” at their Annual Golf Tournament.

For the past several years, the Center of Hope Foundation (CoHF) has been holding their Annual Golf Tournament at the Heritage Country Club located in Charlton, MA. On August 13, 2015 golfers strolled onto the greens with Goodie Bags filled with treats and promotional items donated from a variety of local businesses who participated in supporting CoHF. CoHF has been serving people with disabilities since 1956 and has also been developing community relationships along the way. These relationships have proven to be a lifeline for the Agency’s non-funded programs that have been developed through the years.

The Annual Golf Tournament’s fundraising efforts support the Agency’s program member’s participation in the Massachusetts Special Olympics events. The CoHF unified sports teams are supplied with uniforms, transportation, overnight stays when needed and entrance fees to the qualifying and state games - all at no cost to the program member. Currently CoHF offers multiple teams for Flag Football, Cheerleading, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Track & Field, Cycling, Fishing and Power Lifting.

Another Agency program funded by the Golf Tournament and the upcoming Talents & Treasures Charity Auction held in November is the Holiday Giving Program. Back in the day, CoHF would receive donations and gently used toys to be cleaned and packaged together for families who were unable to provide necessities and/or gifts to their loved ones during the holiday season. Today, with the support of many, CoHF is blessed to continue this tradition.

A few years ago CoHF incorporated the theme of the “Green Jacket”. This was to replicate the significance of the green blazer given to the winner of the well-known “Masters” tournament each year. This year the “Green Jacket” sponsor was Connecticut Business Systems and the winning foursome was the French River Soccer League players Greg Avakian, Tim Patterson, Bill Leaver and Glenn McKay. Second Place was not far behind with teammates from Incom, Inc. - Jay Detarando, Michael Detarando and their childhood friend Lewis Venezia, and Southbridge Savings Bank - Ron Cooper. Powers Industrial Supply - Chris Powers, Larry Powers, Bob Kelly and Joe Louis also played a great game coming in as the third place winners.

During an event such as this, CoHF feels it is important to have a little extra fun with offering fantastic raffle prizes to those who win the Closest to the Pin - Bernie LaPierre, Longest Drive for Men - Connor Gauthier and Longest Drive for Women - Kristine Bauce. (All three listed are CoHF employees). However the most talked about “game changing” participation was the Hole-y-Craps fuzzy dice game where players could roll their way to a 7 or an 11 and reduce their teams score by a stroke. Also the Vegas Hole/Double or Nothing had many confident golfers putting their money where their mouth was to layup on the green off of the drive. Participation awarded the golfers raffle tickets towards winning a new putter.

Once again the day was filled with lots of sunshine, smiling faces and hungry players looking forward to the steak dinner Heritage Country Club provides during our 50/50 raffle and the revealing of the eighteen table prize raffle winners. This year the tower of scratch tickets with a value of \$300.00 won the hearts of many.

Over all the Center of Hope Foundation was able to raise \$12,000.00 and would like to thank the Heritage Country Club, all of the volunteers, golfers and event sponsors for making this a growing and successful event. See you next year!

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