



# ROTARY CLUB OF STRONGSVILLE

18100 Royalton Road · Strongsville OH 44136

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2005

Media contact:

Ken McEntee

Ph: 440.238.6603

E: ken@thewriteco.com



## Overall donations top \$900,000

### Chili Open hits the green for local charities

STRONGSVILLE - More than \$700,000 has been raised for local charities when area golfers hit the snowy links of the annual Chili Open Golf Classic. This year's event, the 14<sup>th</sup> annual hosted by Rotary clubs of Strongsville and others in western Cuyahoga County, netted more than \$33,000 for 14 area charities.

In addition, more than \$200,000 has been raised over 14 years for local and international projects conducted by the Strongsville Rotary and Rotary International.

The Chili Open Golf Classic, held at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, has become a Northeast Ohio tradition. The event gives golfers a once-a year opportunity to play outdoor golf in February on three nine-hole courses with 65-yard fairways.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Chili Open will take place February 25, 2006.

This year's event, which drew 700 golfers, benefited the following local charities:

- Malachi House
- JD Breast Cancer Foundation
- Boy Scouts of America
- Ohio Boys Town
- Berea Childrens' Home and Family Services
- HELP Foundation
- Applewood Centers/Jones Home
- Camp Cheerful/Achievement Centers for Children
- Womankind
- Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership Program
- The Singing Angels
- Strongsville Safety Town

"We were so honored to be a recipient of funds from this year's Chili Open Golf Classic," said Pam McKee, development coordinator for Malachi House, a home for the terminally ill. "As a small organization funded entirely by donations, the proceeds went a long way toward helping us meet our operating budget this year. Rotary's gift funded more than six weeks of a resident's stay, or more than two months' worth of groceries for the entire house."

In addition to benefiting local charities, the event has raised almost \$100,000 for the Rotary International Foundation. The foundation sponsors such international programs as Polio Plus, a initiative that has nearly obliterated polio worldwide. The foundation, created in 1917 by Clevelander Arch C. Klumph, sponsors numerous other humanitarian, educational and cultural programs.

Along with brisk February golf, the Chili Open Golf Classic offers a day of family fun. A heated clubhouse gives golfers a place to thaw out and enjoy all the food they can eat. Games, prizes, contests and a lot of fun are also part of the event. A live auction is conducted by local sports and media celebrities.

Businesses can sign up now to sponsor the 2006 Chili Open.

Corporate sponsors this year included:

- Wendy's
- Sherwin Williams
- Cleveland Clinic Health System
- Lakewood Hospital
- Today's Business Products
- Williams Ford
- Gene Norris GMC
- B'laster
- Pfizer
- RMS (Real Estate Management Services)

Media sponsors included:

- Adelphia
- Sun Newspapers
- Mimi Vanderhaven's Fabulous Buys
- WTAM 1100 AM

The Chili Open Golf Classic is hosted by the Rotary Club of Strongsville with support from the Rotary Clubs of Parma, Middleburg Heights and North Royalton.

Rotary is an international organization of business and professional people who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and strive to build goodwill and peace in the world.

# # #