



# ROTARY CLUB OF STRONGSVILLE

18100 Royalton Road · Strongsville OH 44136

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Media contact:

Ken McEntee

Ph: 440.238.6603

E: ken@thewriteco.com

### Sponsorship information:

Andy Motz

Ph: 216.651.9917

E: apmotz@adelphia.net



## B'laster to present Chili Open Golf Classic

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio – B'laster Chemical Companies Inc., of Valley View, Ohio, will be the presenting sponsor of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Chili Open Golf Classic. The event, hosted by the Rotary Club of Strongsville, with support of other area Rotary clubs, has contributed more than \$800,000 to local charities in the last 14 years.

This year's Chili Open will take place February 25, 2006 from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, in Berea.

B'laster has been involved in sponsoring recent Chili Open events, but this is the first year the company has been the lead sponsor.

"Northeastern Ohio has been left behind in the economic recovery," said Bill Matthews, president and CEO of B'laster. "B'laster has been blessed with phenomenal growth over the past 10 years and we wanted to give something back to the community."

The Chili Open Golf Classic 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. Last year's event drew more than 700 golfers.

In addition to brisk February golf, the Chili Open 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.

In addition to benefiting local charities, the Chili Open 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 humanitarian, educational and cultural programs.

Proceeds from the 2006 Chili Open will benefit the following local charities:

- Ronald McDonald House of NE Ohio
- Easter Seals
- Strongsville Youth Commission
- Guardian Ad Litem Project
- Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership
- HELP Foundation
- JD Breast Cancer Foundation
- The Singing Angels
- Ohio Boys Town
- Womankind
- Strongsville Historical Society

Major sponsors for this year's event include:

- B'laster
- Mimi Vanderhaven's Fabulous Buys
- WTAM 1100 a.m.
- Clear Channel Outdoor
- Today's Business Products
- AlphaGraphics
- Wendy's
- Sherwin Williams
- Southwest General Health Center
- Williams Ford
- Cleveland Clinic Strongsville Family Health Surgery Center/Cleveland Clinic Sports Health
- Gene Norris GMC Truck

A variety of corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 2006 event. For information about sponsoring the 2006 Chili Open, contact Andy Motz, at 216-651-9917.

Chili Open is hosted by the Rotary Club of Strongsville with support from the Rotary Clubs of Lakewood/Rocky River and Middleburg Heights.

### **About B'laster**

For more than 50 years, Blaster Chemical Companies has manufactured penetrants, lubricants, rust inhibitors and a full line of specialty, highly concentrated formulas for the automotive, industrial and hardware industries. The company is known mostly for its leading product, "PB," a penetrating catalyst and lubricant for loosening nuts and bolts, ripping through rust and penetrating and lubricating the tightest crevices.

The company began in 1947 when William K. Westley founded the first of several chemical companies to bear his name. He started by inventing a product that removed lipstick from wall paint. That product was eventually sold to Proctor & Gamble. Later products developed by Westley included a water-based concrete cleaner that didn't explode in service station applications and Westley's Car Polish, the first such product to use silicone as a polymer protectant instead of the old stand-by carnauba wax.

In 1955, Westley sold Westley Industries for \$5 million to the company that eventually became Blue Coral. The whitewall tire cleaner and car polish are still sold today in nearly their original chemistry and containers.

The B'laster Division of the William K. Westley Company was born after Westley grew bored of retirement. An avid boater, Westley developed oil additive for marine engines. A year later, PB B'laster was created in response the need to deal with phosphate corrosion in mining equipment.

In 1980, Westley retired again, selling his company to Bernard L. Porter, a former Cleveland investment banker. Porter expanded the B'laster product line from five to 12 items and expanded from regional to national distribution.

In 1997, the family-owned company changed its name to Blaster Chemical Companies Inc. to further identify the company with the trade name it had made famous for quality products. In the same year, the company moved its headquarters and production facilities from Garfield Heights to a brand-new building in Valley View.

Matthews joined Blaster in 1994 as national sales manager and was named president and CEO in December 2003.

### **About Rotary**

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.

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