



Northeast Ohio golfers chill for charity

STRONGSVILLE, February 24. - Close to 1,000 people participated in this year's Blaster Chili Open Golf Classic, hosted by the Rotary Club of Strongsville. The 17th annual charity event, sponsored by Blaster Chemical Companies Inc. and presented by Radius Communication, was held in perfect 30-degree, snowy conditions at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, in Berea.

This year's all-volunteer event was estimated to have raised more than \$110,000. Over the first 16 years of the Chili Open, the event has raised more than \$1.5 million, netting more than \$1 million to give vital assistance to local charities as well as Rotary projects locally and around the world. The Chili Open gives golfers a chance to

shake the cobwebs from their clubs with some brisk, challenging outdoor golf on three frosty nine-hole courses set up in the fairgrounds. A heated clubhouse gives players a place to thaw out and enjoy unlimited food and beverages, like hot Wendy's chili, while participating in the annual celebrity auction, raffles and others activities.

Each year a variety of charities are selected to receive proceeds from the event. This year's proceeds will benefit the disabled golfer program of the Northern Ohio Golf Association, Easter Seals of Northeast Ohio, Greater Cleveland Boy Scouts, Youth Challenge, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Hanson House, the Help Foundation, Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership, the Cleveland Scholarship Program, First Glance Teen Mom Program, Strongsville Council of PTA and Strongsville

Instrumental Music.

Auctioneers included Cleveland radio personalities Bill Wills, of WTAM, 1100 AM; Dan Deely, of WDOK, 102.1 FM; and Jimmy Malone, of WMJL, 105.7 FM; television personalities Brad Sussman, of Fox TV8; Harry Boomer, of WOIO, Channel 19; and Bruce Kalinowski, Lydia Esparra and Betsy Kling, of WKYC, Channel 3; former Cleveland Browns Mike Pruitt and Mike Pagel; Sun Star newspaper columnist Bev DeWitt; and Zephyria Khoobball, Miss Open City.

Joining Blaster and Radius as major sponsors of this year's event were Mimi Vanderhoven's Fabulous Buys, Clear Channel Outdoor, WTAM 1100 AM, Phoenix Wealth Management, Wendy's, Tony K's Bar and Grille, Teanz Restaurant and Bar, AlphaGraphics of

Strongsville, Southwest General Health Center, Pat Catan's, Today's Business Products, Key Bank, Strongsville Mini Storage and Pepero.

In addition to local charities, Chili Open proceeds have funded Rotary projects like Polio Plus, an initiative that has nearly obliterated the crippling disease worldwide. 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.



Parrot hat golfer is Bill Malone, a local firefighter; Zephyria Khoobball, Miss Open City, (will compete for Miss Ohio) and Bill Matthews, president and CEO of Blaster Chemical Companies all had fun.



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