



Golf for a Cause provides hope & food through De Mazenod Door Outreach Program

The good news story that is Golf for a Cause continues to shine a light on what the club does in the spirit of giving and generosity.

As in the past, but not without a lot of passion for the poor and struggling and countless hours of work behind the scenes, the HGCC Women's Section and other gracious donors helped raise just over \$33,000 at the Golf for a Cause charity day on July 31.

That's a two-year total of approximately \$65,000 that has been and will be donated to De Mazenod Door Outreach Program to help feed the poor, homeless and hungry in downtown Hamilton 365 days of the year.

"It has been an eye-opening and humbling experience to connect with all of you wonderful women and all the good people at De Mazenod Door Outreach Program over the last two years," Co-chair, Deb Cacioppo told the women who gathered for lunch after golf. "Today, we are the glimmer of hope for people in Hamilton who do not have a lot."

Highlights of the day included a candy bag for the course, cooling frozen gelato on the course, local honey for all participants, a terrific raffle draw, an awesome silent auction with 140-plus items to bid on, a fabulous lunch, lots of fun and laughter, the knowledge that we can do great things to benefit our community – and a very popular candy table for dessert for the 139 lunch guests.

"I love this event because it is a fun day. You get to golf, eat, drink, shop with your friends all the while doing something great for our community. Everyone is cheerful and enjoying themselves," says Lori Serafini, a member of the organizing team. "I am always surprised by people's generosity. We had a record number of silent auction items and great raffle prizes this year. It is



The silent auction in the Great Hall.



Vanessa Blake, Amy Campbell, Bianca Bruzzese and Heather Ritchie.



Kristin Ippolito happy with her basket of beer raffle draw prize!



always bittersweet when the event ends. It is a lot of work, a lot of meetings, a lot of organizing and asking for money/donations. It's a great day. It is a relief when it ends, but also sad that we are done with that one specific organization. Deb and Cathy did a great job as chairs! Very organized and they had many great ideas! Deb has a magical touch with decorating! This was the best event so far!"

The organizing committee included; Co-chairs, Deb Cacioppo and Cathy Sullivan, Jill Winch, Lori Serafini, Christine Heagle and Marg Scime.

"I guess what comes to my mind is - I was lucky to be part of a small team of wonderful people who worked together with the same mindset towards a very important goal. The enjoyment I experienced working with others to help others was very fulfilling. We are very fortunate to be able to golf where we do and it's important to keep others in mind and share with others in our community," Jill Winch added.

On the scoreboard; Marilyn Gregus, Susan Fitzgerald, Diana Patterson and Judy Ashley carded the low best ball score of the day at 48 followed by the team of; Angela Manchia, Erin Fava, Deb Lancaster and Annette Carruth in second with a 52 and Susan Courneya, Patricia Hardie, Pauline Maue and Carolyn Milne at 54.

"Honestly, we are very, very grateful. We are seeing record numbers. There are a lot of new faces. In the month of July, we served a total of 11,123 meals," says Sherri Ramirez, Outreach Co-ordinator for De Mazenod Door during a cell phone interview, while waiting for an ambulance to arrive at the centre, for one of the people who had dropped by for a meal and was struggling with their health.

"We depend totally on the generosity of organizations and businesses like yours to do our part in the inner city and to have you guys do your part is such a blessing for us," Sherri adds, noting that last July the program dished out 8,000 meals - breakfast and lunch seven days a week.



Golf for a Cause organizing committee members include; Cathy Sullivan, Marg Scime, Christine Heagle, Jill Winch, Lori Serafini and Deb Cacioppo.



Ursula Blair on the tee with playing partner, Paula Kamula.



Winners; Diana Patterson, Susan Fitzgerald, Marilyn Gregus and Judy Ashley.



"Deb and I are so grateful for the devoted tireless efforts of our GFAC committee - a group of very special ladies and good fun to work with too," says Co-chair, Cathy Sullivan. "Seeing the Great Hall & Dining Room all set up and the ladies all excited after breakfast and then taking a quick peek at the silent auction items before running out to their carts to enjoy golf & camaraderie was an exhilarating and rewarding moment."

"Deb and I listened to the feedback we received last year and we all truly did our best to repeat what worked and tweak what didn't. With our pink and green theme and all of the balloons everywhere along with the much-loved candy station, it felt like a festive, fun & totally feminine event for our lovely HGCC women," Cathy added.

Deb and Cathy's two-year commitment as co-chairs of Golf for a Cause is complete. The Women's Section is looking for someone, a couple of people or a group to chair Golf for a Cause in 2019. The person or people who coordinate Golf for a Cause choose the charity to support.

"GFAC is perhaps the most rewarding of all fundraisers I have worked on. Life happens and due to unexpected circumstances, social disadvantages or compromised mental health issues, anyone could find themselves living on the street. Fortunately for me, I am one of the lucky ones," Christine Heagle says. "Through the incredible generosity of our HGCC ladies, sponsors and donors. We made a difference in so many lives today. As part of Team GFAC, we worked to ensure that on this special day, our HGCC women were celebrated with a delicious lunch, special on course surprises and fabulous auction items. We reached out with one hand. They responded with two!"

"We had over 145 incredible auction items, and it was great fun watching the friendly bidding wars on many of the fabulous donations," she adds. "I am proud to have been a part of GFAC, these past years, and have no doubt that the new committee will be as blown away by all the support from their fellow team members, the HGCC staff, the donors, and fellow golfers who are generous beyond belief."



Ross Ashley spent his birthday greeting the women as they arrived at the tee for the Closest to the Pin Contest that was sponsored by Ashley Jewellers. These wonderful women - Jennifer McBarron, Kristen Sullivan, Megan Sullivan and Nicola Jamani - delivered a cupcake with a candle in it to celebrate the day. Janice Inch won the gorgeous Gucci watch for closest to the pin.



Carm Sakas, Sheila Drury, Janice Inch and Denise Johnston checking out the gelato station.