



CATAWBA COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHRISTMAS GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS AND TOYS FOR AREA CHILDREN

HICKORY — Don and Lori Teague, owners of DL Tee Golf in Hickory, recently partnered with Rock Barn Golf and Spa to host the second annual Christmas for Children Golf Tournament. The tournament benefitted several programs for children, including the Backpack Program, coordinated by Catawba County Social Services and Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries; the DUO Program of Newton-Conover City Schools; and the Santa Cops program of the Conover Police Department.

More than 150 players, in 38 captain choice teams, participated in the tournament on Nov. 12. The registration for each golfer included a fee along with one or more unwrapped toys. Golfers were also invited to take part in a raffle. The tournament raised \$7,700 and 200 toys. The funds were divided equally between the Backpack Program and the DUO Program. The toys were distributed to children in need through the Santa Cops program.

The toy donation was part of a toy drive organized by Hannah Arsenault, the teenage daughter of Gavin Arsenault, Rock Barn Club vice president. The Teagues' 13-year old daughter, Jessica, also helped.

The Backpack Program serves more than 900 students with a backpack full of food every Friday of the school year throughout Catawba County's three school systems. Children who receive the backpacks are primarily in families who have limited income and assistance and therefore struggle to have enough food for the entire family on the



Those who organized the Christmas for Children Golf Tournament sit with some of the gifts that were distributed through the Cops for Tots Program of the Conover Police Department. The tournament also benefitted the Backpack Program, coordinated by Catawba County Social Services and Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries; and the Newton-Conover City Schools DUO program. From left to right are Lori Teague, Don Teague, Jessica Teague, Hannah Arsenault, Cindy Baker, Amanda Freeland and Gavin Arsenault.

weekends. The Backpack Program sends home enough food to take care of the children in the family for the entire weekend. This includes seven meal items plus snacks.

The DUO (Do Unto Others) Program provides assistance to children in need who attend the Newton-Conover City Schools.

Cindy Baker, a member of the golf club, helped organize the tournament. “People truly came together to support these wonderful programs,” she said. In addition to DL Tee Golf and Rock Barn Club, major contributors to the event’s success included Dale Jarrett, First Place Ford Lincoln, HT Hackney Co., Peoples Bank, Eddie Fisher, Masterfield Furniture, Ed and Eileen Horgan, Eddie Alala, the Arsenault family, Sandy King-Eller (RE/MAX A-Team), Al and Guyette Gioia, Bill and Terri Johnson, Mast, Evans and Isenhour LLP, Pepsi, Patty Pope, Dr. Jerry W. Sowers Jr. PA, Wallace Printing and Joann Beiler.

“Without these great sponsors, we would not have been able to put this tournament together,” said Lori Teague. “We look forward to another great outcome next year.”

She added: “The third annual Christmas for Children Golf Tournament will be held in November 2012. Mark your calendars now to join DL Tee Golf and Rock Barn Club in their efforts to improve the lives of kids in need in our local community.”

Throughout the past year, DL Tee Golf has asked its customers to donate canned goods in exchange for a discount on range balls. This effort has resulted in more than 1,000 pounds of food for the Backpack Program since last November.

The Backpack Program depends on donations to continue. Without fundraisers by area citizens, businesses and churches, this program would not exist. For more information about how you can get involved, contact Amanda Freeland, Backpack Program coordinator and social worker, at afreeland@catawbacountync.gov or (828) 695-5648.

You may now donate online to the Backpack Program by going to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss> and clicking on the red “Donate Now” button. You may also donate by check. Make your check payable to Catawba County Social Services and write “Backpack Program” in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Catawba County Social Services, P.O. Box 669, Newton, NC 28658.

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