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## Event helps Community Foundation

### Golf tournament helps raise funds

Josh O'Leary • Iowa City Press-Citizen • May 25, 2010

For Gary Barta, there wasn't a better way to spend a sunny Monday afternoon.

"I'm a little biased, but I think we're playing a charity golf outing on probably the nicest course in the state of Iowa, and we're raising money for kids in a community we all love," said the University of Iowa athletics director as he loaded his golf gear into a cart at UI's Finkbine Golf Course. "There are a lot of positives involved in this."

Barta was among the 133 golfers who took part in the fourth annual Tee Up for Philanthropy, Team up for Community tournament hosted by the Community Foundation of Johnson County.

This year's event benefited an endowment fund for the Healthy Kids Initiative, which operates health clinics at two sites within the Iowa City School District. Organizers hoped to raise as much as \$45,000, which would then be put toward the Community Foundation's own operations and the Healthy Kids endowment.

Barta served as the grand marshal for the tournament, which included 34 foursomes of players who each chipped in \$125, as well as about 40 volunteers, many of whom were members of the Iowa City AM Rotary.

"Just go back to when we had the (2008) floods, the Community Foundation is one of those groups that pulled together and helped us get through it," Barta said.

Jim Wagner, who was among the golfers warming up on the putting green before the tournament, had hopes of replicating the hole-in-one he sank on Finkbine's No. 4 a little more than a week ago. Had he saved the shot for Monday, he could driven away in the vehicle that was the prize for a hole-in-one, he joked.

Even if he was off the mark on this day, he said it

was a worthy cause support.

"We're happy to help out in the community for those who are less fortunate, and this is a good fundraiser," Wagner said.

While some, like Wagner, had their eyes on the prizes, Mary Rita Burns and her playing partners weren't expecting to finish atop the leader board. Instead, Burns, Peg Cahill and Carol Barker said they were playing to help the Community Foundation while enjoying each other's company.

"We're not here to win; it's just social," Burns laughed.

The Community Foundation pools and manages endowment funds for 58 agencies and manages a total of 104 different funds. The foundation has distributed \$2.25 million in grants over its 10-year history.

Foundation president Casey Cook called the foundation and its behind-the-scenes efforts "the best-kept secret in town."

"It's a real community, homegrown kind of deal, and it engages a lot of people," Cook said.

The Healthy Kids initiative, which has clinics at West High and Southeast Junior High, provides services to school-aged children and their siblings who do not have access to affordable health care.

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Mike Stoffregen, executive director of the Community Foundation, said the Healthy Kids Initiative fills an important need within the community.

"A lot of parents can't get off work to take them to a doctor or they don't have health insurance, so by putting this Healthy Kids Initiative out there and moving the clinics to the schools, then we're able to treat kids at the schools," Stoffregen said.

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