

It's tee time! Among the birdies, eagles, mulligans and double bogeys, Kiwanis clubs worldwide hit the links to ace service needs and score fundraising profits

# Pasta and putting

**IT'S MORE THAN JUST GOLF THAT DRIVES THIS MISSOURI FUNDRAISER. THERE'S PLENTY OF GOOD FOOD AND FUN TOO** | Story by Karen Pyle Trent | Photos by John Fedele

It could be the picturesque 27-hole course that attracts golfers to the Bartolino's Golf Classic. Or maybe it's the food provided by Bartolino's Italian restaurant. But chances are, it's the opportunity to help the kids of St. Louis, Missouri, that has brought golfers together for the past 26 years.

This past August, members of the Hampton-Midtown, Saint Louis, Kiwanis Club teamed with the popular St. Louis restaurant Bartolino's to sponsor a day of good golf, great food and grand fellowship. The outing netted US\$14,000, some of which was earmarked for the Wyman Center, an organization that supports disadvantaged teens and helps them prepare for successful lives. Local food banks and

numerous other charities for children also receive proceeds from the tournament.

The most recent event drew 180 golfers—that's 45 foursomes—who paid the \$150 per person entry fee. Following a lunch of Bartolino's sandwiches, players teed off at 12:30 p.m. Later, after the last golfers headed in, Bartolino's served up a steak dinner.

"People who haven't seen each other for a while get to visit," says 2010-11 club President Jacob Ginger. "It's a good fellowship time for the neighborhood."

The tournament also provided a good time to bid on silent auction items or purchase raffle tickets. Auction items included a baseball autographed by St. Louis Cardinal Albert Pujols, airline tickets and a photograph of baseball legend Stan Musial and US President Barack Obama. Raffle tickets also were popular, with sales totaling \$400.

"The St. Louis Rams sent three of their cheerleaders over to sell (raffle) tickets for us," says Kiwanis club Secretary Stan McCaslin.

The Hampton-Midtown Kiwanians have found the food-and-golf combination to be a



There's more than just a game of golf to attract players, families and other supporters to this St. Louis event. A silent auction, prize drawings and great fellowship also help, but lunch sandwiches and a steak dinner, both served by a popular restaurant, ensure that this is one of the most popular dates on the community's social calendar.





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winner, thanks especially to club member Bart Saracino Sr., owner of Bartolino’s. A long-time member of the club, Saracino also serves as chairman of the golf tournament, and his sons offer culinary assistance come tournament time.

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A quarter century of experience organizing the golf tournament means much of the planning and execution of the event runs like clockwork. A core group of volunteers can be

counted on year after year, and many of them have helped for so long they’ve developed their own areas of expertise.

No matter how efficient and successful the golf tournament might be, however, the outing isn’t without its challenges. Managing so many aspects of the event, including donations, volunteers and food, can be tricky. So can coordinating everything from start to finish on golf day. Yet plans are underway for the 27th Annual Bartolino’s Golf Classic.

“There would probably be a revolt if we didn’t do it again,” says Ginger. **KM**

Bart Saracino, left, has been a member of the Hampton-Midtown, St. Louis, Kiwanis Club for more than 40 years. For nearly 30 of those years, his restaurant and his Kiwanis club have organized a golf fundraiser that contributes thousands of dollars to help disadvantaged teens and support other Kiwanis charities.



