



NEWS RELEASE

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COARC OPPORTUNITEES GERALD J. DIEFFENBACH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

(Mellenville, NY) Golfers, sponsors, donors and volunteers raised almost \$18,000 at the COARC OpportuniTees Gerald J. Dieffenbach Memorial Golf Tournament at Columbia Golf & Country Club in Claverack on September 10th. The funds will support COARC programs for individuals who experience disabilities. Marc Levesque, Head Golf Professional at the Club, determined the first place gross scoring team to be Bill Dennis, Howie Gregg, Ron Legere and Linda Möller with a score of 59 and a winning skins contest. The second place gross scoring team of Richard Gabriel, Ron Gabriel, Michael Rybka and Richard Van Alphen also scored 59 and won a skins contest. Third place gross scoring team prize went to John Kemmer, Paul Kietzman and Dave Pascale with a score of 62.

Added to this year's tournament were prizes for net scoring teams, with first place going to Fran Coughlin, Travis Kline, Mike Howard and Neil Howard, who also won a skins contest. The second place net scoring team was Jeff, Marie, Jason and Emil Meltz, while the third place net scoring team was Shari Franks, Richard Reiner, Barry Rings and Barry Rings Jr. Recognition for the most honest team went to David Harris Sr. and Mary Ann, Mark and James Harris. Neil Howard won the putting contest, Frank Scott won closest to the line and closest to the pin on the 7th hole and Howie Gregg won closest to the pin on the 13th hole. Donald Hamilton won the men's longest drive, while Kate Nolan won the women's longest drive.

Rowlands + Barranca Agency, Inc. was the Platinum sponsor of the tournament. Silver sponsors were Rose & Kiernan, Inc. and CDPHP. Bronze sponsors were Ghent Wood Products, Inc. and NOW Solutions, Inc. Bailey, Haskell and LaLonde sponsored framed photos of each golfer. Crawford & Associates Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C. sponsored the popular cocktail hour. Refreshments during play were sponsored by Jeff Gabriels, Ed Zaik and AXA Advisors, also by David Harris Electrical Contracting, Inc. and Gregg's Handyman Service. Hole-in-one sponsors Kinderhook Toyota, MetzWood Harder Insurance and Price Chopper got to keep their par 3 prizes until the next tournament. Radio host Bob Wolf emceed the awards presentations during dinner and more than 130 area businesses and private donors sponsored tees, flags, raffle prizes and golf balls, all helping to make the third annual benefit tournament a fundraising success.

The 2009 COARC OpportuniTees Golf Tournament Committee was chaired by Annette Dennis and included COARC Board members and community volunteers Karen M. Blass, Diana Coughlin, Mary Ann Harris, Michael C. Howard, Edna A. Knabbe, Stephen E. Nelson, Joseph Raco, Jr., Barbara G. Roemer, Michael Rybka, Andrew Small, Patricia Stockman, Richard Van Alphen, Sr., Dorothy Wheeler and Nathan Winch.

COARC is a Columbia County not-for-profit organization whose mission is expanding abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their personal goals. COARC provides an array of services and programs that benefit more than 500 Columbia County individuals. Established in 1965, COARC is the Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. It is primarily supported through state and federal funding, and also by individual and corporate members, donors and other foundations. Information about COARC program services, employment, donation opportunities and membership is available at www.COARC.org or 518-672-4451.
