

## Children's Chip Moody Auction and Golf Classic tops \$250,000 in 17th year

In late June, Children's hosted the 17th Annual Children's Medical Center Chip Moody Auction and Golf Classic, benefitting the Chip Moody Child Care Fund and Endowment. The auction and tournament is supported by presenting sponsor Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/The Mahoney Group and numerous other sponsors. The tournament is ranked as one of the top 10 annual charity golf tournaments in the Dallas area by the *Dallas Business Journal*.

Legendary WFAA-TV Channel 8 news anchor Chip Moody, who passed away in 2001, was the founding chairman for the tournament and auction.

"I remember the first golf tournament, where the party was in a local park with Saran Wrap sandwiches and donated beverages," said Chip's widow, Vikki Moody. "It was a much smaller group, and started out as kind of a one-man band: Chip was doing everything. He'd lug all the auction items home in his car and stack them up around the house.

"Chip's interest in helping cancer patients began

in Houston once he was diagnosed with cancer. The Leukemia Society approached him, and he got involved with them. Then one of the little girls he met in the hospital died of cancer, and that really hit him," she said.

The family moved back to Dallas shortly after that, in 1987, and the next summer, Moody founded the charity auction and golf tournament that now has become an annual tradition.

In its 17 years, the auction and tournament has raised more than \$1.7 million for children with cancer, with revenues increasing annually. Proceeds for the 2004 auction and tournament totaled more than \$250,000.

The Saturday night auction at The Westin Galleria Dallas hotel featured items such as a 2004 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, hand-painted pottery donated by Children's patients and a raffle for a 2004 Park Place Lexus ES 330. The evening was punctuated by remarks by Brad Watson, WFAA-TV Channel 8 news anchor and emcee for the event;

Christopher J. Durovich, Children's president and chief executive officer; Joe Mahoney, presenting sponsor and managing partner of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/The Mahoney Group; and Bill Dowling and Richard Rogers, co-chairs for this year's Chip Moody Classic.

"Knowing that Children's is here is a wonderful blessing. I've said before, with daughters 5 and 7, when I have to take them down to Children's, whether it's for an appointment, or for those few opportunities we've had to go in the middle of the night, I say a silent prayer to the Almighty that I'm so thankful that the finest pediatric hospital in the United States – if not the world – is right here," said Watson in his introduction.

A high point of the auction evening was the on-stage interview of 9-year-old Daniela Palacios (*see story on page 7*), a past attendee at Camp Feliz, a camp for children who have undergone treatment for brain and spinal tumors. She brought smiles to the audience with her stories of camp, and smiled herself when Watson presented her with a new teddy bear, Butterscotch, to take with her when she returns to camp this fall.

The Monday golf tournament had a record turnout, with a full field of 288 players spread across the two courses of Stonebriar Country Club in Frisco. Players engaged in leisurely play, and had beautiful weather and immaculate courses. Lunch was catered by tournament sponsor On the Border and dinner was a barbecue buffet, eaten during the awards ceremony. Live television interviews during the morning and noon news on WFAA-TV Channel 8 helped to promote the tournament and the hospital in its efforts to get kids safely to the other side of childhood.

"The money raised at the Chip Moody Classic goes to support the psychological and the social support for children who are treated at Children's to enjoy a normal childhood experience," said Durovich, during a WFAA-TV Channel 8 morning interview.

The weekend is one of the largest annual events where the community has the opportunity to visibly come together and show its support for the hard work and service that happens every day at Children's.

In finding a community collaborator, presenting sponsor Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/The Mahoney Group looked for a place that, "on a day-to-day basis, everyone in our organization could buy into," said Mahoney. "When we learned that the Children's mission is to 'make life better for children,' we just shut the book and said, 'this is it; this is the place to go.'" ■



Co-chairs of the 2004 Chip Moody Classic, Richard Rogers, left, and Bill Dowling, at the Saturday night auction party.

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## Patients, camps benefit from Children's Chip Moody Golf Classic

**D**aniela Palacios, age 9, has charming manners, a contagious smile and is prone to spontaneous fits of giggles.

"What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?" she asks. "Time to get a new fence." More giggles.

She hasn't always been this exuberant and whimsical.

In early 2003, Daniela was brought to the emergency center at Children's, suffering with severe headaches. Doctors on the medical staff identified a growing, potentially fatal brain tumor as the cause of her headaches and other ancillary problems. That July, surgeons successfully removed the tumor and Daniela began to feel more like herself.

Especially for children, recovery from serious medical treatments can be a lifetime process. Programs developed by the child life department at

Children's, in conjunction with Camp John Marc, help recovering children to understand their challenges and to respond with faith and enthusiasm.

Camp John Marc, about 85 miles southwest of Dallas, serves thousands of children annually through week-long and weekend camps, each targeted to a specific medical group, such as children with heart disease, spina bifida or brain tumor survivors.



**Brad Watson, WFAA-TV Channel 8 news anchor and emcee for the auction and tournament, presents a teddy bear named Butterscotch to Children's patient Daniela Palacios as part of the program for the Chip Moody charity auction.**

Many campers have been patients at Children's and return regularly for ongoing treatment. Camps are staffed primarily by doctors on the Children's medical staff, nurses and other Children's employees who volunteer week-ends and vacation time to help out.

Camp helps children realize that doctors have "a more human side, and it gives us a chance to see these kids in a natural setting where they can just be themselves," said Lesley Lingnell, a child life specialist at Children's. But most rewarding is how kids get to meet and identify with "other kids who are like them," she said.

Daniela attended Camp Feliz in September 2003 and said she can hardly wait to go back. "We made s'mores and told jokes around the campfire. We went swimming and dancing and fishing. I had so much fun," she said.

Camp is an important part of the mental and emotional recovery process for children and for their families. For children who otherwise couldn't afford camp, the Chip Moody Classic is invaluable because it raises money to sponsor children at camp and to pay for other miscellaneous medical-related expenses not covered by traditional charities. ■

**Waiting for the Chip Moody Golf Classic to begin are, from left, Ron Kirk, Gardere Wynne Sewell; Joe Mahoney, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/The Mahoney Group; Fred Albrecht, Vantage Companies; and Bob Sambol, Bob's Steak and Chop House.**