Chipping in FORE! Independence

Though no one actually shouted FORE! (at least that I heard), the GSIL Chipping In FORE! Independence golf event was a huge success. In only our second year, this tournament is well on its way to becoming a premier charity golf event in the state of New Hampshire.

The Golfers were GREAT - the Weather was GREAT

Though registration opened at 10:00 a.m., many golfers were there early, anxious to start their day on the links. So right from the get-go, enthusiasm was high. We were fortunate, once again, in the weather as September 24th was a perfect New England autumn day. Cool in the morning, sunny and temperate all afternoon, and plenty of warmth through early evening to warm our outdoor reception.

The Location was GREAT

Lake Sunapee Country Club is a wonderful location at which to hold an event. The staff is knowledgeable, helpful and kind and went out of their way to create a fantastic experience, both for GSIL and for that of the golfers. And the course itself is absolutely B-E-A-UTIFUL.

The winning team this year was a foursome from CGI Benefits Group, and they were lucky enough to leave with a gift certificate from LSCC for a round of golf, with carts, for four.

Other winners of the day were Chris Purington and Will Young for Closest to the Pin and Sam Darling for Longest Drive. Thanks are due to Andrew Eills Law Firm, Well Sense Health Plan and PiF Technologies for their sponsorships of those contests. The putting contest was won by Colin McAlpine who received a gift certificate for Luxury Box Accommodations for 18 at the April 14th Fisher Cats home game – thank you NHFC for the donation of such a cool prize!

Thank YOU

We would be remiss if we did not thank several other very good friends: Thank you CGI for your very generous Eagle Sponsorship, and to Associated Grocers of New England, New England Copy Specialists, NH Healthy Families and Ride-Away for sponsoring the event and foursomes. Thank you Sundial Solar for your Table Sponsorship. And to our tee sponsors Anagnost Companies, Helps & Co., NH Cleaning Services, Taylor Community, Wilson Employment, S&W Roofing and Ivesia Solutions.

As always, any success involves the efforts of many – to all those listed above, and to the 70 golfers who helped us raise almost $15,000, we are very, very grateful.

We can’t do it without YOU!
Terry Scott, GSIL Board Secretary

My name is Terry Scott. I am a member of the board of directors and a consumer of GSIL. Recently I had the opportunity to work for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats as a game day employee. The experience was fulfilling. They are one of the most accessible places in Manchester, and very pleasant to work for.

In fact, it was because of the complete accessibility that this job even came about. A huge Fisher Cats fan myself, I attended many games over the last few years. My experience with them was always positive.

The seating area designated for wheelchairs affords a great view of the field, and everywhere else in the stadium is easy to get to and easy to use. So everyone there knew my face!

I was not surprised that the working environment was good and they made the necessary accommodations for me to allow me to work. I sat at the gate and took tickets or I directed people to their seats. I enjoyed meeting new people and watching the ball games. It afforded me the opportunity to see the team and still earn some money to be a contributing member of society. As Clyde always says, “Nothing says ‘Independence!’ like money in the bank!”

Working at the stadium I had a great time. I have met some well-known people such as Jamie Staton of WMUR, WWE Hall of Fame wrestler Bob Maclin, Manager Bobby Meacham, and former Red Sox pitcher Bob “the Steamer” Stanley. I hope to be a part of the experience again next season.

Fiscal Year 2015

YOU grew this! Every gift matters, especially yours, as we work every day to grow access and opportunity for people with disabilities. We are reaching upwards towards the sun because of you - Thank You!

Goal: $115,700
Actual: $122,762
Celebration 35

How lucky for us that our (GSIL) 35th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the ADA were both in 2015! We celebrated both on September 30th at The Grappone Center in Concord.

Keynote speaker Victoria Arlen set the tone for the evening with her inspiring, warm and funny speech about her journey with disability. Starting with her four year illness, she overcame the trials and tribulations of high school and persevered to medal in the 2012 Paralympics (a gold and three silvers!). She is now employing that same determination in her chosen career as a sports commentator. In her spare time (ha!), she reaches out to folks of all ages with disabilities to share her powerful message:

Face It, Embrace It, Defy It, Conquer It.

Four awards were presented to outstanding New Hampshire Citizens. We were so pleased to honor Laura Penney with the first-ever GSIL Care Attendant Award, Craig Theberge with the Partnership Award, Superintendent Dr. Debra Livingston and the Manchester School District with the Independence Award and Senator Jeanie Forrester with the David B. Robar Advocacy Award.

Last but not least, CEO Clyde Terry announced the creation of the David B. Robar Endowment Fund. David was a much-loved, former GSIL Advocacy Director who unfortunately passed away in 2009. The endowment is seeded by his parents, Donald and Elaine Robar (pictured to the right), with a generous and sizeable gift to ensure that advocacy for all people with disabilities can continue here in New Hampshire for years to come.

Paralympian Victoria Arlen delivering her keynote at Celebration 35.
The dropping temperatures are a cool reminder that winter is just around the corner. But this year, there’s good news - there’s a new event in town!

A Granite State Independent Living Winter Event

More details to come.

Thank you to our 2015 Golf Sponsors!

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