



Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation



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PGA TOUR WIVES GOLF CLASSIC BACK AT THE HONDA CLASSIC

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL – The PGA TOUR Wives Golf Classic, which moved to The Honda Classic tournament schedule in 2008, will be a part of The Honda Classic week again in 2009 and will be played in consecutive years for only the third time since the charity event was created in 1987.



Pictured from left to right: Kelly Blanchard, Honda Classic Tournament Services Manager, Tournament Director Ed McEnroe; Barbara Nicklaus, Co-Chairman, Children's Healthcare Charity, Inc.; Erin Armour, Representative of PGA TOUR Wives Association (Ryan Armour's wife); and Alli MacKenzie, Representative of the PGA TOUR Wives Association (Will MacKenzie's wife).

The event, organized by the significant others of some of the biggest names in golf, was so successful in 2008 at The Honda that the wives decided to again return to PGA National Resort & Spa's Haig Course, where it moved after a long run in Phoenix. Because of the work and planning involved in the event and the demands it places on the hosting tournament site, the PGA TOUR Wives Classic has typically been held every two years. But increased sponsorship with The Honda Classic and the smooth operations at PGA National has the wives considering making it an annual event.

The PGA TOUR Wives Golf Classic, a nine-hole shootout, raised more than \$90,000 this year with \$45,000 going to The Honda Classic's main charity, Children's Healthcare Charity, Inc. That money will be part of The Honda Classic's overall charitable contribution to various Palm Beach County children's charities which will be announced later this summer.

“We are thrilled that the PGA TOUR wives have decided to continue their relationship with The Honda Classic,” said Kenneth R. Kennerly, Executive Director of The Honda Classic. “We feel that this is a nice event that fans who come out on Tuesday will begin to embrace now that they are becoming more accustomed to it. I know that I got a kick out of watching pros like Mark Calcavecchia and 2007 Champion Mark Wilson caddying for their wives and raking bunkers. It's an event that allows the pros to unwind with their wives and have fun with each other's families.”

As the world's greatest players go to work each week, the PGA TOUR Wives Association makes a significant impact on the communities they visit. Their objective: To provide support for needy children and their families through a variety of volunteer and fundraising activities conducted during TOUR events. Whether it's working side-by-side with Habitat For Humanity building houses in New Orleans, hosting a Taste of the Tour fundraiser in Las Vegas, drawing attention to the Greater Boston Food Bank by sorting more than 6,500 pounds of food to those in need or playing golf in Palm Beach Gardens, the wives commitment to giving back leaves an impression long after tournaments are over.

"The PGA TOUR Wives Association was thrilled with the community support we received at PGA National," said Amy Wilson, President of the Association and wife of 2007 Honda Classic Champion Mark Wilson. "The relationships fostered with The Honda Classic and its many sponsors and volunteers enabled us to raise significant dollars for charity. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Association, the tournament sponsors and, most importantly, for the local community, to work together toward a common goal in a unique setting. It isn't every day that our husbands carry our clubs while wearing a pink caddy bib!"

Anyone interested in sponsorship information for 2009 can call Joanie Connors at 561-799-4619 or Mary Wieland at 904-273-3219.