

Children's charity will get major support from miniature golf

Putt-Putt Open pledges \$10,000 to a local organization

By Kevin P. Thé

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Line up that putt for birdie, and the pressure mounts -\$10,000 is on the line. A few practice strokes, and then a nice even tap sends the ball rolling toward its fate: In the cup? Just around the lip? The gallery draws its collective breath and waits.

You may have always dreamed of performing in a scenario like this, but you probably didn't think it would be at Golf N' Stuff.

OK, so you always knew you didn't have the all-around game to make it on the PGA Tour. And lately you've realized that even playing in a charity golf tournament without embarrassing yourself is out of the question.

But thanks to a creative new fund-raiser, you can still showcase your skills and contribute to a good cause.

The KB Home Tucson Putt-Putt Open is a miniature golf tournament that will benefit a local children's charity. On Nov. 7, foursomes will compete in 36 holes of putt-putt at Golf N' Stuff, 6503 E. Tanque Verde Road, and the team with the best total score will choose the recipient of a \$10,000 donation.

The top four teams will each receive a golf package at a local course, and a variety of sponsored "activity holes" offer the chance to win prizes along the way. For example, at the Royal Automotive hole, the first golfer to sink a hole in one wins the use of a Hummer for a month.

The event is the brainchild of the Glassman Foundation, whose purpose is to raise money and resources for nonprofit organizations in Southern Arizona dedicated to helping children.

"We've always thought about doing a golf tournament," said founder Rodney Glassman, but these negatives kept the idea at bay: "Not everyone plays golf, it takes all day and you have to leave your family at home," he said.

Luckily, an ingenious committee came up with the idea of a putt-putt tournament - an environment and activity that would make the event fun for the whole family.

Each four-person team pays an entry fee of \$1,000, and 16 passes allow the golfers and their families to have their run of the rented-out Golf N' Stuff for the entire day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Not interested in competing? A limited number of passes will be sold to the public at the door for \$20 apiece.

Go-kart races, bumper boats, the rock-climbing wall and laser tag all are included, as is miniature golf for all but the two hours - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - that the actual tournament is taking place.

Pinnacle Peak restaurant, which is opening up its adjacent parking lot and fence so that there are no parking issues, will provide a barbecue lunch from noon to 3 p.m. Separate vendors for soda, beer, cotton candy, snow cones, kettle corn and roasted corn on the cob also will be on hand.

If you go

The KB Home Tucson Putt-Putt Open

- What: Miniature golf tournament to benefit a local children's charity. The winning team chooses the agency that receives a \$10,000 donation.

- When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 7

- Where: Golf N' Stuff, 6503 E. Tanque Verde Road

- Cost: \$1,000 per foursome. Includes all food, drinks and Golf N' Stuff activities for 16 people. Individual passes - for non-competitors - are available on a limited basis for \$20 apiece.

- Info: Call 271-5715 or go to www.glassmanfoundation.org

The best part - you might not want to tell the kids - is that all the goodies you can eat are included in the entry price.

"It's all unlimited," Glassman said. "If you like roasted corn, you can eat all the roasted corn you want. Some people might come just for the roasted corn."

To sign up for the tournament or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, call 271-5715. For more information on the Glassman Foundation and its endeavors, go to www.glassmanfoundation.org online.

? Contact reporter Kevin P. Thé at 573-4119 or kthe@azstarnet.com.

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