



Cornerstone's 2nd Annual Top Golf Fundraising Event

Cornerstone Family Ministries held its second annual Child's Chance 4 Change Super Hero Top Golf Challenge on Friday October 14th. Each C4 Super Hero Sponsor donated \$2,232, the equivalent of an annual scholarship, for a child attending the Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School. Each sponsor had the opportunity to have a state-of-the-art golfing experience with up to five guests. There were also "Lone Hero" opportunities for individual golfers as well. A lunch buffet, prizes for best and worst scores, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction were also included in the festivities. A great time was had by all for a great cause.

A very important reminder of why Cornerstone Family Ministries holds this event, a few of the children who attend the Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School were present and assisted in the opening ceremony led by CFM Executive Director, Cathy Stone. Cindy Sisco, a United Methodist Woman, and board member of Cornerstone Family Ministries, along with the children, led the attendees in an early blessing over the food. In reciting the prayer, attendees thanked the Lord for giving them food, to the tune of "Superman". Of course there were superhero motions to go along with the prayer which the attendees learned and performed! Cindy Sisco also volunteers her time to Cornerstone each week by leading chapel at the Center every Friday morning providing the children an opportunity to learn about Jesus, to sing bible songs, and learn to pray.

After a few helpful hints from the Top Golf pro, playing commenced. Quite different from a regular golf tournament, the venue allows for continued interaction with attendees throughout the event. Because of the set up, this is a great opportunity for a group to come together for a fun filled afternoon (friends, family, coworkers, clients, and so on) while simultaneously making a lasting and positive impact in the life of a child that lives at or below the poverty level and desperately needs early childhood education to stand a fighting chance in today's world. For the first time in at least fifty years, federal statistics show a majority of public school students in America come from low-income families. Studies have also shown that 40% of children living in poverty aren't prepared for primary schooling. Quality early childhood education is the key to building a strong foundation for success in school which will ultimately break the cycle of poverty.

The quality childcare, early education, and nutritious meals provided by the Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School combat this cycle of poverty. Many families receive some assistance from the government (via a school readiness voucher); however, the cost of early education exceeds this assistance by approximately \$2,232.00 per year. For those children that do not have this government assistance the financial need to offer a scholarship is even greater. Although this year's Top Golf event is over, you can still become a super hero by helping bridge this funding gap and investing in our youth's future. An annual scholarship can be sponsored by a one-time donation of \$2,232 or broken down into 12 monthly installments of \$186. Also remember that super heroes don't always fight alone! Consider asking others to join you in your fight to nurture young bodies, develop young minds, and foster hope through Christ....one child at a time.

Ending all too quickly, the Top Golf event wrapped up with a word of thanks from Latoria Grinder, whose four children have all graduated from the Center. She praised the teachers and curriculum that is used at the Center for her children's success in public school. Auction winners and 50/50 raffle winners were announced, and last minute pictures were taken at the superhero themed photo booth. In closing, Cindy Sisco shared another prayer she has taught the children of the Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School known as the "5 finger prayer." Since our hands are always with us, the prayer uses each finger to remind children for whom to pray (i.e. thumb is for those closest to us, pointer for those who point us in the right direction, the tall middle finger for those who lead us, the weak ring finger for those who are sick, old and small, and the little pinky reminds us to pray for ourselves).

Thank you to all those who participated, donated and sponsored this event. The event raised just over 27 scholarships!

To find out how your church, company, group or family can become a C4 Super Hero or sponsor a bay at next year's Top Golf C4 Super Hero Challenge, contact Carrie Brown, Director of Community Support at cbrown@cornerstonefm.org or 813-253-3853 x301.