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SPOTLIGHT | ON GOLF

South Florida events embrace charitable efforts

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PGA Tour golf month in South Florida, which began with the Champions Tour's Allianz Championship last week, reminds us there's several ways to mix a love of golf with a love for your fellow man.

The Honda Classic is moving money throughout the year and dished out \$1,002,961 – more than \$1 million for the first time – last year to 58 South Florida children's charities and Miami Children's Hospitals Haitian Relief Effort. Among this year's fund-raising efforts is the annual Birdies for Children contest – donate to a Birdies for Children charity then guess the number of birdies during the tournament to win a 2011 Honda for yourself and the donation pot for your charity.

For the World Golf Championship-Cadillac Championship at Doral, the nonprofit South Florida Golf Foundation is offering two levels of "Storm Club" member-

ships, \$3,000 and \$5,000, for the tournament with half the membership price being donated to a charity of the buyer's choice.

In addition to prime seating with complimentary food and drinks, Storm Club members will be able to get into exclusive parties, South Florida Golf Foundation outings and perhaps free golf rounds at Doral.

Those interested can call foundation executive director **Tina Mullen** at 305-477-4653 or e-mail at info@sfgf.org.

OTHER EVENTS

- On Thursday, at Westview Country Club, 2601 NW 119th St., **Miami Jewish Health Systems**, which treats 3,700 people daily, will have its Douglas Gardens Golf Classic. Champions Tour member **Bruce Fleisher** will be playing and giving a free golf clinic a half-hour before the 12:30 p.m. tee time. Pretournament brunch begins at 11 a.m., post-tournament cocktails at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.

Coming up

Monday: Minor League Golf Tour, Coral Springs, TPC at Eagle Trace.

Thursday: Douglas Gardens Golf Classic, Westview Country Club

Contact **Judy Fisher** at 305-762-1492 or JFisher@mjhha.org for more information on tickets or sponsorship.

- Hallandale's Diplomat Country Club & Spa will host the Horsemen's Golf Tournament, benefiting the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, March 1.

The format will be two-person, best-ball low-net with prizes for top teams, low net, nearest to the pins, and longest and straightest drives. The entry fee is \$225 per person with another \$225 for those who want to play with a jockey, a list that is expected to include **Angel Cordero**, **E.T. Baird**, **Jesus**

Castanon, **Kent Desormeaux**, **Alan Garcia**, **Robert Landry** and **Elvis Trujillo**.

A barbecue lunch starts things off at 11 a.m., and dinner with cocktails and an awards reception ends the event at 5:30. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Fittingly, pari-mutuel betting will be available on all teams.

Those wishing more information, to register or sponsor can call **Bill Hirsch** at 954-454-9375 or 561-356-6678 or e-mail him at whirsch@nyc.rr.com.

SERVICE AWARD

Inner City Youth Golfers will be giving a community-service award to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission at Friday's Community Giants Recognition Celebration and Auction, which is being held at Bear Lakes Country Club.

"It is extremely fitting that the Palm Beach County Sports Commission is celebrated as a Community Giant in this class because of its strong and untiring working re-

lationship over the years with executive director **George Linley**," Inner City Youth Golfers founder **Malachi Knowles** said.

Last week, Knowles surprised Champions Tour member **Bob Murphy** of Delray Beach after Murphy's first round at Allianz by telling him he would be honored by the African American Golfers Hall of Fame with its 2011 Humanitarian of the Year Award at the its annual Memorial Day weekend celebration.

VELEZ TRIUMPHS

Miami's **Carlos Velez**, a former Barry University golfer, got his first professional win by tying West Palm Beach's **Steve LeBrun** in last week's Honda Classic Pre-Qualifier Tune Up, a Fuzion Minor League Golf Tour event.

On the same Fountains Country Club course that will host the Honda Classic qualifier Feb. 28, a large field, weather and darkness truncated the scoring to 12 holes, after which both Velez and LeBrun were 4-under 44.