



[Photo file] The Youth Center's staff poses for a photo before the tournament begins: Hernandez, fundraising intern Michelle Gonzalez, Lumme, Fine and Guirao. (Tim DeShazer Photography)

Community swung for a cause at The Youth Center's annual Golf Tournament fundraiser
The event raised over \$30,000 with more money coming in

By: Bella Kim, for The Youth Center

On July 8, The Youth Center held its ninth annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for at-risk and disadvantaged youth in our community. The all-day tournament took place at the Rio Hondo Golf Club with lunch, dinner, awards, a raffle and, of course, lots of golfing!

"It was a beautiful day for a golf tournament," said Golf Committee Chair Arnie Fine. "A passion for [golf] and a vision to make a difference has blossomed into an annual sold-out tournament rallying support for The Youth Center."

The Youth Center is still collecting donations, but they have so far raised over \$30,000. Funds support existing programs like Camp S.H.A.R.K., Music Academy and Girls in STEM; make new programs possible and provide scholarships.

"I'm always touched by the enthusiasm the golfers have in giving back to the kids in our community," said Amanda Hernandez, The Youth Center's Fundraising Coordinator.

Guests participated in fun activities like a putting contest and enjoyed lunch from a Habit Burger Grill food truck. The tournament was a huge success, Fine said. He was last year's chair, too and has sat on The Youth Center's Board of Directors for over 30 years.

"All of the hard work paid off, and we look forward to next year," Fine said. "I had nothing but positive comments, and many said they will be back for our tenth tournament."

Fine's community connections help bring in golfers every year; this year, 140 golfers attended, including many returning golfers and seven who were younger than 16 years old. Unlike most other golf tournaments, The Youth Center invites golfers as young as eight years old since they are directly impacted by the fundraiser.

Lina Lumme, The Youth Center's Executive Director, said that Fine's dedication to engaging families as well as adult golfers creates a unique opportunity. She added that she has seen grandparents, parents and grandchildren all playing together at the tournament.

"We are incredibly grateful for Arnie Fine's exceptional leadership in bringing this remarkable event to life year after year. Arnie's vision has truly enriched the lives of our youth, and we are honored to partner with him in making a lasting impact," Lumme said.

This event would not have been possible without the tournament's many supporters: volunteers, golf committee members, Rio Hondo employees, The Youth Center's staff and local businesses that sponsored drinks, holes, goodie bags and more.

"This year's tournament was a huge success thanks to our generous sponsors, the golfers who came out to play and our amazing golf committee. Each year gets better and better!" said Maryam Guirao, The Youth Center's Director of Development.

Fine said he sends a big thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success and that he hopes to see everyone next year at The Youth Center's tenth golf tournament.

"Thank you to everyone who joins us in this cause," he said. "It's your support that fuels scholarships for at-risk youth, giving them hope and opportunities for a brighter future."