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Saving Lives From The Green

The 2010 Betty T. Wooten Breast Cancer Golf Tournament Is Fast Becoming A County Institution

Golfers were thinking pink on April 26, when they gathered at the Country Club at Woodmore for the second annual Betty T. Wooten "Play in Pink" Breast Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament. The charity event is just one of many activities held by the Betty T. Wooten Foundation, founded by Lorenzo Wooten to honor the memory of his mother, who died of breast cancer in 2009 after a 13-year battle. The foundation works to raise money for Avon's Breast Cancer Crusade. This year's charity golf tournament, which drew approximately 100 participants, helped raise more than \$10,000 for the breast cancer cause. The success of the recent golf tournament has enabled the organization to donate almost \$50,000 over the past two years to the Cancer Crusade. The golf tournament was successful for many reasons. "Golfer's fees, donation, a 50/50 and silent auction meant that most everyone walked away with a prize," Wooten said. The breast cancer cause is important to the Wooten family.

According to health department statistics, Prince George's County has one of the highest breast cancer mortality rates in the state of Maryland. It has an incidence rate of 137/100,000 in the county. Research shows that deaths from breast cancer could be reduced by at least 30% if all women followed breast cancer screening guidelines.

Wooten noted that there have been many new developments in breast cancer recently; including a new vaccine being tested aimed at one day preventing breast cancer and improved treatment options for those already fighting the disease. This year, tournament organizers reached out to national companies for support.

—Sandy Fitzgerald



Photography by Roy Engram



All For Betty

Photography by Roy Engram

It was a great day for golf but an even better day for women in the fight against breast cancer. “My mother battled breast cancer for thirteen years before succumbing to the disease in 2009,” says Lorenzo Wooten, tournament co-chair and founder of the Betty T. Wooten Foundation. She was a breast cancer awareness advocate and worked tirelessly to increase awareness and prevention in our community.”

Lorenzo Wooten founded the non-profit organization his mother’s memory. Founded in 2009, the Foundation is designed to increase breast cancer awareness and prevention, to promote fundraising activities that support breast cancer research and to provide scholarship opportunities for qualified high school students pursuing a career in the health care industry.



The 2nd Annual Betty T. Wooten Play in Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament included celebrity participation from Alana Beard of the Washington Mystics and Anji Corley Radio Personality with WPGC 95.5. The Washington Mystics and WPGC were participating sponsors of the tournament and both donated presentations for use in the silent auction.

The Ray Miller Foursome took home trophies while other supporters and guests enjoyed winnings through silent auction and other event activities.

“We are committed to fighting this deadly disease with the help of people that are impacted by breast cancer around the world. We are also dedicated to sharing the stories of survivors and using their lives as tools of encouragement,” Wooten says.

Members of the Ray Miller Foursome with Lorenzo Wooten after the tournament.

Betty T. Wooten dedicated her life to education, the field of nursing, her student nurses, her church family and her community. She was a teacher, a health advocate, a role model and a woman of God. The foundation’s principals are dedicated to ensuring that Wooten’s life and fight with breast cancer was not in vain.



He and Tia Swain, also a co-chair and owner of D’Zign2T Event & Design Décor worked with the 2010 planning committee to draw over 100 participants, which helped to raise over \$10,000 for Avon’s Breast Cancer Crusade.

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designed to cast a wide net and reel in all the county's stakeholders - residents, business owners, educators and politicians, among others - to brainstorm the possibilities of the county's evolution.

From March to June, community members identified key goals they wanted to achieve and developed teams to act on those plans. Over the coming months, those teams are slated to begin addressing concerns on a range of issues such as public safety, job creation, and improving educational opportunities.

Perhaps the greatest outcome from the Envision Prince George's campaign has already been revealed-the character of the county's residents who gave up their time to discuss the future of Prince George's and how to improve it for generations to come.



Envision Prince George's: County residents collaborate with M-NCPPC on an image makeover for the county.

Park and Planning's Prater says when the effort was being conceived organizers hoped the public would participate. Not only did residents show up, they came out in droves.

"Everyone I've talked to with experience in planning said this was remark-

able in terms of the turnout we got, they came by the bus loads," she says. "People would say, 'I have lived in this county for 25 years and I feel like this is the first time I was heard.' I heard that over and over again. We feel it has been a success from that standpoint."

All for Betty

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"Golfers' fees, donations, a 50/50 and silent auction meant that most everyone walked away with a prize", Wooten said. The success of the most recent golf tournament has enabled the Betty T. Wooten Foundation to donate almost \$50,000 over the past two years to this worthy cause.

"The Wooten's have been friends with my family for years," said Tia Swain. "I learned more about breast cancer during the first three days I spent working on this event than I had learned in my entire lifetime." I was especially alarmed to Prince George's County has one of the highest breast cancer mortality rates in the State of Maryland.

It was statistics such as these that Mrs. Swain shared by telephone and e-mail that got the attention of the many sponsors for this year's event.

"It is an exciting time in our nation's fight against breast cancer and knowing the advances that are being made will only make me work even harder to make next year's Play in Pink Golf Tournament bigger and better," Swain says.

Wooten agrees. "The atmosphere was festive, people were thrilled to be a part of it and to lend their support for a worthy cause despite the small rain showers. They continued to play golf and the stayed for the dinner and award ceremony. It was exciting!"

For more information go to www.bettywooten.com



Perhaps Betty T. Wooten's greatest contribution to Prince George's County: her son Lorenzo and his family, who are now bringing breast cancer awareness to the fore.



Moving closer and closer toward the elimination of breast cancer spurs the Betty T. Wooten Foundation to work even harder on next year's tournament