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POWAY: Chargers golf tourney raises \$41,000 for after-school program

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By Leslie Carter



John Fleming, Sammy Seale, John Lynn, Eric Fagan



Standing, Barbara Bare; seated, Maryann Hechanova, Kathy Curran, Cathy Bell



Jose Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, Isaac Rodriguez, Beethoven Diosa



Standing, Len Bittner, Lilly Zhang; seated, Kathy Miller, Andy Cohen, Eric Pomeroy

San Diego Chargers linebacker Shaun Phillips sponsored his first golf tournament Tuesday, June 16, at the Maderas Golf Club in Poway.

There were 110 guests at the dinner, most of them just in from the course. The tourney and silent and live auctions brought in \$41,000.

The beneficiary was After-School All-Stars, a program licensed in 13 U.S. cities that provides independent learning and enrichment activities for middle school kids to keep them healthy and occupied between 3-6 p.m.

According to Marti Hess, the program's executive director, the After-School All-Stars help children "stay out of trouble, stay safe and focused on life." Other celebrity guests and players, mostly from the Chargers, were Vincent Jackson, Stephen Cooper, Kasim Osgood, Sammy Seale, Quinn Early, Matt Wilhelm, David Binn, David Justice, Luis Castillo and Tina Mickelson, a local golf teaching pro and Phil's sister.

Phillips participates in a nationwide program, Sack Attack. NFL players contribute \$1,000 to the All-Stars each time they make a sack in a game. Phillips has contributed \$7,500 through this program. His local business sponsors, San Diego National Bank, the UPS stores and Scott & Cronin LLP, brought the total up to \$30,000 and presented their checks at the dinner.

This figure is in addition to the funds the golf tournament raised.

Phillips credits after-school programs in Philadelphia for paving the way to "where I'm at today." Jim Stone of NBC 7/39 was there as emcee.

One beneficiary of the program, Isaac Rodriguez, who just graduated from the eighth grade at Montgomery Middle School, came to the tournament with his family to say why he appreciated After-School All-Stars. "The after-school programs have changed me... opened up opportunities, and helped me to stay out of trouble," he said.

He was able to keep his grade point average up to 2.0, and maintain the discipline to be a part of the After-School All-Stars Football team.

Some of the successful players in the golf tournament were Megan Soule, the woman with the longest drive, and Eric Rollin was the man in that category.

Closest to the pin were Chris Engel and Debra Patterson.

Second Net winners were Zellie Hudson, Jerry Sawyer and Preston Price. First Net were Eric Pomeroy, Jack Jecker, Len Bittner and Andrew Cohen. Low gross was taken by Stuart Dodds, Andy Levine, Bruce Figuered and Randy Gorman.

The committee that put the event together included Anna Garcia, Andrew Cohen, Jack Jecker, Steve Brown, Ken Wetstone, Kathy Curren, Nate Heckman, Daren Vass and Jason Felton.

Some additional guests enjoying the event were John Fleming, John Lynn, Eric Fagan, Barbara Bare, Maryann Hechanova, Kathy Curran , Jose Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, Isaac Rodriguez and Beethoven Diosa.

Others seen at dinner were Len Bittner, Lilly Zhang, Kathy Miller, Andy Cohen, Eric Pomeroy, Joshua Thomas, Luke Almeida, Matt Gonzales, Mike Howard, Mark Clements, Lenar Loussia, Lauren Reneau, Jessica Renee, Amanda Hess, Jack Jecker, Anna Garcia, Scott McCormack, Lesley Girkins, Haylee Donaldson, Giselle Rodriguez, Erica Ramos, Cathy Bell and Sean Bell.

Find out more about the program at www.afterschoolallstars.org.