

MEDIA INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

October 19, 2009



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Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational announces record-setting charitable donation

Tournament dates set for 2010

Columbus, Ohio – October 19, 2009 – Tournament officials announced today that the third annual Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational, held July 27 - August 2, 2009 at the Ohio State University Golf Club - Scarlet Course, raised a total of \$881,270 for charitable organizations, including \$325,000 for pediatric cancer research and treatment at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The total marks the largest single-season charitable donation raised by the tournament in the event's three-year history.

The figure marks the second largest on the Nationwide Tour in 2009 and brings the tournament's total charitable giving to more than \$1.7 million. No other tournament in Nationwide Tour history has given more to charity over its first three years than the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational.

A check presentation ceremony* recognizing Nationwide Children's Hospital as the tournament's primary beneficiary took place this morning at the Ohio State University Golf Club. Jim Lyski, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Champions of the Community, Inc. and Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Nationwide, presented a check to Nationwide Children's Hospital Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Thomas Gross, M.D., Ph.D. in the amount of \$325,000. Over the past three years the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational has donated a total of \$945,000 in support of the hospital's pediatric cancer program.

"It is our great pleasure to be in position to contribute these dollars to central Ohio charities, principally Nationwide Children's Hospital," said Lyski. "We thank our corporate sponsors, whose support makes these donations a reality, as well as golf fans in central Ohio. We look forward to more opportunities in the future to build on our successes and to continue to give back to the community."

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“We congratulate the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Invitational on an outstanding event and are extremely thankful for this generous gift,” said Gross. “The Tournament’s support of our cancer program over the past three years has changed lives and will continue to do so for years to come. The tournament’s corporate sponsors and the overwhelming support we receive helps make everything we do at Nationwide Children’s Hospital possible.”

Also this morning at The Ohio State University Golf Club, the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Invitational held a breakfast with participating non-profit organizations to celebrate the results of the 2009 Charity Ticket Program, which generated over \$480,000 for central Ohio charities. The program, now starting its third year, provides qualifying non-profit entities with 100 percent of the revenue from all tickets sales generated by, or designated for, their organization. During this morning’s breakfast a \$20,000 bonus pool was distributed to each of the eligible non-profit organizations from 2009 and the 2010 Charity Ticket Program campaign was officially launched.

In related news, the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Invitational announced today that the fourth playing of the annual event held in Nationwide’s home town of Columbus, Ohio will take place July 19 - 25, 2010 at the Ohio State University Golf Club - Scarlet Course.

ABOUT THE NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL INVITATIONAL

The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Invitational is owned and operated by Champions of the Community, Inc., an Ohio non-profit corporation. The event is the only tournament on the Nationwide Tour to operate as an “invitational”, providing a unique platform in which the best players on the Nationwide Tour will be joined by a select number of the country’s top collegian/amateur golfers in a limited field of 144 players. Featuring a purse of \$775,000 the tournament is conducted to showcase the best golf on the Nationwide Tour on one of the most challenging venues in the world for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit charitable organizations in central Ohio. For more information, call 614-764-GOLF or visit our website at www.nchigolf.com.

ABOUT NATIONWIDE

Nationwide, based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest and strongest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the world and is rated A+ by A.M. Best. Nationwide ranks #124 on the Fortune 500 list. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto insurance, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, life insurance, farm, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mortgages, mutual funds, pensions, long-term savings plans and health and productivity services. For more information, visit www.nationwide.com.

Nationwide, Nationwide Insurance, the Nationwide Framemark, Life Comes at You Fast, On Your Side, of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

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ABOUT THE NATIONWIDE TOUR

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Nationwide Tour identifies those players who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage. As the "official proving ground" of the PGA TOUR, two out of three PGA TOUR members are Nationwide Tour alumni. As of October 18th, Tour alumni have won 258 PGA TOUR titles, including 13 majors and three PLAYERS Championships. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards and total prize money of \$18.5 million will be at stake over the course of 29 events in 2009. Recognizing the Tour's growing stature, Nationwide Insurance has renewed its umbrella sponsorship of the Nationwide Tour through 2012. The PGA TOUR, through the efforts of its three tours and their tournaments, sponsors, players and volunteers, supports over 2,000 local charities and has surpassed \$1.3 billion in charitable giving. To learn more about the PGA TOUR and Nationwide Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM.

ABOUT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

The Ohio State University Department of Athletics is completely self supporting and receives no university monies, tax dollars or student fees. The Department of Athletics sponsors 36 fully funded varsity teams – 17 for women, 16 for men and three that are co-educational – and is committed to providing the very finest in academic and athletics support in an effort to provide its more than 1,000 student-athletes with a quality, life-changing experience at Ohio State.

* *A picture of the check presentation ceremony is available upon request. Please contact Tom Sprouse at tsprouse@hnsports.com or 614-889-6791.*

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