

WestArk RSVP Newsletter

Special points of interest:

Breakfast of Champions scheduled for August 24th.

Inside this issue:

VITA Brunch Photos	2
Medicare Extra Help	3
Ft. Smith Classic	4
Birthdays	6
Helping Hands are Needed	8
Tax Site Impact	10
News Reehl	11

Thank You VITA Volunteers



Dorothy Mc cart (in apron) cooked up a feast for the VITA Volunteer Brunch.



Shirlene Booth and Norma Griffith celebrate the end of their first year as VITA volunteers.

WestArk RSVP members who volunteered at either of the two VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites were honored at a brunch on Tuesday, May 11th at the RSVP Center. The Brunch was sponsored by State Representative Tracy Pennartz. The RSVP Center is located within District 65 and Representative Pennartz wanted to express her appreciation for all the volunteers efforts. "This is an outstanding group of volunteers who provided a real service to the community. Their efforts to help lower income working families are to be commended", said Pennartz. IRS certificates of appreciation were presented to the volunteers.



VITA
Brunch



Programs that Can Help You Pay Your Medical Expenses

There are Federal and state programs available for people with Medicare who have limited income and resources. These programs help you save on your health care and prescription drug costs.

RSVP Community Outreach volunteers provide assistance to Medicare recipients who need help applying for these programs. Appointments are available at the RSVP Center and volunteers can travel with a laptop computer to provide assistance for the homebound.

Extra Help

If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for Extra Help paying your Medicare drug costs. To qualify for Extra Help, your annual income must be limited to \$16,245 for an individual (\$21,855 for a married couple living together).

Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help. Some examples where your income may be higher include if you or your spouse:

- Support other family members who live with you;
- Have earnings from work.

To qualify for Extra Help, your resources must be limited to \$12,510 for an individual (\$25,010 for a married couple living together). Resources include the value of the things you own. Some examples are:

- Real estate (other than your home);
- Cash, Bank accounts, including checking, savings and certificates of deposit;
- Stocks; Bonds, Mutual funds;
- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)

What does not count as a resource? Social Security will **not** count:

- Your primary residence;
- Your personal possessions;
- Your vehicle(s);
- Resources you could not easily convert to cash, such as jewelry or home furnishings;
- Property you need for self-support, such as rental property or land you use to grow produce for home consumption;
- Life insurance policies;
- Burial spaces;
- Interest earned on money you plan to use for burial expenses

Medicare Savings Programs (MSB)

States (including Arkansas) have programs that pay Medicare Part B premiums and, in some cases, may also pay Part A and Part B deductibles and coinsurance. These programs help people with Medicare save money each year:

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)—Helps pay your Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, and other cost-sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments) if your monthly income is below \$903 (\$1,215 for couples) and resources are at or below \$6,600 (\$9,510 for couples)

Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) and Qualifying Individual (QI)—Helps pay your Part B premiums if your monthly income is below \$1,219 (\$1,640 for couples) and resources are at or below \$6,600 (\$9,510 for couples)

In our area, thousands of Medicare recipients are eligible for Extra Help or MSB but are unaware that help is available. Please share this information with friends and family.

Free Concert to Feature Charlie Daniels Band at the Riverfront Park on June 17th

The free Cox Community Concert is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at downtown Fort Smith River Park and will feature a full evening of great music. Concert tickets will be available beginning June 1 at Cox Stores in Fort Smith,

Van Buren, Rogers, Bentonville, Fayetteville, Siloam Springs, Harrison and Berryville. Although tickets are complementary, they will be required for entry to the concert and are limited to four at the time of request.

Fort Smith Classic Vol-

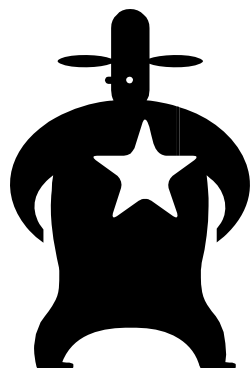
unteers will receive a concert ticket in their volunteer packet.



Fort Smith Classic Needs On-course Volunteers

The Fort Smith Classic is just around the corner and there are few areas where additional volunteers are needed.

The biggest need is for



individuals to volunteer as a Marshall/Spotter. Sorry—you don't get a

badge with the Marshall job—just a “quiet” sign.

Marshalls enforce crowd control on the golf

course primarily through regulating spectator traffic at course crosswalks, tee boxes and putting greens. Signal for quiet as players address the ball and make their shots. Also help players by spotting ball, watching for errant shots and providing easy access from hole to hole.

Little walking is involved but marshals spend part of their time on their feet and in the sun. So, sunscreen and plenty of water are recommended. Small portable camping style chairs are permitted

for marshals.

John Daly, known for his “grip it and rip it” style of play has entered the Fort Smith Classic and galleries are expected to be much larger than usual. Volunteers are needed to serve as Security at the entrances and exits to the Tournament to check credentials and parking passes.



Ft. Smith Classic Ticket Sales to Benefit RSVP and Area Charities

Through Farmer's CO-OP TICKETS Fore CHARITY organizations (such as WestArk RSVP) get to keep 100% of the money raised from Fort Smith Classic ticket sales.

A flyer is enclosed with information about benefiting RSVP by purchasing tickets to the Fort Smith Classic. 100% of the money

from your order will go to the charity you select. Tickets for the four day tournament are \$20.

The Fort Smith Classic has given over \$1.4 million to local charities since the tournament started in 1998. RSVP has used funds from three Classic tournaments to meet the maintenance needs of the RSVP Center.

Classic Volunteers Need to Sign-up Now

Interested in volunteering at the Fort Smith Classic? You can sign up to volunteer on the Classic website at <http://www.fortsmithclassic.com/volunteer.php> or stop by the RSVP Center and register. This

year it is possible to register to volunteer on-line and still pay your volunteer fee by paper check.

Last year 39 RSVP members volunteered 2,320 hours for the Fort Smith Classic. Usually 600 volunteers are needed for this event.

June 7th Volunteer Bag and Shirt Pick-up

Volunteers for the Fort Smith Classic should plan on picking up their volunteer bags and shirts on June 7th. Pickup will be at the 19th Hole (indoor tennis court) at Hardscrabble Country Club between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Volunteer credentials will be needed get on the shuttles (both at TacAir and Southside High School) and to enter Hardscrabble Country Club. Both volunteer credentials and weekly Tournament tickets will be in your bag.



Birthdays, Birthdays, Birthdays

APRIL

1	Lillian Fougne	20	Lola Lofts	2	Fred Hander
1	Terry Upchurch	21	Kadon Smith	3	Martha Mizell
2	Helen Easterwood	21	Sylvia Timmons	3	Harley Strang
3	Doris Garner	22	Marianne Abshere	4	Mary Frances Willis
4	Alice Buckley	22	Rose Smith	5	Jerry Farrar
4	Marjorie Burns	23	Margot Adamson	5	Anna L. Wilson
4	Gay Loy	23	Nada Wilburn	6	Bernice Morris
4	Mildred Manuel	25	Ruth Ditlevson	6	Arlene Price
5	Judy Radlein	25	Betty Havens	6	Gene Wallis
7	Betty McKinney	25	Earl Wayne Porter	6	Una Werntz
8	Rose Hardcastle	26	JoAnn Bryan	7	Mary McCollough
8	Neta Rice	26	Henry Varnadore	8	Marjorie Blake
8	David Scherrey	27	Lavonne Vearrier	8	Zella Coleman
8	Evelyn St.Amant	28	Elaine Cale	8	Lorina Garner
10	Jacqueline Ridling	29	Dianne Kitchen	8	Connie M. Woods
10	Al Sass	30	Sue Rose	9	Margaret Hill
12	Martha Bolling	30	Pat Taff	9	Lydia Wiechert
12	James Nusser			10	Clora Schriver
12	Charles Wingfield			11	Melba Jetton
13	Gypsy Actkinson			11	Ruth Kaundart
13	Virginia Burnett			11	Carolyn Mosby
13	June Free			11	Emmett Leo Smith
14	Tommie Priest			12	Don Hart
15	Margaret Johnston			13	Linda Butler
15	AndaLea Shepherd			13	Barbara Fitts
16	Lewis Griffith			13	Sally Smith
16	Elaine Watson			15	Sue Lewis
16	Danny Youngblood			15	Jeffie Lindsey
17	Margaret Fimple			16	Joe Knox
18	Gary Wallace			16	Jesse Lewis
19	Bettye Fields			16	Mary Wilson
19	Jackie Garrett			17	Ann Childs
19	Madeline Marquette			17	Charles Foley
19	Reginald Saucier			17	Myrna Sue Lough
				18	Johnie Roy Baggs



MAY

1	Karen Metz
1	Cecil Pierce
1	Cheryl Powell
1	Zona Williams

. . . And More Birthdays!

- 18 Jim Bryan
- 19 Marga Jennen
- 19 Lila J. Johnson-Pippen
- 19 Betty Woods
- 20 Dorothy White
- 21 Sally Fiser
- 23 Zelma Cox
- 24 Monte Babitzke
- 24 Grace Brossman
- 24 Bill Cook
- 24 Marilyn Huie
- 25 Bobbie Bento
- 25 Carol Boen
- 25 Billy Craine
- 25 Charles Frey
- 26 Pauline Cole
- 26 Barbara Ketchum
- 27 Don James
- 28 Donald Ditlevson
- 28 Sister Elise Forst
- 29 Etta Jensen
- 29 Rodney Peacock
- 30 Sherry Clennon
- 30 Mack Dyer
- 30 Oliver Mabry
- 30 Robert Marion
- 31 Ann Zrabkowski

JUNE

- 2 Steve Tyler
- 3 Ray Brunk
- 3 Bernice Giddens
- 4 Robert Cockreham
- 5 Freda Pierce
- 5 Annie Porter



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 Paul Moser | 17 Joan Bryan |
| 6 Barbara Jo Smith | 17 Phyllis Francis |
| 7 Sue Baldwin | 17 Bill Johnston |
| 7 Marjorie Boer | 17 Frances Wood |
| 7 E. Ray Fougne | 18 Jerry Ezell |
| 7 Robbie Grim | 18 Richard Taylor |
| 7 Wilma Smoot | 19 Garland Conway |
| 8 Ruth Ann Lucker | 20 Michaelle Daniels |
| 9 Ruth Haag | 20 Allen Pruisner |
| 9 Jenney Sheffield | 21 Velda Armstrong |
| 10 Bonnie Huseman | 21 Linda Riley |
| 10 John Roberts | 21 Hallie Standard |
| 10 Beverly Smith | 22 Kathy Furstenberg |
| 11 Lola Brown | 22 Shirley Shepherd |
| 11 Beverly Watts | 23 June Hardgrave |
| 12 Tracy Pennartz | 23 Laverne McCorkle |
| 13 Darcie David | 24 Riley Brown |
| 13 Romelia Felker | 25 Lizbeth Winford |
| 13 Ruby Wolf | 25 Sarah Yada |
| 15 Renee' Campbell | 26 Callie B. Dodson |
| 15 Marguerite Ditlevson | 26 Euba Harris-Winton |
| 16 Barbara Brasvell | 26 Erma Faye Hobbs |
| 16 Jean Freeman | 27 Kathryn Cooper |
| | 29 Franklin Rosson |

Helping Hands are Needed

Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help out in the office. Duties would be to answer the phone, welcomes visitors to the office, filing, process small mailings, make phone calls to thank volunteers and general office work. Experience in data entry would be helpful but is not required. Shifts are available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m.



Habitat for Humanity is also looking for volunteers to assist in finishing two homes

currently under construction. The families hope to be able to move into their new home by the end of June. Volunteer opportunities are available from Monday through Saturday.

Area Agency on



Aging of Western Arkansas has recently become an RSVP volunteer station. Volunteers have been requested for the AAA Hospice to provide companionship and assistance to the hospice patient and their family. Volunteers need to be honest, dependable, emphatic and caring individuals. Duties may include reading

or sitting with patients, running errands or helping out in the hospice office. Training will be provided. Hospice volunteering is flexible.

Literacy Council of Western Arkansas needs volunteer tutors. These volunteers will be tutoring adults who want to learn to read.

No previous experience is required. Training and materials are provided. The schedule of volunteering will be individualized to meet the needs of the student and the availability of the tutor.



New Members

Please welcome the newest members of RSVP. The need for volunteers in our community continues to grow as requests for assistance from our partners

increases. Now more than ever, volunteer service is making a differ-



ence.

Joetta Capps

Denise Fagain

Pat Kuhl

Lannie Ledbetter

Nancy Patterson

Jane Anne Richison

Richard Rhodes

Benefits of Volunteering

Perhaps the first and biggest benefit people get from volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community and country. Over the past two decades a growing body of research indicates volunteering pro-

vides individual health benefits in addition to social benefits. Those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer. Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have

also shown that older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering. Some of these findings also indicate that volunteers who devote a “considerable” amount of time to volunteer activities (about 100 hours per year) are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes.

July 15th Reporting Deadline for RSVP Volunteer Hours

RSVP members are asked to report their volunteer hours each month. If you are trying to catch up only 2010 hours can be reported at this time. **Volunteer hours for the first six**

months of the 2010 need to be reported no later than July 15th.

Hours may be reported by phone, in writing or by email –trishrsvp@ipa.net.

Breakfast of Champion, invitations will be sent to

RSVP members who have 48 reported hours of service in the preceding year (July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010)- an average of four hours per month.

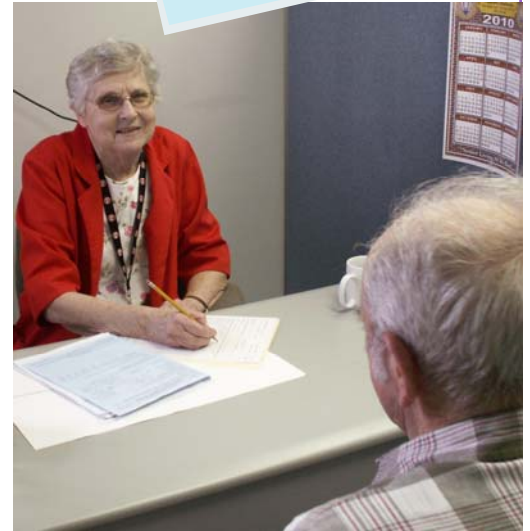
The Breakfast is scheduled for August 24th.

VITA Community Impact

RSVP members volunteering with the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program at the RSVP Center and the Lavaca City Hall prepared and **electronically filed 1,928 tax returns** between January 18th and April 15th. Of the many Oklahoma/Arkansas state returns prepared 1,958 were electronically filed.

Earned Income Credit totaling \$670,129 was received by 629 families. That is an increase of 25% over last year. Child Tax credit in the amount of \$290,674 was received by 227 families and 68 families received \$56,529 in education tax credit.

Total refunds exceeded \$2.2 million.

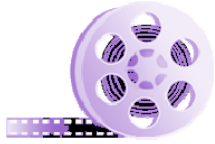


Lois Harris screens a taxpayer at the RSVP Center.

Free Income Tax Return Preparation and Electronic Filing

Free tax preparation and electronic filing of Federal, Arkansas and Oklahoma income tax returns is available at the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site at the RSVP Center **through October 15th**. Assistance is available on Thursday's from **10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**





News Reehl by Susan Peacock Reehl

Ten years ago on June 1st, I became the Program Director at WestArk RSVP. It is a job I greatly enjoy. Much has changed both with the job and my family. My daughter was in junior high in 2000; next September she will start graduate school in England (never thought I would have to add volcanoes to my list of worries). RSVP has evolved from primarily a placement agency for volunteers to a service provider meeting community needs. The one thing that hasn't changed is the generosity of our members and their willingness to volunteer!

Thank you for your service to our community.

We recently

completed a two day review of our RSVP site by the Corporation for National and Community Service Arkansas State Director, Opal Sims. Ms. Sims checked us over from top to bottom and was very impressed with the services provided through the RSVP Community Outreach program, the leadership exhibited by our volunteers and the difference our program is making in our community.

We are going full steam ahead with preparation for the Fort Smith Classic. Trish Walker will once again serve as Volunteer Director for the Tournament. Golden Corral has very generously agreed to donate the volunteer food. During Tournament week (June 14th—20th) the



RSVP Center will be closed. Trish will be on-site at Hard-scrabble Country Club (in the volunteer trailer) starting May 28th.

Trish Walker and I will be attending the National Conference on Volunteering and Community Service in New York City the last week of June. We will be out of the office from June 25th until July 6th. The RSVP Center will be closed July 2nd and July 5th for the Independence Day holiday.

WAC&GC

WestArk RSVP

P.O. Box 11818

401 North 13th Street

Fort Smith, AR 72901

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT SMITH, ARK
PERMIT NO. 24

Return Service Requested

RSVP Members—
*please report your
volunteer hours!*

WestArk RSVP

401 North 13th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Phone: **783-4155**

Fax: 782-2269

E-mail: rsvp@ipa.net

Web site:

www.WestArkRSVP.org

WestArk RSVP is sponsored by the
Western Arkansas Counseling &
Guidance Center, Inc.

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
8:30 am—4:00 pm

Staff

Susan Reehl

Program Director

rsvp@ipa.net

Trish Walker

Volunteer Manager

trishrsvp@ipa.net

Advisory Council

Larry Brisco

Marsha Brown

Zelma Cox

Fred Hander

Ginger Helton

Deborah Huizenga

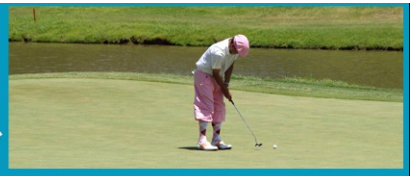
Anita James

Chuck Johnson
Bill Johnston
Sandi Klein
Madeline Marquette,
Dorothy McCartt
Don Palmatary
Sandra Pearson
Mary Lou Pointon
Beth Presley
Tim Randolph
Liz Robinson
Mayor Ray Baker
Gary Luedloff

AmeriCorps VISTA

Chuck Gartner
chuckrsvp@ipa.net
Euba Harris Winton

Fort Smith...



you are

on the tee!



The Fort Smith Classic tournament has generated nearly \$1.4 million for Arkansas area non-profit organizations since its inception! Best of all, through TICKETS Fore CHARITY each organization gets to keep **100%** of the money raised from their ticket sales. Together with your help, we are striving for new heights with respect to the tournament's impact on the community and the quality of life in Arkansas.

Each organization selling tickets participates in the \$5,000 Bonus Pool. The Bonus Pool is divided amongst the top five benefiting charities based on each organization's percentage of total ticket revenue from the TICKETS Fore CHARITY program. As you can imagine, this is an incredible opportunity to support your favorite non-profit organization that positively impacts the quality of life in Arkansas.

The Fort Smith Classic is a premier event on the Nationwide Tour. The field is always competitive as the stars of tomorrow on the PGA TOUR take one more step toward their lifelong dreams!

FACT:
You are improving the quality of life in Arkansas!

for everyone. The Fort Smith Classic is the only PGA

The Fort Smith Classic is more than just a golf tournament, it is a community wide celebration with something

100% of the proceeds from this ticket sale goes directly to your charity!

FACT:

TOUR event in the state of Arkansas. From the always popular Pink on the Links day of awareness to the partnership of the Junior Pro-Am, we are just getting warmed up. Tuesday is the prayer breakfast and Kids' Day. Thursday the tournament continues with the Cox Community Concert and the Par-Tee at the Rib Room. Friday is Fort Smith Classic round and Pink on the Links day with Women's Fair, Fashion Show & Luncheon and Pink Par-Tee at the Rib Room. Saturday continues the tournament with Fort Smith Classic Round Three and Par-Tee at the Rib Room.

We certainly hope you will be able to support your favorite organization by purchasing tickets to this year's tournament. The Fort Smith Classic is more than just a golf tournament, it is a community wide celebration with something for everyone. Don't wait...complete the order form and begin improving the quality of life in Arkansas today!

One ticket is good for all 4 tournament days Thursday—Sunday and you also receive a free plant from the Farmers COOP!

FACT:



www.fortsmithclassic.com

Your Benefiting Charity: WestArk RSVP

Organization Representative: _____

How to Order:

1. Order Online www.fortsmithclassic.com to pay by Credit Card (Discover, MasterCard, Visa, American Express).
2. Fax credit card orders to (479) 782-0604 OR enclose order form with check and mail to the address below.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

**** Must match billing address on Credit Card ****

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Ticket orders received after May 15th will be available for pick-up at the Tournament Office after June 1st.

Type of Ticket	Advance Price	Qty.	Total
Weekly Grounds \$20.....	x _____	= \$ _____	
Weekly Clubhouse \$50	x _____	= \$ _____	
10-Pack Grounds Only \$200.....	x _____	= \$ _____	
10-Pack Clubhouse Only \$400	x _____	= \$ _____	
			Total: \$ _____

Form of Payment:(circle one)     Check

Checks payable to Fort Smith Classic.

Credit Card #: _____

Exp: _____

Signature: _____

LOG ON TO: www.fortsmithclassic.com

MAIL: Fort Smith Classic
Attn: Ticket Order
P.O. Box 2298
Fort Smith, AR 72902

FAX: 479-782-0604

PHONE: 479-782-3410

Order Your Tickets Today!



Phone: 479-782-3410

Fax: 479-782-0604

www.fortsmithclassic.com

JUNE 14TH—20TH

2010 FORT SMITH CLASSIC

Monday, June 14

1:00 pm - Nationwide Tour Celebrity Pro-Am - HCC
6:30 pm - Tee-Off Ball – *Dancing Fore a Cause* presented by ARVEST
Phoenix Expo Trade & Event Center

A celebration of the FORT SMITH CLASSIC for sponsors & volunteers!
Fort Smith, AR celebrities dance in competition for their favorite charity.
Tickets \$50 Sponsors & Volunteers attend free

Tuesday, June 15

*Player Practice Round - HCC

7:00 am - *Prayer Breakfast featuring Gus Malzahn presented by Benefit Bank – HCC
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm *Wal-Mart Family Festival

PGA Touring professionals greet the community!
Attendees can receive autographs & golf tips from the Pros.

There will be Give-Aways from a large assortment of Wal-Mart vendors in this carnival like atmosphere that will feature activities for the kids.

5:00 pm – 19th Hole opens at the Rib Room – Downtown Fort Smith

Wednesday, June 16

7:30 am & 1:00 pm - Nationwide Tour Pro-Ams - HCC

8:30 am - Natural State Golf Trail Junior Pro-Am at Eagle Crest Golf Club, Alma Arkansas
5:00 pm – 19th Hole opens at the Rib Room – Downtown Fort Smith

Thursday, June 17

7:30 am - Fort Smith Classic Round One - HCC

9:00 – 11:00 am - *B2B Brunch presented by First National Bank - HCC

Come Kick-off Tournament Competition - come enjoy a complimentary brunch while networking with business leaders

6:30 pm - *Cox Community Concert – Fort Smith River Park – **Charlie Daniels Band**
8:00 pm – midnight - Par-Tee with the **KLOCKS** at the Rib Room – Downtown Fort Smith

Friday, June 18

Pink on the Links a day dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer while providing a day of education and activities on the course that will appeal to a wide range of women, even non-golfers.

7 am *Cerebral Teal Off 7:30 am - Fort Smith Classic Round Two - HCC

10 am – 2 pm *Pink Zone (featuring Health, Beauty, Sports, & Fun)

11 am - 1 pm Fashion Show Luncheon (\$15 for lunch)

9:00 pm – 1:00 am - Pink Par-Tee with the **KLOCKS** at the Rib Room – Downtown Fort Smith

Saturday, June 19

7:30 am - Fort Smith Classic Round Three - HCC

9:00 pm – 1:00 am - Par-tee at with the **KLOCKS** at the Rib Room – Downtown Fort Smith

Sunday, June 20

7:30 am - Fort Smith Classic Round Four - HCC

Trophy Presentation – 18th Green

Champion's Reception & Autograph Session for Volunteers

*Free to the public

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FREE Parking & Shuttles
Kids 12 & Under FREE!

Your Benefiting Charity Thanks You for Your Order!