

Black's Tire and Auto Service raises \$50,000 for Boys and Girls Homes



Ricky Benton (right), owner of Black's Tire and Auto Service, helps Gary Faircloth, President/CEO of Boys and Girls Homes of NC display the check in the amount of \$50,000 that represent the proceeds of the 2009 Black's Tire and Auto Service Charity Golf Tournament during pre-race ceremonies at the June 20 USAIRacing Pro Cup 250 at Myrtle Beach Speedway. The tournament held June 19 at Myrtle Beach National Golf Course was in conjunction with the race event sponsored by Black's Tire and Auto Service. Also pictured is Derrick Foster of Goodyear Tire and Rubber . In the background are residents of Boys and Girls Homes who were invited to attend the auto race and assist with the pre-race ceremonies.

June 19th was a great day for the children of Boys and Girls Homes! The 9th annual Black's Tire and Auto Service Charity Golf Tournament for the benefit of Boys and Girls Homes of NC was held at

Myrtle Beach National Golf Course in conjunction with the Black's Tire USARacing Pro Cup 250 at Myrtle Beach Speedway. What started as a social gathering for the race teams and drivers on Friday prior to the Myrtle Beach racing event on Saturday has turned into the largest single corporate fundraising event for the children of Boys and Girls Homes. During pre-race ceremonies on Saturday, June 20th, a check for \$50,000 was presented to Boys and Girls Homes, bringing the tournament's total cash contributions to over \$280,000 for the children!

In addition to the financial gift, the children and staff of the Homes were treated to food and entertainment at the Black's Tire and Auto Hospitality Tent and to the USARacing Pro Cup 250. Ricky invited several of the Homes' children to participate in the pre-race ceremonies where they welcomed the race drivers and delivered the famous "Gentlemen start your engines" command to get the race underway!

Black's Tire Service has a long history of supporting Boys and Girls Homes. The founder of Black's Tire, W. Crowell Black, was a member of the Homes' original board of directors. Ricky Benton, Owner of Black's Tire, his wife, Diane, and their family have continued this long-standing tradition. For each of the past nine years, Ricky, his family and the staff of Black's Tire have held the golf tournament to help the Homes meet the financial costs of caring for the children.

For more than fifty years, Boys and Girls Homes has been caring for children from the community who may have been abused, neglected, or even abandoned. The Homes believe in the inherent goodness of each child served and strive to provide the help and encouragement they need to believe in themselves and become productive members of the community.

As the more than 144 golfers prepared to take the course on a beautiful, sunny day at Myrtle Beach National Championship Golf Course there was laughter, exciting chatter among friends, cheerful greetings of new acquaintances, and a positive energy in anticipation of a great day in support of needy children. These same qualities are but a few of the many things Boys and Girls Homes of NC attempts to provide the children that come into their care – to be able to overcome hardships and enjoy laughter; to be able to trust and enjoy good friends in the family environment provided for them; to embrace new challenges and recognize opportunities, have a positive outlook and enjoy the potential of a new day.

Ricky Benton spent time with some of the residents of Boys and Girls Homes at the golf tournament and at the race on Saturday. It was evident that they are special to him and supporting them is something close to his heart. During the check presentation on June 20, Ricky said "Diane and I believe in family. Helping these children learn the importance of family and giving them opportunities to have a better, more productive life is why we do this event. Seeing the smiles on their faces today, that's what it is all about. I'd like to thank all those who participated in and supported our efforts in the golf tournament. I commend the staff at Boys and Girls Homes who work with these beautiful children!" Gary Faircloth, President/CEO of Boys and Girls Homes praises the efforts of Ricky, Diane, their family and the entire Black's Tire team, "The support of great friends like these makes it possible for us to continue to wrap our arms of love around the children in our care. You do make a difference in the life of a child."