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NINTH ANNUAL PACE GOLF CLASSIC A HUGE SUCCESS

PACE staff welcomes largest turnout ever of golfers in support of people with Autism at annual golf tournament. Golfers enjoy hot sun, cold drinks, eighteen holes, and tasty tacos – all for a good cause.

PACE Pacific Autism Center for Education held its ninth annual golf fundraising tournament on Friday, May 19 at the neatly manicured greens of Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. Over 130 golfers with big hearts teed off under deep blue skies in support of people with autism in the Bay Area. Warm temperatures in the high 80s did not deter the valorous participants, who braved the rugged mountain and lake courses with the help of a light breeze and (mostly cool) refreshments. "We love being out here! We come every year to support PACE," one golfer said.



Another golfer said he'd gladly come back next year, even if he didn't win the brand new white GMC sponsored by Moore GMC Buick parked next to him. Though no one ended up winning the "Hole-in-One" grand prize on the sixth hole, one player said he was determined to win it for his grandson – if not this year, then next year, at least.

Sean D. said he was supporting PACE by buying a ticket to the tournament "because it raises money for children with autism. They all need as much support as they can get."

Steven, whose brother has Asperger's Syndrome, said he would continue to come out to the fundraising event in future. "I think it's a great event. Any time that people can get together and do something for a good cause, it's just great! I do anything I can to support kids in need."

PACE staff were supported by over 20 volunteers who did everything from registering golfers, selling tickets, organizing lunch, and to running the tournament games. Stationed at everyone's favorite watering hole, it was Deone's fourth time volunteering at the PACE Tournament. He noted that the event was growing and getting better each year, but what he really appreciated was the "family atmosphere."



Manning the hot dog stands and refreshment carts, the team from O2 Mortgage – the most honest mortgage lenders out there, I was told – said they have a really good time coming out to the golf tournament and that they'd be glad to show support next year as well.

Shenelle, who manages Morehouse, one of PACE's residential group homes, has been attending the event for the past five years. She said her work at the organization was meaningful and serves many people who are unable to serve themselves. "The services we provide, especially for early intervention, facing challenges and seeing the rewards after is why I do it." What she likes most about the golf tournament is "the players and the fact that they want to give to the cause."

After over six hours of putting, driving and cruising around Cinnabar Hills in high-powered golf carts, guests were invited to attend the dinner and auction gala. Auction prizes ranging from more golfing packages to a meet-n-greet with Joe Dermer and Jeff Fallick who both raised over \$20k for the Fund-A-Need for PACE's Residential Group Homes.

Tom Marchok, member of the PACE Board, became active in PACE through his daughter. He said he enjoys taking time out of his busy schedule to help the organization. "These people helped me, and now it's time to give back." What he likes most about the Golf Tournament, he said, was "seeing all these people from our community turning out to help PACE."

Tom's neighbor Larry said he has a heart for these kids and a heart for the organization. What he likes best: "The comradery, everybody getting together for a good cause and a good time."

PACE was founded in 1989 by a group of concerned parents and educators as a private, nonprofit 501 (C) (3) organization to meet the critical need of providing education and care for children and adults with autism/developmental disabilities and their families.

Starting with 14 students in 1989 and one group home in 1992, PACE currently serves over 60 students in our preschool and K-12 school, houses 36 children and adults in our residential program, and provides behavioral services for Bay Area families.

The PACE Golf Tournament is held every year to raise money additional funding for the six homes it runs throughout the Bay Area.



Creator of the event and member of the Advisory Board Joe Dermer said he enjoys putting on the event to raise money for PACE's homes and because the golfers enjoy themselves while giving to charity. Quite simply, "it's fun."

Golfers, staff and volunteers alike all seemed to agree with Joe and are already eagerly awaiting next year's tenth anniversary.

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About PACE: Founded in 1989, Pacific Autism Center for Education provides high-quality programs for individuals with autism and its related developmental disabilities. PACE operates a non-public school for ages 6-22, offers Early Intervention and behavioral therapy services including Sunny Days Preschool and operates two children and four adult group homes in Santa Clara County. EIN: 77-0259858. www.pacificautism.org [facebook.com/pacificautismce](https://www.facebook.com/pacificautismce)

About Autism: Autism is a neuro-developmental disability that impacts an individual's ability to regulate sensory input, to communicate, to interact socially, and to learn in conventional ways. Autism is considered a spectrum disorder and so affects each individual differently and at varying degrees. <http://pacificautism.org/about-pace/about-autism/>

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