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BC Softball volunteers to help Embrace Kids Foundation

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On October 6th, the Bloomfield College Softball team participated in a community service project at the Duke Classic Golf Tournament to help the Embrace Kids Foundation. The players worked as clubhouse attendants during the event and also donated all tips back to Embrace Kids.

"This is the second year the girls have donated their time at the Duke Classic and I am really proud of the work the team did," said Head Softball Coach [Rocco Constantino](#). "I believe the team learned a great lesson in the importance of community service and was able to help a truly great cause."

The Duke Classic Golf Tournament celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2011 and was held at Hendrick's Field in Belleville. The outing has been in a partnership with Embrace Kids from the start and has raised over \$100,000 for the foundation.

Embrace Kids is a foundation that assists families who have children stricken with cancer and rare blood disorders. The foundation largely runs on contributions from generous donors and has a policy to never turn away a family in need.

The day started at 8am when golfers arriving to the course were greeted in the parking lot by the BC Softball players who assisted in carrying golfers' bags and helping them to get registered. The outing teed off at approximately 9am and lasted close to 5 hours. As golfers finished their rounds, they were again greeted by the softball team as they left the course. The players then cleaned golf clubs and carts and assisted in carrying golf bags back to the golfers cars.

The day finished with a dinner at The Chandelier in Belleville, featuring a presentation by a family who benefitted from the Embrace Kids Foundation.

"I believe that as part of the full college experience, student-athletes should participate in community service projects, not only to give back to the community but to also learn important lessons in assisting families in need," said Constantino.

The Duke Classic is played in honor of Canio "The Duke" Constantino, a former Belleville and Bloomfield resident. A golf enthusiast and avid sports fan, Constantino was always known as a tremendous supporter of youth sports. The Duke Classic is played in his spirit and under the slogan "Play Golf, Have Fun and Help Fight Cancer."

The 2011 event was a particularly meaningful event as Canio's grandson, 10 year old Nickolas Constanatino participated in the event for the first time, playing on an 18 hole course for the first time.

