

ANGELS IN THIS FAIRWAY

RAISING AWARENESS AND MONEY FOR LEUKEMIA RESEARCH



By Ross Forman

Daily Herald Correspondent

Larry Mix played a round of golf the day before the 17th Angels in the Fairway charity golf outing was held late summer to honor his late son, Joey, and raise funds to help the programs of the Leukemia Research Foundation.

Mix never plays in the actual fundraiser, which was held this year at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wis., as he's too busy, so playing 18 holes is his day-before tradition.

"This deer popped out in front of me on the 17th hole," recalled a teary-eyed Mix, a Buffalo Grove resident. "I told the other guys (I was golfing with) that that was Joey coming out to say, 'Hi.'"

"That was my memory," from the 2017 event.

Well, that was one of two emotion-filled Joey

moments Mix recalled.

You see, the day of the tournament, the weather started out beautiful — sunny blue skies. But then all of a sudden it looked like the skies were going to open up. Mix and many others were radar-watching and it looked terrible. In fact, officials at the golf course even told Mix that they might have to quickly evacuate the course.

Ultimately, their weather woes went for naught. The rain missed them.

"I thought that was Joey taking care of us," Mix added.

Joey was 3 ½ year-old when he passed away in August, 1996, from leukemia, so parents Patti and Larry immediately bonded with the Northfield-based Leukemia Research Foundation (LRF), which is dedicated to conquering all blood cancers by funding research into their causes and cures, and enriching the quality of life of those touched by these diseases.



The first Angels in the Fairway was held in 1997, netting about \$80,000.

The event continued through 2010, highlighted by the 2004 event, when more than \$182,000 was raised.

In 2011, they teamed with Bob Chinn's Crab House in Wheeling. Joey's Angels was the beneficiary of their golf tournament, and that continued through 2015.

Last summer, the Angels in the Fairway resumed at two locations, raising about \$100,000.

This summer, about \$125,000 was raising to bring the overall total to about \$2.3 million in net revenue by Joey's Angels in support of the Leukemia Research Foundation.

"I thought this year's event went great," Mix said.

One loyal, longtime supporter of Joey's Angels paid \$3,000 in a live auction for a guitar signed by the Gin Blossoms, Dave Navarro and others.

"That probably (was) the sixth guitar that he's purchased over the years. He's a very generous supporter," Mix said.

Also at the golf outing, which includes a post-golf dinner, they show a video of Joey — the only time that it is shown.

"It's still kind of tough, but it's a great feeling, the amazing energy," at the outing, Mix said. "It really means a lot (keeping Joey's legacy alive)."

"We've made progress, but still have ways to go. We're hoping, in our lifetime, we'll see a cure."

• For more information about Joey's Angels, go to: www.joeyangels.com.

