Tournament raises money for CAM Fund

BY DEDE BILES

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Caiden's Charity Golf Classic made its debut at Woodside Plantation Country Club on Monday.

More than 50 players participated in the new tournament that raised money for the CAM Fund.

Mark and Terri Rettig started the fund after losing their 2-year-old grandson, Caiden Ash Murray, in 2014 when a tumor in his brain ruptured.

"We promised Caiden when he was on his deathbed that we would not let him die in vain," Mark said. "We promised to keep his name alive, and we promised to commit ourselves to helping other children with can-

The CAM Fund's purpose is to provide financial support for research that focuses on developing innovative therapies and cures for pediatric brain cancer.

"One hundred percent of everything we raise goes into the CAM Fund," Mark said. "We don't take anything out for expenses.'

There was an Autumn Gala at Woodside on Sunday night that also benefited the CAM Fund. Beth Spangler, a former contestant on "The Voice" television show, performed with her band.

"Everything went perfectly; we had a blast," Terri

Players participating in the Golf Classic received tee bags filled with gifts, and breakfast and lunch were provided

In addition, there were hole-in-one, putting and other contests. Silent raffles offered opportunities to win prizes such as a Yeti cooler, a TaylorMade golf bag and golf lessons.

Mark hopes the Golf Classic will continue on an an-

nual basis for many years to come.
"We have really focused on quality," Mark said. "We want people when they leave here to tell more people about it. When they come back next year, we hope that they will bring two or three friends with them. It's like planting a seed.

On Oct. 9, Mark will run in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

"I ran a marathon 25 years ago, and I'm doing it this time in honor of Caiden," he said. "I just turned 58, and it's going to be a challenge. I've lost 30 pounds so far getting ready for it."

Mark has worked for Molex, which is one of the Chicago Marathon's sponsors, for more than 30 years. "I have a team of runners, and we are raising money for the CAM Fund on CrowdRise (www.crowdrise.com/ run-for-caiden)," Mark said.

As of Monday afternoon, Mark's team had received pledges totaling \$11,267.

Dede Biles is a general assignment reporter for the Aiken Standard and has been with the newspaper since January 2013. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Mark Rettig, left foreground, and Terri Rettig take a break to pose for a photo during Caiden's Charity Golf Classic on Monday at Woodside Plantation Country Club. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to support the CAM Fund, which the Rettigs founded.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Cory Kovanda, left, and Matt Alquiza practice putting before the start of Caiden's Charity Golf Classic. More than 50 players participated in the tournament that raised money for the CAM Fund, whose purpose is to provide financial support for research that focuses on developing innovative therapies and cures for pediatric brain cancer.



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Rand Wilburn, left, Scott Whicker, John Randall and John Maisel watch the putting contest during Caiden's Charity Golf Classic at Woodside Plantation Country Club.