



Ocala Open Charity Pro-Am Raises \$80,000 for Local Organizations

(Ocala, FL, March 29, 2022) - The 16th Annual Ocala Open kicked off the three-day tournament with a Charity Pro-Am on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. The Pro-Am event had a record-breaking 36 teams playing and paired amateur golfers with one Ocala Open golf professional. Despite a foggy morning and strong winds throughout the day, participants got playing tips straight from the professionals to help navigate the Candler Hills golf course. Golfers could feel good about a day on the greens, with all proceeds benefitting Hospice of Marion County, Inc., and Interfaith Emergency Services.

To date, the Ocala Open has raised over \$893,000 for these local charities. "The Pro-Am is what we all look forward to the most from the Ocala Open," says Director of Golf for Candler Hills Golf Club, Matt Hibbs. "Annually, the Pro-Am is the largest fundraiser in Ocala."

This year the Ocala Open Charity Pro-Am raised \$80,000, allowing sponsor On Top of the World to write both Hospice of Marion County, Inc., and Interfaith Emergency Services each a check for \$40,000. Both organizations are local non-profits in the community providing support for area citizens in need. Hospice of Marion County, Inc. offers exceptional, compassionate care for terminally ill patients and supports patient's families and caregivers. Interfaith Emergency Services provides necessities and emergency financial assistance to anyone in need without being discriminative of race or religion.

"We are honored to keep the tradition of supporting both of these organizations yearly," says Hibbs. "We feel strongly the money raised should be used to support organizations whose roots are in Marion County."

The 16th Annual Ocala Open Pro-Am was a successful event thanks to participants, sponsors, Candler Hills Golf Club staff, and On Top of the World. The team at Candler Hills Golf Club would like to thank various local businesses' generous support, including our Platinum Partner for the second consecutive year, 360 Wealth Management Group of Raymond James.

For more information on the Ocala Open and to see a tournament schedule, please visit our website at OcalaOpen.com.



**Photos courtesy of Colen Built Development - Marketing Department*