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County Habitat for Humanity golf outing soggy but successful **For the Daily Tribune**

ROME -- Aug. 24, Adams County Habitat for Humanity sponsored its second Golf Outing Fundraiser. The event was hosted by Lake Arrowhead Pines Golf Course, with particular assistance from Bill Benkowski, course professional and manager.

Despite what turned out to be a very rainy day, at least until 2 p.m., all of the nearly 50 golfers signed up stuck with the program and finished.

Kaye Eckert, who organized the event with her husband, Bob, was pleased to see the enthusiasm by the participants.

"I am impressed by the dedication of these golfers. Not a single team canceled despite a threatening weather forecast and a very wet morning. I think they understood that the proceeds of this event will go to help build a fourth habitat home in Adams County," Kaye Eckert said.

Her comments support one of the themes of this event that each swing of a golf club makes a swing of a hammer possible.

There were 11 teams signed up, with participants from as far away as Illinois, Minnesota and Milwaukee. One team from the Waukesha area is employees of Schmidt Custom Floors, the largest hardwood floor installer in Wisconsin. Jason Cleveland, the company's field supervisor, has a lake home in the area.

Habitat President John West was active in recruiting teams as well, including several individuals from Adams Columbia Electric Co-op, where he serves as chief financial officer, as well as his brother Steve West.

Individual holes for the event on the 18-hole course were sponsored by individuals and local companies, including Moundview Hospital and Clinics, Adams Columbia Electric Co-op, Bob and Kaye Eckert, Bill and Kay Gomoll, Lake Sherwood Lodge, Trails End Bar & Grill, Karl and Margaret Klingforth, Smurfit Stone, Lucille and Harry Davis, Edward and Jeanne Heidemann, John West and Mike Fendt, White Pine Builders and M&I Bank.

Following golfing, participants gathered for a steak dinner, put on by the Lake Arrowhead Lodge, an auction and a raffle. Many local businesses, groups and individuals donated a variety of items, including from meals for two, homemade jams, wine and a variety of services and other merchandise.

The Eckerts and other Adams County Habitat board members Marie Robicheau, Lucille Davis, Jim Jelinek, Tom Tyne, Ed Heideman, Jeanne Heideman, Barb Schultz, Bev Braunsky and others put in many hours prior to the event soliciting sponsors, donations and prizes, as well as helping with registration and raffle ticket sales.

John West commented on the level of support for this event by more than 150 local businesses, individuals and companies.

"Adams County does not have a large population to support Habitat efforts. This kind of involvement, by almost all local businesses and companies, with donations and sponsorships is both very important and impressive," he said.

The money raised will go toward building a fourth Habitat for Humanity home in Adams County. It takes about \$60,000 to build one home, depending on donations of building supplies and expert services.

To help Adams County Habitat with a hammer or with a check, call fundraising chairwoman Marie Robicheau at 608-339-3827.

Contributed by Habitat for Humanity.