

News Release



Contact: Julie Pompa, APR
419.887.6827
juliep@LMGnet.com

RICK & TRICIA SMITH ARE 2009 DYS GALA HONORARY CHAIRS

Diabetes Youth Services Fundraiser Nov. 6 at Perrysburg's Carranor Club

TOLEDO, Ohio, Oct. 7, 2009 – Respected golf professional Rick Smith and his wife Tricia will serve as honorary chairs of the 2009 Sweet Success Gala to benefit the Diabetes Youth Services (DYS). The gala fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 6 at the Carranor Hunt & Polo Club, Perrysburg, from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

“We are thrilled to welcome Rick and Tricia Smith as our honorary chairs this year,” said Tricia Shirk, DYS gala chair. “They are passionate supporters of DYS and all we do, and I’m sure they will bring that same enthusiasm to our gala this fall.”

Rick Smith has achieved great success in golf as a teacher, course designer and communicator. He is regarded as one of the PGA tour’s best “sounding boards” for swing advice and has been consistently ranked as one of the top five golf instructors in the world by Golf Digest. He has assisted some of the most accomplished golfers in the world, including Phil Mickelson, Lee Janzen, Rocco Mediate, Jerry Kelly and Matt Kuchar. He has also worked with PGA Tour pros Jack Nicklaus, Gary Nicklaus, Billy Andrade, Greg Norman, Bill Glasson, David Duval, Vijay Singh, Ray Floyd, Paul Azinger and many others.

Several Michigan golf courses have been designed by Rick Smith, including the Signature course at Treetops Resort, Gaylord, Mich., Arcadia Bluffs on Lake Michigan and Wuskowhan Player’s Club, Mount Olive, Mich.

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Smith has also established numerous golf academies and learning centers. He currently operates Rick Smith Golf Academies at Treetops Resort in Michigan and Tiburon Golf Club, Naples, Fla.

“We are thrilled to be asked to be part of the Sweet Success Gala,” said Tricia Smith. “Having a daughter with type 1 diabetes diagnosed in the last year and a half has introduced us to the daily challenges diabetes brings to children and their families. We understand the importance of education in daily diabetic management for each child. We respect DYS for their hard work and unending dedication to helping children with diabetes. And our greatest goal is to make children’s lives easier and healthier until a cure is found.”

The Sweet Success Gala helps to fund educational services for more than 3,000 children in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan living with type 1 diabetes. Gourmet grazing stations and a cash bar will be a highlight of the event, along with live and silent auctions. Beth Rose, of Beth Rose Auction Co., will serve as host. Among auction items are two contributed by Smith: a golfing package for four at Treetops Resort and a lessons-golfing package for four at Tiburon Golf Club.

Tickets for the Sweet Success Gala are priced at \$75 each. For more information about Diabetes Youth Services, to become a sponsor or make a reservation for the gala, phone 419.887.8739 or visit www.dys4kids.org.

About Diabetes Youth Services

Founded in 1984, Diabetes Youth Services is the area’s sole provider of school support programs and educational summer camps for children with Type 1 diabetes. There are currently more than 3,000 children with diabetes in the DYS service area of 14 Northwest Ohio counties and five counties in Southeast Michigan. For more information about DYS, visit www.dys4kids.org.