Bi-Lo Charities golf tourney set for early June

1,200 expected to play on 11 Upstate courses

Staff Report

Bi-Lo Charities said the 29th annual Bi-Lo Charity Classic, which includes the largest one-day charity golf tournament in the United States, will be held June 2-4 and is expected to draw more than 1,200 participants from across the nation.

The tournament will be held on 11 golf courses throughout the Upstate and western North Carolina.

Last year, the Charity Classic raised more than $4.9 million for nonprofit organizations throughout Bi-Lo's four-state operating region of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

"The 2012 Bi-Lo Charity Classic will celebrate 29 years of golf and giving. This has long been a great partnership between Bi-Lo, our suppliers, our teammates and our customers. By working together, we can assist the needs of each community we serve," said Bi-Lo President Michael Byars.

Since 1984, the Bi-Lo Charity Classic has raised more than $58 million for charities throughout the Southeast, positively impacting thousands of lives across Bi-Lo's footprint.

The Charity Classic began in 1984 as a fundraiser for Greenville County Meals on Wheels.

More than 350 nonprofit organizations received funding in 2011.

Funds from the Charity Classic go toward supporting organizations that further Bi-Lo Charities' mission of enhancing the lives of children, improving education and feeding the hungry.

Bi-Lo Charities has generated $5.5 million for charities in the Upstate and western North Carolina area alone.

In addition to Bi-Lo's annual grant program, the Booster Plus program has provided more than $3 million to schools, churches and nonprofits in the Upstate and western North Carolina areas.

More than 80 charities in the Upstate area received grants in 2011, and they are using those funds for ongoing projects.

One of the many organizations

See BI-LO, Page 7B

BI-LO

Continued from Page 1B

aided from the 2011 Charity Classic is Project Host, a community-funding organization working to nourish and educate the less fortunate in Greenville.

Bi-Lo Charities provided funds for three of the organization's divisions: Soup Kitchen, CC Pearce Culinary School and the Feeding Hungry Children Project.

In addition, Bi-Lo Charities donated funds to St. Anthony of Padua, a school dedicated to serving lower-income communities, for the construction of a new library.

The new facility will be named the Bi-Lo Charities Library and will support St. Anthony of Padua's mission of developing a firm educational and religious foundation for its students.

"The funds from the Bi-Lo Charity Classic have had a direct impact on each charity's ability to serve their local community. We understand the importance of giving back, and the 2012 Bi-Lo Charity Classic will continue to focus on assisting organizations throughout the Southeast," said Bi-Lo Charities Executive Director Carol Browning.

The 2012 Charity Classic weekend will kick off with a president's party June 2 at Hartness Estate for major sponsors.

The pairings party and auction is open to the public and will be held June 3, with auction bidding to open at 5 p.m.

Tickets for the pairings party and auction are available for purchase online, prior to the event.

The Captain's Choice Tournament will begin June 4 at 10 a.m.

More information is available by calling 864-286-5895 or going to www.bi-locharities.org.