

HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

A check for $4,920,622 for charities across the region is unveiled Monday at the conclusion of the Bi-Lo Charity Classic at the Hartness Estate.

Bi-Lo Charity Classic tops fundraising goal

Golfers, sponsors put $4,920,622 into coffers of charities in region

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The golfers came — and so did the revenues.

The 28th annual Bi-Lo Charity Classic raised $4,920,622 for Monday's annual event, surpassing its fund-raising goal and aiding nonprofit organizations across the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee.

"This year's golf tournament was a great accomplishment for Bi-Lo and Bi-Lo Charities" said Michael Byars, Bi-Lo president and chief executive officer. "We work harder every year to make this event a success, with the support of our suppliers, our store teammates and the members of our community.

"We look forward to seeing these funds make a lasting, positive impact in the communities Bi-Lo serves," he said.

The three-day event was played on 11 courses in the Carolinas.

It kicked off with a First Tee Invitational tournament on Friday at Pebble Creek Golf Club, with young golfers from Greenville and Spartanburg.

Saturday, top sponsors were feted at a 60s-era themed dinner at the Hartness Estate.

Sunday, tournament participants and guests were treated to a Pairings Party and Auction, also at the Hartness Estate. The tournament itself took place on Monday.

More than 2,400 golfers and guests traveled from across the country to participate in the event, the largest one-day charity golf tournament in the country. The proceeds will benefit Bi-Lo Charities' three major initiatives — children's needs, education and hunger relief.

The event began 28 years ago when Bi-Lo and others decided to help a financially struggling Greenville Meals on Wheels program. Last year, the event raised $4.51 million. Before Monday, it had raised and distributed more than $52 million to thousands of charitable organizations.