Bi-Lo golf earns $4.2 million

Organizers pleased with support for charity event

By Bob Castello
STAFF WRITER
bcastell@greenvillenews.com

Not even the recession could slow the charge made by this year's Bi-Lo Charity Classic, which raised $4,270,309 for charities in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia.

The total was announced Monday night during a banquet at the Hartness Estate that capped off a day of golf at 12 courses throughout the Upstate and western North Carolina.

"This is my first year," said Michael Byers, Bi-Lo's president and chief executive officer. "I've seen the tournament through the years from afar and had friends who worked at Bi-Lo, but to be a part of it is very rewarding."

"It's always amazed me," said co-chairman Larry Greer, one of the event's founders. "Over the years, I always had people ask me, 'Do you think you can do any better next year?' I always say, 'I hope so.' But it always amazed me when we did. It's just been incredible."

In its 26 years, the Bi-Lo Charity Classic has raised more than $48 million.

"The team that put it together knew that the economy was gonna be challenging this year, and they knew as far as the support it might be a little tougher this year," said Byers, "so we went ahead and reduced it 20 percent, and then we surpassed our goal for this year.

"That just shows the team that we have at Bi-Lo. Our supplier team and the

See **CHARITY** on page 2B

MORE ONLINE
■ See photos from Monday's Bi-Lo Charity Classic by clicking on Sports at
greenvilleonline.com

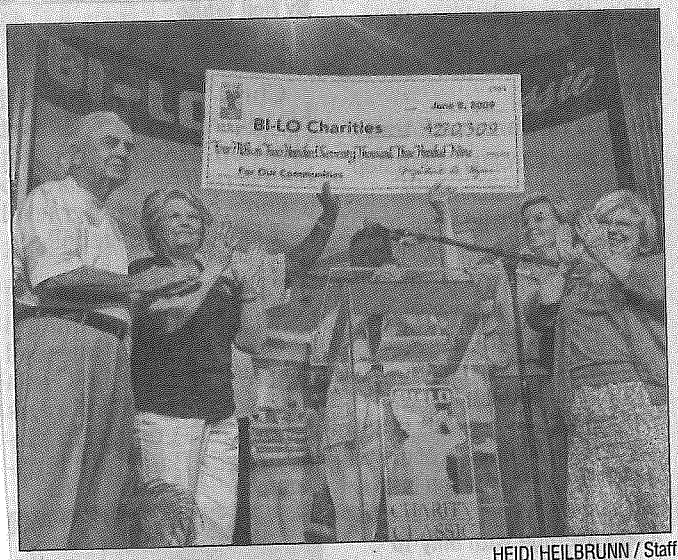
CHARITY

FROM PAGE 1B

community really rallied around all that and helped us surpass it. It's hard to even fathom how good this thing was this year."

The spirit of the event was exemplified by the consumer marketing team from Bi-Lo's corporate office in Mauldin. Nine members raised $9,500 to purchase 95 tickets in hopes of winning the raffle for $20,000. When one of their tickets was drawn, they announced they were donating the money toward four charities: Safe Harbor, A Child's Haven, Washington Center and the Meyer Center.

■ Bob Castello can be reached at 298-4472.



HEIDI HEILBRUNN / Staff

Bi-Lo Charity committee members hold a check for the money raised this year.

The Greenville News
greenvilleonline.com
Tuesday
JUNE 9, 2009