

Sertoma golf tournament raises \$28K

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — In its first-ever golf tournament fundraiser, the Seneca Sertoma Club raised more than \$28,000 to support programs for hearing and visually impaired and underprivileged children.

Acting club president Mike Hill said a total of 120 golfers participated on 30 teams at Wednesday's event at Keowee Key to raise money for the efforts of the club. He said Sertoma stands for Service to Mankind.

Proceeds from the event will go to provide at least 30 scholarships for



Some of the 120 golfers participating in the Sertoma Club golf tournament practice putting on Wednesday.

children ages 7-13 to Camp Sertoma at the Clemson Outdoor Lab, at a cost of about \$550 per camper.

"It's a one week-long camp during the summertime. They get to do arts and crafts, nature walks,

go boating, go fishing, go swimming," Hill said. "The whole purpose of the camp is for the kids to get to have an experience that they normally wouldn't ever get to experience in the situation they're in.

"The counselors are all trained to promote and teach love and acceptance, because a lot of these kids are not getting it at home," he added. "The underprivileged kids are coming from very poor, impoverished homes that may only have one parent, maybe live with the grandparents — you don't know. I've been in a lot of

SEE TOURNAMENT, PAGE A5

TOURNAMENT: 'We're super stoked'

FROM PAGE A1

these homes, and it's pretty sad sometimes."

Hill added some of the funds raised would be donated to the Tribble Center in Seneca and possibly other organizations that have goals similar to the club's.

Seneca Sertoma has held a charity ball in past years to raise money for sending kids to camp and other programs, but decided not to do that this year because of COVID-19 concerns.

"So we came up the idea to do our golf tournament," Hill said. "We have raised a little over \$28,000 with our very first tournament, so we're super stoked about that."

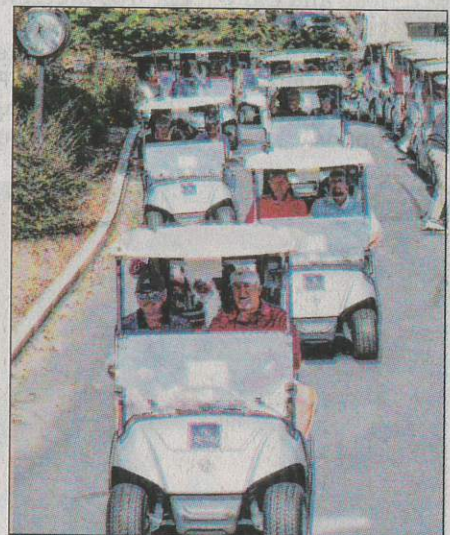
He added the event brought out a large group of people.

"We have people from all over the county, and we've got some people from out of the county," he said. "We have a slew of different people out here today to support the cause."

In addition to competing for team awards, there were also several individual contests at different holes, including a new truck for a hole-in-one from Lake Keowee Ford. Clemson University baseball coach Monte Lee signed autographs for people at the event.

Seneca Sertoma Club board chairman Ryan Keese said he was excited about the event.

"Mike has done so much. He's planned everything," Keese said of Hill. "Without him, this wouldn't be happening."



LAUREN PIERCE | THE JOURNAL

Golfers head out for their rounds at the Sertoma Club Golf Tournament on Wednesday.

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