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November News

IRL Drivers, Celebrities & SSPF Supporters Turn Out for 4th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament

The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation hosted its 4th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament on Monday, November 2, 2009. The annual tournament, which was held at Revere Golf Club's Lexington Course in Henderson, raised over \$160,000 to help fund research and quality of life programs for those with spinal cord injuries and paralysis. "On behalf of the foundation I would like to thank everyone for making this a one-of-a-kind event," states Sam Schmidt, founder of The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation. "It is always inspiring to be surrounded by our supporters; their enthusiasm, dedication, and loyalty is unmatched."

Over 100 golfers turned out for the fundraiser, including actor/songwriter Clifton Davis and sports stars Brandon Bernstein, Mike Cofer, Chris Fetter, Logan Gomez, Richie Hearn, Wayne Kirby, Mike Pritchard and Anthony Simmons. Players vied for, but none won, the elusive hole-in-one prize, a red 2010 Harley-Davidson Softtail® Classic donated by Southern Nevada Harley-Davidson. This year's "winning foursome" was actually a fivesome: John Hickey, Jim Evans, Ron Futrell, Craig Reed and Steve Roeth.

The night before the tournament, sponsors, golfers, and supporters enjoyed a pre-party at Pole Position Raceway; a fun-filled evening of indoor go-cart racing, silent and live auctions, and delicious food. Special hand controlled go-karts were also available for exhibition drives and racing action. Guests competed against their favorite celebrities and bid on auction items including lunch with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, a Newport Beach vacation and a private 5 course meal prepared by Emery from Emery's Italian Cuisine & Steakhouse, a popular Las Vegas restaurant.

"With everything else that is going on in the news, it is encouraging to see that so many have not lost sight of the Foundation, and continue to fight alongside us to improve opportunities, access and everyday quality of life for individuals and their families," said Ida Cahill, President of the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation.



Trackside Online (TSO) Teams Up with SSPF to Promote 2010 IRL Official Wall Calendar!

TrackSideOnline.com (TSO) is teaming up with the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation to promote the SSPF Indy Racing League Wall Calendar. Called "Up Close and Personal; Indy Racing League Style" the 16 month calendar features photos of the drivers and teams from all around the IZOD IndyCar Series and Firestone Indy Lights series. This 12" by 12" photographic wall calendar is an officially licensed product of the IRL and sells for \$13.99 plus shipping and handling.

A TSO subscription makes a wonderful holiday gift for any racing fan. Contact TSO about their limited time offer of a free calendar with subscription and specials on gift subscriptions & subscription renewals. TSO has pledged to donate at least \$250.00 to SSPF regardless of the number of people who take them up on this offer.

Making a donation to SSPF is a great thing to do during the holiday season, and calendars are terrific gifts for friends, family and business associates!

People We Know

We meet so many interesting people!



Over the past few years the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation has made many new friends. Pictured here is Derek Mortland, writer and self-defense expert, who teaches other people in wheelchairs how to be in control of their surroundings at all times. (See article on the News Page of our website.)

Upcoming Events

March:

- Run, Walk & Wheelathon, Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, FL
- Day at the Races, St. Petersburg, FL

April:

- Parnelli Jones Private Museum, Torrance, CA
- Day at the Races, Long Beach, FL

May:

- Annual May Gala, Indianapolis, IN
- Day at the Races, Indianapolis, IN

From left: Cindy Norton, Serena Jain, Ellen Oxley, Ida Cahill, Melanie Johnstone, Sam Schmidt, Kay Kohlman and Jessica Villardi. "Thanks and we'll see you again next year!"



John Hickey, Jim Evans, Ron Futrell, Craig Reed and Steve Roeth - the big winners at our 2009 Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament in Las Vegas.

A Message from Ida Cahill, President & CEO

As 2009 begins to come to a close, many are already looking forward to 2010. This past year has been a challenging one for the country, businesses, individuals, and charities. The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation is no exception.

We are truly grateful for everyone who has supported us this year: our many volunteers and particularly our donors. Your hard work and commitment to the mission and vision of SSPF has enabled us to fund a record level of research which will lead to cures and treatments for those with spinal cord injuries and paralysis.

A recent survey states that almost 6 million people live with some type of paralysis in the United States and this number will only rise as our brave men and women in the Armed Forces continue to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of the 1,500,000 people with a spinal cord injury live on less than \$25,000 a year and some on less than \$10,000. The insurance companies continue to reduce the number of days people are permitted to stay in the hospital after an injury (down to a national level of 19 days) and continue to refuse more than 10 days of physical therapy a year. In order to maintain bone density, muscle mass, a feeling of well being, and keep the body healthy for new clinical trials, physical therapy needs to occur several times a week throughout the year.

Please help us fund the necessary research to change lives through research, our Quality of Life grants that have immediate impact on people with paralysis and life challenges, and our Day at the Races program which has become so popular and offers hope to hundreds of individuals. We need your help now more than ever. We continue to hold our administrative costs low: 82 cents out of every dollar supports programs.

June:

- Day at the Races, Newton, IA

July:

- Run, Walk & Wheelathon, Honda Indy, Toronto, Canada
- Day at the Races, Toronto, Canada

August:

- Day at the Races, Mid-Ohio
- Run, Walk, & Wheelathon, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, CA
- Day at the Races, Chicago, IL

September:

- Day at the Races, Sparta, KY

October:

- Run, Walk & Wheelathon, Las Vegas, NV

November:

- 5th Annual Racing to Recovery Golf Tournament, Las Vegas, NV

Visit our website for dates and registration information.

Your contribution can be made through our web site, www.samschmidt.org or you can send a check or credit card number to: Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, PO Box 3661, Princeton, NJ 08543-3661. Your gift, no matter how great or how small, will help to change the lives of so many.

Thank you.

Our mailing address is:
PO Box 3661, Princeton, NJ 08543-3661
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