



child crisis center

They Marched to a Million *The 2009 Fiesta Invitational Committee Reaches its Fundraising Goal*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jodi Stoken 480.834.9424, jodi.stoken@chilcrisis.org, Development Director, Child Crisis Center

(May 4, 2009 Phoenix, AZ) This past weekend, a 24-year journey that began with a couple guys in Ahwatukee and eventually evolved into the largest outside fundraiser for the Child Crisis Center, reached its goal of surpassing \$1,000,000. This year the Fiesta Invitational Committee raised \$91,000 for the Child Crisis Center and in doing so brought the tournament's total cumulative contribution to \$1,039,638. The Committee was intent to "March to a Million" and under the leadership of Mike Wells, this year's tournament chairman, they did just that.

"What a remarkable and dedicated group of individuals. We are so grateful that these gentlemen have stuck with us through the years, the impact they have made on thousands of children who have lived in our emergency shelter is staggering" stated Christine Scarpati, CEO. "We don't have enough words to thank them."

The Fiesta Invitational Tournament (FIT) began in 1985 as an Ahwatukee JC project to have a first-class golf tournament that raised a little money for a local charity. The first year there were 68 players; \$1,500 was raised and they sent the check to the newly formed East Valley Child Crisis Center. That success planted a seed and with a lot of work, the FIT became a competitive tournament made up of friends from all across the States.

"For a few years, other charities were selected, but in 1991 we decided to concentrate our fundraising efforts to one charity where we felt we could do the most good and have the biggest impact on the lives of children" stated life-long committee member Ken Schacherbauer.



2009 FIT Committee Front row l to r: Rodney Kawulok, Ken Schacherbauer, Christine Scarpati (CEO, Child Crisis Center), Dominic Palazzo, Mike Wells. Back row: Steven Kawulok, Anthony Rosetti, Jerry Pennington, Steve Field