



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Champions Tour Announces 2008 Charity of the Year

(BOCA RATON, FL) – The PGA TOUR’s Champions Tour has selected **Community Grief Support Service**, of Homewood, AL, a beneficiary of the **Regions Charity Classic** in Birmingham, as its 2008 Charity of the Year. The announcement was made yesterday by Champions Tour President Mike Stevens at the Champions Tour’s annual player awards dinner held in conjunction with this week’s Allianz Championship at the Broken Sound Club in Boca Raton, FL.

Also honored at the dinner were the previously announced 2008 Champions Tour player award winners; Bernhard Langer (Player of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Jack Nicklaus Trophy, Arnold Palmer Award and Byron Nelson Award) and Jay Haas (Charles Schwab Cup). Sue Rietzel of the Toshiba Classic in Newport Beach, CA was honored as 2008 Champions Tour Volunteer of the Year.

As the 2008 Champions Tour Charity of the Year, Community Grief Support Service will receive \$30,000 from the Tour. The Community Grief Support Service provides support to the bereaved in the Greater Birmingham area through grief counseling, education and support groups. Grief issues are a largely unrecognized and underserved health and human services issue in the U.S., costing businesses more than \$75 billion each year due to lost productivity, accidents and impaired decision-making caused by the anguish of losing a loved one. Community Grief Support Service is dedicated to helping the bereaved work through their grief through companionship and professional counseling. The organization provides its services free of charge to the community and does not receive any government or agency funding.

“We are honored that the Champions Tour has selected us as Charity of the Year,” said Carol MacMillan, Executive Director of Community Grief Support Service. “The Champions Tour’s generous donation will allow us to continue our mission of helping Birmingham-area residents to heal and regain control of their lives following the death of a loved one.”

“Providing funds to charities in our community is the single most rewarding thing we do at the Regions Charity Classic,” said Tournament Director Sabrina Butler. “We work with so many outstanding organizations each year and I am thrilled that this gift will help Community Grief Support Service continue to spread rays of hope in the lives of the bereaved in our community.”

“It’s an honor to recognize Community Grief Support Service as the Champions Tour’s 2008 Charity of the Year,” said Stevens. “They are a fantastic organization with an important mission and we couldn’t be happier than to present them with this donation.”

MacMillan said the organization plans to use the \$30,000 donation to establish loss-specific, curriculum-based grief support groups in 2009 led by professional counselors for underserved areas in the Birmingham area.

The Charity of the Year nomination and selection process was conducted jointly by the Champions Tour and the Champions Tour Tournament Association (CTTA).

The 2009 Regions Charity Classic will be played May 11-17 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Ross Bridge. Andy Bean is defending champion.

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About the Champions Tour

The Champions Tour collectively, has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game with 15 World Golf Hall of Fame Members actively competing in its events and numerous other major championship winners among its members. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. The Champions Tour will feature a minimum of 26 official events offering \$51.4 million in prize money in 2009 and its highest average purse ever of \$1.98 million. The Champions Tour is a division of the PGA TOUR, Inc., a tax-exempt membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older and as such operates under the umbrella of the PGA TOUR which includes the PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. The Champions Tour's primary purpose as an entity of the PGA TOUR is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older; to protect the integrity of the game; and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to providing competitive opportunities for its membership, Champions Tour events also generate significant sums of money for charity. The commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Mike Stevens is president of the Champions Tour. TOUR headquarters is in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

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