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COMMUNITY VOICES

Making a positive impact

By David Sawyer, president and managing partner, Cliffs Clubs & Bob Stegner, senior vice president, marketing, North America, SYNEX Corporation

Once again, the 2018 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation welcomes players, celebrities, and spectators to Greenville and offers an opportunity to show off the place we call home. From our thriving downtown to the breathtaking Blue Ridge Mountains, the tournament introduces visitors to the Upstate while reminding the rest of us that we live in a special place.

Most importantly, tournament week represents a chance to make a positive impact in our community through several extraordinary nonprofits. For 2018, this includes helping children with life-debilitating conditions, providing homebound citizens with nutritious meals, and delivering opportunities to students around STEM.

SYNEX is humbled to have played a part in the \$12.7 million dollars raised since the tournament's inception. And The Cliffs is not only thrilled to have the tournament back at The Cliffs Valley but also to have The Cliffs Residents Outreach (CRO) as one of the beneficiaries.

Members of The Cliffs' six South Carolina communities have come together through CRO to help children succeed in Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee counties. CRO volunteers logged 18,000 hours last year and contributed \$700,000 to help break the cycle of poverty by supporting students' success in the classroom.

Their efforts helped one Pickens County elementary school rise from the bottom 10 percent in South Carolina school performance to the top 10 percent. In Greenville County, they have provided academic enrichment opportunities for students, programs for at-risk youth, necessities for families in crisis, and tutoring and pantry items for students in poverty.

For The Cliffs, the tournament also demonstrates that their communities are about more than golf. Cliffs members and residents come from all walks of life with passions for golf, wellness, cycling, and more, but one interest that unites them above all is their passion for giving back.

Likewise, SYNEX Corporation is about more than IT distribution. Its story is largely about getting involved in the communities its associates call home. And the tournament is just one of the many ways the more than 1,700 SYNEX associates in Greenville and 125,000 worldwide can give back.

Since 2011, SYNEX has raised more than \$8.5 million for Upstate children through its year-long charity initiative, SYNEX Share the Magic. In addition, SYNEX's Community Involvement Committee organizes ways for associates to give back during the year through local food drives, silent auctions, and more. At SYNEX, giving comes from the top down, and it's contagious.

The Cliffs, SYNEX, and BMW share similar philosophies when it comes to the community. We know, like many other companies here, that helping others is also good for business. It builds camaraderie by challenging employees to see the bigger picture. It brings companies together despite competitive marketplaces. And it challenges leaders to share their resources and talents.

We believe that together, everyone can make a difference. In addition to having a great time at this year's tournament, we invite you to learn more about its philanthropic impact. Remember, it's never too late to find a small way you can give back to Greenville or whatever community you call home.

David Sawyer is the president and managing partner of the Cliffs Clubs. Bob Stegner is senior vice president, marketing, North America, of SYNEX Corporation.



David Sawyer



Bob Stegner by Todd Rosenberg Photography