



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2017 Golf Classic raises big funds for Baldwin County schools

SUMMERDALE, Ala. – The Baldwin County Education Coalition Golf Classic raised \$24,231 during its fifth annual event on September 14, 2017. Presented by Baldwin County Sewer Service (BCSS), the golf tournament benefits the Baldwin County Education Coalition (BCEC) held each year at Rock Creek in Fairhope. This is the Coalition's sole fundraiser.

For the last five years, participants identified the Golf Classic as one of the best tournaments in the area. Players enjoyed complimentary lunch, dinner and beverages, in addition to exceptional prizes and great networking opportunities with prominent local businesses. The top teams from the 2017 Golf Classic are as follows:

1st Place Team: Ward International

2nd Place Team: Hub International

3rd Place Team: R&S Paving & Grading

4th Place Team: Sweat Tire

Closest to the Pin: Taylor Renfroe

Longest Drive: Van Thigpen

"They [Baldwin County Education Coalition] are such a great partner," said Shannon Cauley, president of Baldwin County Board of Education. "They advocate for education, and we can't thank them enough for all that they do for the Baldwin County School System."

Proceeds from the annual Golf Classic have helped strengthen the Coalition's programs and services. This year, the Coalition has focused on a grant to Impact 100 to support the Guided Reading Initiative, a researched-based instructional process that meets the needs of ALL students by teaching in small groups. It also provides quality resources to get students engaged and excited about reading. Additionally, the Coalition is leading a Community Engagement initiative across the county to assist the Baldwin County Board of Education in updating the school systems Strategic Plan.

"The business to school system relationship is so important," said Tommy Faust, Chairman of the BCEC board of directors. "Garnering support and getting input from the business community [is important] because they are the future employers of our children. So, if we can form a partnership, it makes our community stronger."

As one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, there has never been a greater need for the Coalition's work to strengthen and grow, this fundraiser is crucial for them to continue informing and engaging citizens about issues concerning public education in Baldwin County.

"The most fundamental resource for building a strong local economy is great public schools – there's no greater strategy to accomplish the county's economic development goals" explains Terry Burkle, executive director of BCEC. "The product of our public schools will be the workforce that can attract new industry and sustain existing business."

About Baldwin County Education Coalition

The Baldwin County Education Coalition is an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan organization of public school advocates. We work together for systemic improvements and through seven local education foundations that serve communities across Baldwin's 1600+ square miles. Our strength is in the value we bring to our individual communities and our shared vision for creating world-class schools. For more information, visit betterbaldwin.com.

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