

# Long drive for charity

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FBR Open volunteers were selling \$4 hot dogs and \$6 beers last weekend to more than 240,000 spectators at one of the oldest PGA tournaments in the country, but their efforts will go far beyond the golf course.

The Phoenix Panhellenic Association and Special Olympics Arizona were two groups that worked concession stands to benefit their organizations and communities throughout the Valley.

One volunteer, Wendy Tobin of Tempe, worked a concession stand on Saturday and Sunday to help raise scholarship money for her Panhellenic chapter, a national group of sorority alumnae. "It just takes everyone contributing a little to make a difference," said Tobin, a Sigma Kappa alumna at the University of Georgia who stepped onto a golf course for the first time last year to volunteer.

On Saturday, Tobin worked at a concession stand next to the driving and putting ranges where PGA stars like Vijay Singh and Jesper Parnevik were only a few steps away. Dressed in a white polo shirt with an FBR logo, khakis and brown-tinted sunglasses, Tobin began her day at 6 a.m. - and didn't stop taking orders until about 5:30 p.m.

Linda Dreyer, Tobin's mother and chairwoman of the FBR for the Panhellenic volunteers, said the group had exceeded its goal of filling 1,000 six-hour shifts to raise scholarship money awarded to sorority members pursuing undergraduate, graduate and continuing-education studies.

She said 92 volunteers from Tempe had signed up to help.

The Thunderbirds, the tournament host, gave the Panhellenic group \$20,000 last year for providing about 600 volunteers. Dreyer said the group never discusses money beforehand, but she expects to have raised as much money this year.

"My philosophy is every time you receive something, you ought to give back," said Dreyer, who had one daughter who received a scholarship from Panhellenic. "Plus, it's a great place to be. The whole country is looking at Phoenix."

Besides working at concession stands, some volunteers helped drive golfers around or worked at an information booth in the tournament's "corporate village" headquarters.

Christina Blackwell, who works in Tempe as an assistant recreation coordinator at the Kiwanis Recreation Center, decided to volunteer on a Saturday to raise \$50 for the Special Olympics.

A total of \$150 was raised just for the Tempe Special Olympics, and one volunteer donated \$300 in tips she received while working at a beer stand.

"I have had a lot of opportunity in my life," said Blackwell, who said the lines at her concession stand's four cash registers were 15 people deep from noon until 4:30 p.m. "I feel like I should volunteer. I want to give back to the community."

Although Phil Mickelson, the tournament winner, won \$936,000 for playing four rounds of golf, The Thunderbirds usually donate millions of dollars to Arizona charities. Last year, the group gave more than \$4 million.

"I'm not that into golf, but I do this because it goes to scholarships," Tobin said.



Tempe resident Wendy Tobin (left) and Chandler resident Anita Faulkner volunteer at a concession stand during the FBR Open in Scottsdale. Tobin was raising scholarship money for her alumnae group.