

Ashe County Schools Endowment Golf Tournament Raises Funds to Support Innovative Classroom Learning

The Ashe County Schools Endowment Board hosted its annual golf tournament last week at the scenic Mountain Aire Golf Club, drawing tremendous community support to raise funds for classroom innovation. Thanks to more than 35 generous sponsors, nearly 25 participating teams, and a host of dedicated volunteers, the tournament was a tremendous success in advancing educational opportunities for Ashe County students.

Since its inception in 2003, the Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund has awarded more than \$151,999 in grants through over 110 educator proposals, helping fund creative and impactful learning experiences across the district. This year's event continued that tradition of excellence.

Special thanks go to:

- *Mountain Aire Golf Club* and owner *Phillip Shepherd* for hosting the tournament and contributing prizes.
- *Randy Marion Ford of West Jefferson* for providing a hole-in-one prize opportunity—an exciting chance to win a car—as well as additional giveaways. Appreciation is extended to Ashe County Board of Education Chair *Josh Roten* for coordinating with Randy Marion on these generous offerings.
- The *Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund Board*, district staff, *Keith Phillips* and *Nita Absher* for their outstanding work organizing, executing and cooking for the event.
- *Kelly Holleman*, Media Coordinator at Ashe County Middle School, for sharing the powerful impact of Endowment grants on students and classrooms.

Tournament Results:

- *First Place Team:* American Emergency Vehicles (Score: 52) – Sean Turnmire, Anthony Hamilton, Kenny Harless, and Jody Richardson
- *Second Place Team:* Westwood Elementary School (Score: 53) – Kevin Miller, David McNeil, Troy McNeil, and Steven Moody
- *Closest to the Pin Winners* (each received a Mountain Aire Pro Shop gift card): Mitchell Mash (ACMS), Robert Van Houten (Pierce Group Benefits), Tom Richardson (S.E.H. Construction/L&E Plumbing), and Ricky Brown (Carolina West Wireless)

The 50/50 raffle brought additional excitement, with winners *Natasha Parsons* of Parsons Farms & Supply LLC and *Mark Byrd*, Superintendent of Wilkes County Schools and Performance Services team player, generously donating their winnings back to support the cause.

A special shout out goes to *Brody E.*, an Ashe County High School student golfer who came closest to winning the hole-in-one car.

It was truly a “TEE-rific” day for education, filled with community spirit, friendly competition and unwavering support for local schools.

To learn more about the Ashe County Schools Endowment Board and its mission, visit asheschools.org.

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Photos/captions below and on next page:

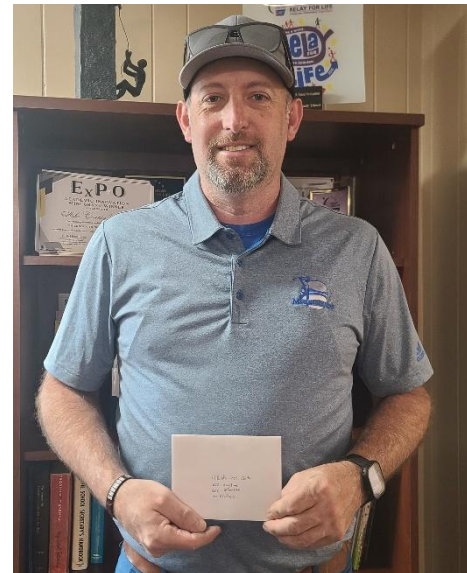


Mild weather and a beautiful course provided the perfect backdrop for a fun and successful day on the greens.



(Above, left): Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox shares the mission of the Ashe County Schools Endowment Board and thanks participants for their support, while ACMS Media Coordinator Kelly Holleman highlights how Endowment grants are bringing innovative classroom projects to life for students.

(Above, right): Morning golfers coming off the course and afternoon golfers arriving to play enjoy a delicious lunch, thanks to the many volunteers who helped prepare and serve.



(Above): Nearly 25 teams enjoyed a day of friendly competition and camaraderie, with the first-place honors going to the American Emergency Vehicles (AEV) team of Sean Turnmire, Anthony Hamilton, Kenny Harless, and Jody Richardson (pictured right), finishing with an impressive score of 52.