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Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast’s Pensacola March Madnezz Fundraiser is a Slam Dunk

Pensacola, FL, 3/28/2018 – On March 24th Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast’s Pensacola Club hosted their 2nd Annual Boys & Girls Club March Madnezz fundraiser at O’Rileys Irish Pub on South Palafox in downtown Pensacola.

“This was another huge success due to our corporate sponsors, Community Unit Board and the overwhelming support from the community to help fund our Club members youth development,” said Phil Higgins, an active member of Pensacola’s Community Unit Board.

The fundraiser included complimentary food and libations while featuring the 2018 NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball teams; Kansas State vs. Loyola IL and Florida State vs. Michigan.

Leslie Hunter-Huff, Executive Director – Escambia County and the MVP of the evening said, “Hundreds of children will benefit from the revenue generated from this event and it enabled the community to have fun while supporting youth development.”

There were several silent auction items to bid on, ranging from an autographed football donated by Green Bay Packer Donald Driver to seats in the Hancock Bank Club to see the Blue Wahoos play. There were no benchwarmers; the silent auction had everyone up and circling.

Kelly Gontarski, Community Unit Board member and March Madnezz Event Vice Chair Extraordinaire , “It is wonderful to see so many businesses and members of our community come out and support the mission of The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast. It is truly a party with a purpose!”

But, the real action happened when the live auction began. Barry Shackelford, an auctioneer from Gulf Shores, AL presided. Every guest made a full court press to show their support and make a financial pledge to help continue The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast’s mission.

“To enable all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.”

Verdell L. Hawkins, the Pensacola Club’s Community Board President, summed up the evening “In the end, it did not matter who won or lost, because everyone who supports The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast is a winner. We are grateful for the outpour of support by members of the community towards our local Boys & Girls Club. Our clubs provide a safe and nurturing environment where kids can thrive academically, emotionally, and psychologically. It’s heartwarming to know that others see this value and are willing to contribute financially to further these efforts.”

About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast is the premier youth development organization that began in 1968. Currently, The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast maintains eight Clubs covering three counties: Walton, Okaloosa and Escambia, serving over 3,200 youth annually.

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