

Sports

Dottie's House and Golf Perfect Together

BY JOSEPH MICHAEL
Sports Features

In the world of sports, perfection takes on many faces. On the baseball field for example, it is the no-hitter, the perfect game. In basketball, the three-point shot, when accomplished, is perfection and nothing could be more perfect to the bowler than twelve frames wherein twelve consecutive strikes result in a perfect score of 300!

Perfection on the golf course undoubtedly occurs when that elusive little white ball drops into the tin cup, resulting in a hole in one. All of these examples are ones that depict exciting moments for the individual who performs them, and for those who witness them. They occur, however, in situations in which people are competing in a game, and are either entertaining themselves or others. While they are dramatic moments, they are not part of the everyday reality of life.

An example of perfection as it occurs in everyday life is the ongoing battle that is waged everyday against domestic violence by the founders, caregivers, staff, and residents of Dottie's House, a transitional housing program that is located here at the Shore, and managed from offices located on Route 88 East here in Brick.

Carol Wolfe, who is the founder, Executive Director and Vice President at Dottie's House (named for her mother), began work on the project in 1998. In a recent interview she stated, "I began to notice a great increase in crimes involving domestic violence at that time and I decided that something had to be done." Armed with \$285,000 from Ocean County and \$1,000,000 from the State, Wolfe began her work that has resulted in a brand new facility that celebrated its first expansion with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, March 15th of this year. The facility has added eight 2 or 3 bedroom apartments where families who have suffered the injustice of domestic violence can begin to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives and dreams.

This process includes security monitoring, a professional staff on premises, domestic violence counseling, case management, support groups, job readiness training, self esteem training, financial management training, referrals, parenting classes, art and dance therapy, a playroom and, an enclosed play-

ground.

The program is funded through grants, foundations, and annual fund raising. The fund raising activities include an annual Golf Classic, and annual 5K Run/Walk, a Holiday Gala, and a Kids Helping Kids Coin Drive. Of all of these fund raisers, the Golf Classic is the most lucrative, and 2007 was no exception.

This year's edition of the event was held at the beautiful Eagle Ridge Golf Course on May 24th, and it exceeded all prior year's net profits. "This event has continued to raise more each year in support of Dottie's House since our first tournament that was held in 2000," Wolfe said as she thanked the tournament's two major sponsors New Jersey Natural Gas and Costanza Builders. Wolfe also thanked her other sponsors, along with NBC 4 meteorologist Chris Cimino, and home grown New Jersey Devil star Jim Dowd, both of whom were present at the event.

One hundred and thirty three (133) golfers played in this year's event and helped raise nearly \$100,000 for the benefit of Dottie's House. The benefits provided by the golf outing go beyond dollars and cents however, as several of the residents of Dottie's House volunteered to work on the day of the event, and were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who came out to help keep the doors of their home open.

The golfers, who played in the tournament, began that day with a barbecue steak lunch followed by a shotgun start. A dinner reception, awards ceremony and silent and live auctions ended the festivities. Some of the prizes auctioned off included an Eli Manning autographed football, a foursome at the Galloway National Golf Course, and a jersey signed by the entire New Jersey 2006 Hockey Team. The first place winners this year included Joe Carannante, Adam Cortese, Joe Mangiafico, and Joe Garruzzo.

Dottie's House is a much needed transitional housing program that is designed to help victims of domestic violence to regain their self respect, self worth, and put an end to the violence that had come into their lives. A great tribute is due to Carol Wolfe and to her Program Director Deborah Galletta for taking on a difficult task, meeting it head on and for making such a great difference in so many troubled lives.