



SPECIAL EVENT
 John Gurke, CGCS Aurora Country Club

**A Perfect Day:
 Outing Raises \$40,000+
 for Florian Children's
 Education Fund**

On Saturday, October 15, a golf outing was held at Fox Valley Country Club in honor of Derek Florian, the club's former superintendent and MAGCS member who was killed in an automobile accident on August 29. Derek's many friends conceived the outing in order to provide a "seed fund" for his children's education. Derek left behind his wife, Jennifer, who is expecting their son in February, and his 1-year-old daughter, Madeline.

What started out as a simple idea for a golf outing soon grew into an amazing display of love and respect for an individual who had been one of our industry's rising superstars. The outing featured lunch provided by Terry and Nancy Richmond (food service vendors at FVCC), dinner provided by Mike & Denise's Pizzeria and Pub, beer courtesy of Bill Niemi and Ralph's Place restaurant, and 18 holes of scramble golf on a beautiful fall day. The golf event itself, which was packed with 158 players, was an 18-hole, four-person scramble (with 6" cups to make things interesting), and featured numerous proximity events, three raffle holes, and a hole-in-one contest in which the winner had a choice of a new Ford Fusion sedan, Hummer H3 or Jeep Commander. Unfortunately, all three vehicles remained on the 11th tee long after the day was done, but it sure made things exciting nonetheless.

Such events don't just come together on their own, and there are too many people who assisted in its creation to name, but several really stepped up to the plate in bringing the day to fruition. Huge thanks and many pats on the back go to Jeff Schmidt, PGA professional for the City of Aurora; Jim Pilmer, director of parks and recreation, Dan Anderson, Todd Schmitz and all the staff with the City of Aurora who were so generous with their time and resources; the aforementioned food and drink donors; the Fox Valley Park District for donating the Cool Acres facility where the group headed after golf; the car dealers who ponied up the fine wheels for the hole-in-one event—Fox Valley Ford, Woodfield Chevy/Hummer and Riverfront Chrysler/Jeep; the hundreds of individuals, friends, family members, golf clubs and businesses who

donated raffle and silent auction items to the event; and finally, to the folks who came out and enjoyed the day, either as golfers or as volunteers. And thank you, Tom (Derek's father), Jennifer and Madeline for coming out and being amongst all of Derek's many friends on this truly special day. All tallied, this event on this perfect day netted about \$43,000 for the Florian children's education fund—a number that far surpassed any of our grandest hopes! Rest easy, Friend.

