

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Benevolent Businesses Raise Big Green on the Green**

*Interfaith Housing Coalition's 7th Annual Golf Classic raises just over \$98,000 to Empower Homeless Families*

**Dallas, Texas (November 10, 2014)** - Local business leaders played at Bent Tree Country Club today to help homeless families as they graduate into a new lives of self-sufficiency. Interfaith is the only Dallas agency exclusively serving working poor families who find themselves homeless by providing transitional housing and transformative programs that take them off the streets and into new lives of hope. Over **26** local businesses joined in the effort led by Interfaith Board Chair, Brian Hegi of Prophet Equity, and Development Chair, Tyler Beeson of US Trust. Brian stated that it was not difficult for the tournament's sponsors to see the value in investing in Interfaith. He said, "Interfaith is committed to helping homeless families in a manner that produces real results. Our partners are aware of our commitment to provide a return on their investment. 88% of all families exit Interfaith employed with permanent housing, and 91% of graduates remained employed and in permanent housing one year post-graduation. As a result, Interfaith saves Dallas tax-payers approximately \$8 million a year. That return on investment resonates with our sponsors."

Interfaith graduate Shemika Hopson opened the tournament with a moving testimony about the difference Interfaith has made in her life and the lives of her two children. Realizing and admitting that she was actually homeless was Shemika's biggest challenge, but with Interfaith's help, she realized she was not at rock bottom but being allowed a fresh start. Shemika's time at Interfaith has resulted in new job, a new house, and a positive example for her children. "Interfaith helped me embrace this time of my life as one of change" says Shemika. Proceeds will go to ensure that more families like Shemika's receive the help they need to survive the crisis of homeless as well as the continued support needed to thrive through its Graduate Empowerment Program that provides 12 months of post-graduate coaching to ensure families remain on track.

Approximately 100 golfers participated in the annual tournament, presented by Prophet Equity, which included closest to the pin and longest drive contests, and a chance to win a Mercedes-Benz C Class from Park Place Motors. The Dallas Mavericks Dancers were also on hand for pictures with each team. The winners were Chapman and Cutler LLP, the foursome of **Dave Audley, Larry Halperin, Todd Patnode, and Michael Benz** (pictured left to right on attached photo) but more importantly, the graduates from Interfaith.

Sponsors of Interfaith's 7th Annual Golf Classic include: **Title Sponsor** - Prophet Equity, **Gold Sponsors** - The Hegi Family, Robertson, Grieger & Thoele, **Shotgun Start Sponsors** - Austin Industries, Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Crawford, Willis Insurance, **Putting Green Sponsors** - Blue Star Trading, PNC Bank, **Driving Range Sponsors** - Support Kids (CFAM), **Hole-In-One Sponsors**- CID Resources, Interstate Batteries, Trinity

Industries, Beverage Cart Sponsor- Perkins Cole LLP, and **Hole Sponsors**- Acton Mobile, AloStar Bank, Benchmark Bank, BDO USA, Bob Landers, CBRE, Chapman & Cutler, Hausz & Associates, PLLC, Jackson Walker, Sprock Capital Advisory LLC, U.S.Trust, Veritex Community Bank

**About Interfaith Housing Coalition**

Interfaith Housing Coalition was founded in 1985 and is recognized for its innovative, holistic housing and self-sufficiency programs that help nearly 100 working-poor, homeless families and their children each year. Interfaith's simple, yet effective program model, ***Stability+Self-Worth+Skills=Self-Sufficiency***, is accountability-driven and provides support services that include one of 49 apartment units owned by Interfaith debt-free; extensive financial education; job search assistance and career development services; nurturing after-school and summer programs for children and teens

As Interfaith embarks on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015, they are committed to helping 1,000 individuals (or 400 families) in Dallas to move out of poverty to long-term self-sufficiency by the end of 2015. For more information on our programs or how you can join the fight for family self-sufficiency, visit to [www.ihcdallas.org](http://www.ihcdallas.org) and/or call [214-827-7220](tel:214-827-7220).

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