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## **Chiera Family Foundation's N.I.C.K.'s Fiesta Gala and Golf Tournament Raises \$275,000 for Children with Cancer**

**BOCA RATON, FL** – Piñatas, sombreros, maracas, a Mariachi band and 380 guests attending in Mexican-inspired ponchos and colorful attire made for a festive night for N.I.C.K.'s Fiesta, The Chiera Family Foundation's annual fundraiser held at the Polo Club of Boca Raton on May 5, 2019. The gala was followed by the non-profit's annual Golf Classic held at the Old Course at Broken Sound on May 6 where 120 golfers enjoyed the day and some friendly competition.

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual gala was supported by sponsors and attendees who participated with their presence and hearts to support The Chiera Family Foundation's mission of providing summer camp attendance and college scholarships to children and youth who are battling cancer.

The Chiera Family Foundation began as a tribute to the family's patriarch Nick Chiera who passed away from cancer. The organization's annual event has since evolved into one of the area's largest fundraisers for children who battle cancer. The proceeds from the evening will directly support the foundation's four programs: N.I.C.K.'s (Nothing is Impossible for Cancer Kids) Camp where the foundation sends 150 kids to N.I.C.K.'s Camp at Camp Boggy Creek in Eustis, Florida, N.I.C.K.'s Scholarships for young adults to attend college, N.I.C.K.'s Golf, lessons

through The First Tee of Broward to teach kids who are undergoing chemotherapy how to golf, and Nick's Ice Skating funded through a grant from The Florida Panthers Foundation.

The evening was dedicated to the late Don Weidenfeld, a former Board Member and Trustee of the Chiera Family Foundation. Don's son Justin Weidenfeld spoke and presented a check to the Chiera Family Foundation for \$10,400 raised through his fraternity at the University of Florida. The Chiera Family Foundation awarded the first Don Weidenfeld Memorial Scholarship to Lauren Bendesky who is graduating this year from Washington University and will attend medical school next year.

Channing Ramsey, a former N.I.C.K.'s camper who is now a camp counselor, spoke and also sang for the crowd. Channing was awarded a scholarship in honor of Mike and Marie Bianchini.

With the proceeds from N.I.C.K.'s Fiesta, The Chiera Family Foundation has now raised over \$4 million to date for the cause. Over its 26-year existence, the foundation through its supporters has helped send 3,800 kids battling cancer to summer camp, provided over 32 college scholarships, sent over 80 children to N.I.C.K.'s Golf program and 12 to N.I.C.K.'s Ice Skating.

Event sponsors included Presenting Sponsor KSM Electronics as well as other foundations and companies including Summit Brokerage, The Bomar Foundation, The Rubin Family Foundation, Carousel Development Corporation, USI Insurance, Nancy Schroeder, Winner's Award Group, Institute of Career Development, The Florida Panther's Foundation, and Bacardi USA.

For more information about the Chiera Family Foundation, please call 954-480-8809 or visit [www.chierafamilyfoundation.org](http://www.chierafamilyfoundation.org),

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