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Bridge Volunteers Drive Home Another Successful Outing

Monday, May 15, 2006, Palatine, IL – All 120 participants in The Bridge Youth & Family Services FORE-TEEth Golf Classic came out a winner. Mike Hyde won the \$1,000 shoot-out. Mike Kabarec, Dave Lehr, Andy Mitzen and Ray Wilton were the top scoring foursome. The Bridge raised \$64,500 to provide crucial social services in Palatine Township and neighboring communities. However, the highlight of the Golf Classic was not the announcement of the top score or the winners of the auction items. The standing ovation went to Meghan, a well-spoken young woman who introduced herself as a recovering drug addict.

Meghan talked about how the drugs she tried in high school took over her life—devastating her relationships and school performance. She discussed how poorly she felt about herself and how much she knew she disappointed her parents. She relayed stories about how her mother looked at her and cried and how she realized she needed help. But her story took a positive turn when she discussed joining The Bridge’s substance abuse group at her local high school.

Working with a counselor and other programs in the community, Meghan created a successful, optimistic and drug-free life for herself. She was able to stand in front of a room of more than 100 people at the golf outing and eloquently tell her story. Meghan also plans to use her experience to help others before they get into trouble, by educating area high school students. The Bridge Adolescent Substance Abuse Program achieves a 70 percent compliance rate compared to the industry standard of 25 percent.

Co-chairs Tom and Liz Noe organized an enjoyable and exciting event with the help of the Golf Committee, corporate sponsors, Bridge staff and volunteers. Many thanks to the top-level sponsors: Harris Bank Palatine and Comcast.

The Bridge Youth and Family Services helps families stay together and be successful by providing parenting skills and education, counseling, youth advocacy (mentoring) and crisis intervention. Established in 1965, The Bridge is a comprehensive, community-based charitable organization serving youth ages 6–17 and their families in northwest suburban Cook County. For more information, visit www.bridgeyouth.org.

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The Bridge: Connecting children, families and community