35 Years of Golf, Giving, and Community! Wabash Rotary & United Fund Celebrate Another Record-Breaking Outing



Pictured: Members of the Wabash Rotary Club present a check to Wabash County United Fund following the record-breaking 35th Annual Rotary & United Fund Golf Outing.

Wabash, IN – Another year, another record, and plenty of reasons to celebrate! The 35th Annual Wabash Rotary & United Fund Golf Outing brought the community together on Wednesday, September 2, at Honeywell Golf Course for a day filled with golf, laughter, friendly competition, and giving back.

This year's sold-out outing raised a record-breaking $23,168 for Wabash County United Fund's 2027 Campaign. Since 1991, the fundraising impact from this annual event totals an incredible $288,407!

What began 35 years ago has grown into a beloved community tradition, thanks to the dedication of Wabash Rotary members, generous local businesses, golfers, and volunteers who continue to make the event possible year after year.

For Wabash Rotary, the milestone represents more than three decades of bringing people together through service, friendship, and a shared commitment to giving back. “Reflecting on 35 years of this golf outing, it is remarkable to see what can be accomplished through the continued dedication of our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and fellow Rotarians,” said Melvin Rennaker, Wabash Rotary Golf Outing Chair. “While the outing provides an enjoyable day of golf and fellowship, its greater purpose has always been to support the organizations that serve our Wabash County community. We take great pride in being a part of this longstanding tradition and appreciate the generosity and commitment of everyone who has contributed to its success year after year.”

"There's something pretty special about looking back at 35 years of this outing," said Kelli Dale, Executive Director of Wabash County United Fund. "I've enjoyed digging through old newspaper clippings and seeing how this tradition has grown over the years. Some of those stories go back a little further than I do! To see another record-breaking year and nearly $290,000 raised for our community is incredible. We're so grateful to the Wabash Rotarians and everyone who has helped make this event what it is today."

The outing welcomed 24 teams and featured plenty of opportunities for friendly competition, from longest drives and closest to the pin contests to hole-in-one prizes and fun games throughout the course. But the day was about more than golf. Twenty local agencies spent the

afternoon on the course visiting with golfers, sharing information about their services, and helping participants see firsthand the important work happening throughout Wabash County.

This year's anniversary also included a special moment of appreciation as Wabash County United Fund recognized longtime Rotarians who have helped build and carry on the outing's tradition. Commemorative golf blankets were presented to David Mann, Art Jasen, Tom Frank, and Larry Hoover in recognition of their years of dedication.

Looking back on the outing's beginnings, Mann recalled that the idea grew from a simple connection between golf and the local agencies United Fund supports. With 18 agencies involved at the time, he envisioned an 18-hole event where agencies could be out on the course sharing their work and their stories with golfers. The idea also reflected Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," and quickly gained the club's support.

Some of his favorite memories are the creative ways Rotarians made the day fun. During the first outing, a committee member who worked at the Plain Dealer had an old car he was trying to sell. The car became an unusual prize on the course; golfers who hit it with a shot could enter a drawing to win it. A golfer from the Container Corp team won the car, got it started, and drove it home. Mann also remembers years when rainy weather sent agency representatives into the cart barn, where golfers could still visit with them between holes. Those conversations helped agencies get to know one another and even sparked opportunities to collaborate. For Mann, "the stories are reminders that the outing has always been about both having fun and bringing people together around the work of local nonprofits."

The day's winning teams included:

- First Place: Sean Cline, Steve Shugart, Kyle Dubois, and Andrew Morekle
- Second Place: Marc Munson, Jeremy Bennigan, McKynzi Grayless, and River Kolb
- Third Place: Aaron Spring, Wayne Denger, Tim Hiser, and Patrick Sullivan



Sponsor Recognition

A special thank-you goes to Wellbrooke of Wabash for generously providing lunch for the golfers, along with the many businesses whose sponsorships, prizes, and contributions helped make this year's outing possible.

- Masters Sponsor: Baldwin Electric
- Golf Cart Sponsor: Chittick Insurance
- Putting Contest Sponsor: HR Ideas Unlimited
- Hole-in-One Sponsor: Shepherd's Chevrolet GMC of Wabash
- Drink Cart Sponsors: Bechtold Contracting & Grow Wabash County
- Lunch Sponsor: Wellbrooke of Wabash

Additional sponsors supporting this year's outing included:
5 Hour Energy • 950 Speakeasy Bistro • Anytime Fitness – Wabash • Autumn Ridge • Beacon Credit Union • Cetera Investors – Conner Hobbs • Clear Water Systems • Complete Glass Solutions • Conflux & Confluence • Crossroads Bank • Custom Magnetics • Downs Tandy Petruniw, P.C. • Edward Jones • Ford Meter Box • Gentry Well & Pump • Grain Systems Inc. • Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service • Halderman Real Estate • Heartland REMC • Honeywell Golf Course • IN Plain Dealer – David Nelson • Intrasect Technologies • J.M. Reynolds Oil • Josiah White's • MSD of Wabash County • Mosier's Tarps • Northwestern Mutual – David Mann • PaperWorks • POET • Rea Logan • Ruoff Mortgage – Jennifer Meyer • State Farm – Todd Adams • Terrell Realty • Vernon Health & Rehabilitation • Wabash Castings • Wabash County Museum • Wabash County Sheriff's Department • Wabash County YMCA • Wabash Fire Department • Weigand Construction • Wings Etc. •

Wabash County United Fund extends its appreciation to the Wabash Rotary Club, all 96 golfers, the volunteers who helped organize and run the event, the 20 participating agencies, the 39 hole sponsors, and everyone who helped make the day a success. 35 years, countless memories, and $288,407 raised for our community. Thank you for making every swing count!



Volunteers representing United Fund, Pathfinder Services, Grow Wabash County, and Ruoff Mortgage add to the fun with friendly competition at Hole 8.