Volunteer Project

Coastal Women’s Shelter

By: Brenden Garner
The Coastal Women’s Shelter (CWS) is a program that helps and protects abused women and children. Their Vision is to “eradicate domestic violence in the counties that they serve.” Their Mission is to “help families break the cycle of domestic violence and acquire the skills necessary to promote healthy family relationships.” The CWS is a free organization that has a 24/7 crisis hotline, safe house, and other important things to those in need. They also have an employment program for women who need jobs. The CWS can help women who struggle with childcare costs. Their job is not only to protect but also to provide food, shelter, and education for those in need. Without the CWS, many women and children would be homeless, starving, or worse, so they need community donations to help those in need in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico counties.

To learn more about The Coastal Women’s Shelter visit:  http://www.coastalwomensshelter.org/
I volunteered at the CWS Driving Out Domestic Violence Golf Tournament at Carolina Colours Golf Course in New Bern. The golf tournament was raising money for the Coastal Women’s Shelter.
My first job was setting up the Hole-In-One tent. The signage let the golfers know what they were going to win and it also kept the hole monitors in the shade.
Every now and then I had to go to the Club House and gather supplies or to start a new job. Before the tournament I had to sit and wait for all the golfers to sign in or register to play in the event.
Before the tournament started the announcers wanted to explain the rules to the golfers. They were also celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Coastal Women’s Shelter. The lady speaking is one of the shelter executives.
To get from hole 12 and back faster they let me drive a golf cart around the course. They had to explain the rules and how to operate the golf cart before I was allowed to drive.
For about 3 hours of the tournament I was one of the Hole-In-One monitors. I had to sit under a tent and check to see if any of the golfers made the 156 yard hole-in-one.
Some of the golfers offered me money so they could get the “hole-in-one” but some only asked for the yardage. Even though no one was able to get the new 2015 Ford Mustang it was fun watching them fail.
I was asked to help in many ways. During lunch they had me mark off when the golfers got their lunch and they also had me hand out Magazine Subscriptions.
For the tournament, the 9th hole was named the Leprechaun hole. If a golfer hit the ball into one of the Leprechaun hula hoops on the fairway they could get a prize with a donation to the CWS.
People or businesses could sponsor a hole by donating to the CWS. Since this was for a good cause I wanted to sponsor a hole too.
They announced the winners of the golf tournament at a banquet when it was over. They also had a raffle, so I handed the announcer the winning tickets and helped with the prizes.
At the end of my volunteer service, I took a photo with Carey Ashcroft who was my supervisor for the day. Mrs. Ashcroft is the CWS Fund Development Coordinator.
School projects are not always the greatest, however, this was actually really fun. I enjoyed helping people and donating for a good cause. It changed the way I look at people and the community and it also made me feel good inside. All of the people at the event were nice and they enjoyed the fact that I volunteered to help them. It’s great to know there is an organization like CWS helping people that are in need. If I have the chance, I will volunteer again.

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