

Community Supports Golisano's Children's Hospital



Madisen, center, with tennis legends at Madisen's Match

by Brian Johnson

The Fort Myers community continues to provide funding for Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. The support has come from all areas of civic life, from the tennis Pro-Am Madisen's Match to Baycross Christian Family Foundation.

Duane Chaney, one of the top tennis players in Fort Myers, has attracted some of the legends of the game in Tom Gullikson and Johan Kriek to support the cause at an annual fundraiser at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club. Duane's niece, Madisen, who has an inoperable brain tumor, is the inspiration for the event, and her singing each year upstages all the tennis stars!



Artist's rendering of the new hospital



CEO Jim Nathan, far right, with Baycross Christian Family Foundation



"There has been a tremendous amount of positives that have come about since Madisen's Match was started seven years ago," said Chaney. "My niece has gotten healthier, and we have done a great amount of good for the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation. To date, we have raised over \$225,000, and purchased several pieces of much needed medical equipment for the hospitals, including 5 Chemotherapy Chairs, 3 Vecta Distraction Stations, and 1 VGO Robot.

"Grab your Racket, and Make a difference!"

Those driving down Bass Road have seen first hand the building of the modern hospital.

"As the region's leading children's health care provider, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida has had a tremendous impact on families since opening its doors in 1994," said Kathy Bridge-Liles, Chief Administrative Officer of Golisano Children's Hospital. "What an exciting time as this legacy is carried into a new state-of-the-art facility.

Construction of the 300,000 square foot, seven-story tower is progressing successfully each day. Crews are moving rapidly, laying a deep foundation that will support the elevated structure. This phase is very important as it sets the stage for vertical construction.

"Renovations inside the existing hospital are also taking place, so there are many different components of the project that are in different phases of development. Completion is expected in the spring of 2017, but staff is reaching beyond those walls to provide much needed services to the community."

Lee Memorial welcomes financial contributions as well as volunteers. Please contact them if you are interested. ☪