

PRESS RELEASE



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Berkshire Golf Classic Raises \$36,500 for Berkshire Children's Fund *12th annual event sponsored by local and national businesses*

Canaan, New York – Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth held its 12th annual Berkshire Golf Classic on Thursday, July 16, 2009 in Valatie, New York. The fundraising event, sponsored by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., raised \$36,500 for the Berkshire Children's Fund, established to support innovative programming for at-risk youth. The annual golf tournament brings together civic-minded business and community leaders, their employees, clients, and others interested in supporting Berkshire Farm Center's vital work.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. is one of the world's largest insurance brokerage and risk management services firms. Although a global corporation, many of its various offices, including the one based in Albany, New York, are involved with local charitable organizations, such as Berkshire Farm Center.

Other major tournament sponsors included Eric Twombly, a Berkshire Farm Center Board member whose family has actively supported Berkshire for four generations, and Girvin & Ferlazzo, a full service general practice law firm serving clients throughout New York State.

"The real winners of our tournament are the youth we are better able to help, thanks to support like this from caring individuals and businesses like A. J. Gallagher & Co. and our other sponsors and participants," said Tim Giacchetta, Berkshire's president and CEO. "We are able to provide life-changing experiences for at-risk youth, who come here with little hope. As we help them grow stronger, they see a brighter future and often return to their homes ready to become productive members of their communities," Giacchetta added.

The event was held at Winding Brook Country Club in Valatie. After a brief rain shower as the tournament got underway, the skies cleared, and the golfers were treated to a bright and pleasant day of golf. A dinner and awards ceremony followed the tournament. The golfers also included some Berkshire staff members and students.

Berkshire Farm Center is a statewide, not-for-profit child welfare agency, founded in 1886. In addition to a broad array of community-based programs and services offered throughout New York State for thousands of children and their families, Berkshire also provides residential-based services. Its Residential Treatment Center, located on a 2,000 acre campus in Canaan, New York, serves hundreds of young men struggling with behavioral and emotional difficulties, family problems, physical and emotional abuse, and other problems each year. The campus includes an accredited Junior/Senior High School, therapeutic educational and recreational programs, and highly innovative programming offering life-changing experiences for youth and their families. www.berkshirefarm.org

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