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Golf tournament to benefit Conwell Center

The first Aaron Lewis Invitational Charity Golf Tournament will take place at the Crumpin-Fox Golf Club in Bernardston on Saturday, when golfers will vie for a range of prizes, while raising money for a community school.

Hilltown People

Laura Rodley



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Aaron Lewis, lead singer and bassist of the iconic band Staind, has lent his support — and name — to a golf tournament Saturday that will raise funds for Worthington's R.H. Conwell Community Education Center.

The day-long event, which kicks off at 10:30 a.m., will culminate with an musical performance by Lewis, the lead singer and bassist of the world-renowned band Staind.

Participants' \$500 entry fee grants them a round of golf with a cart, as well as a tee gift package, contests, lunch, a cocktail and dinner reception plus an evening concert featuring a performance from Lewis.

Before the tournament, there will be a \$50,000 shootout contest and putting competition.

Proceeds will benefit the nonprofit It Takes A Community Foundation.

The foundation was started by Lewis and his wife, Vanessa Lewis, who live in Worthington, to aid small towns facing financial difficulties. The foundation pitched in to help the R.H. Conwell Community Education Center in Worthington, a private elementary school created by townspeople after the Gateway Regional School District closed Worthington's elementary school due to budget cuts. The foundation has funded the school desks, books, school supplies and teachers' salaries.

"This year the tournament's proceeds will go 100 percent to the R.H. Conwell Community Education Center. Next year, it will go somewhere else," said Walter Fritz, a resident of Worthington and the event's coordinator.

Sandri Companies, a Greenfield-based energy company, which owns the Crumpin-Fox Golf Club, and Timothy Van Epps, who serves as president of both organizations, are also supporters of the school, said Fritz. "His wife, Wendy, came up to the school during an open house and was very impressed with what Vanessa and Aaron are trying to do," he said. Residents of Northampton, the couple have given their help by hosting the golf tournament.

Saturday's event schedule is as follows: 10:30 a.m., registration and warm-up; 11:30 a.m.,

\$50,000 Shootout Contest and Putting Contest; 11:45 a.m., lunch, courtesy of Zeke's Smokehouse Grill; 1 p.m., Shotgun Scramble Tournament; 6:30 p.m., Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction; 7:30 p.m. dinner and awards presentations; 8:45 p.m., acoustic music by Lewis.

As of Sunday 136 golfers have signed up and there's still a couple of openings, said Fritz. A nongolf package is available for \$250 for the event located on Parmenter Road in Bernardston. For information, call 1-800-943-1901 or visit www.itacf.org.