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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BOBBY NICHOLS FIDDLESTICKS CHARITY FOUNDATION
AWARDS \$480,000 TO LOCAL CHARITIES**

FORT MYERS – The Bobby Nichols Fiddlesticks Charity Foundation has awarded \$480,000 to three local charities to help at-risk children in Lee County.

The funds were awarded to Abuse Counseling and Treatment, the Children’s Advocacy Center, and Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS).

Fiddlesticks residents raised the money during the Nichols Cup Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament in February. The tournament and the foundation are named for Bobby Nichols, a Fiddlesticks resident and winner of 14 PGA Tour tournaments.

“Our goal is to make a difference for the kids in our community,” said Jack Rogers, tournament chairman. “We visit the charities we help and we hold them accountable for the funds that we give them.”

The Children’s Advocacy Center has been a recipient of the funds since 2003. Abuse Counseling and Treatment has received funds from the foundation since 2005. This is the first year that SWFAS has been selected as a beneficiary.

“We are very honored to be selected as one of the charities supported by The Bobby Nichols Fiddlesticks Charity Foundation and we’re looking forward to developing an ongoing relationship that will help kids in our community,” said Kevin B. Lewis, SWFAS CEO.

Lewis said SWFAS would use its \$70,000 share of the funds to develop prevention programming to help at-risk kids avoid the use of alcohol and drugs.

Substance abuse prevention was named as the number two priority by a Community Leaders Forum hosted by *The News-Press* recently. Construction of a new

Detoxification Center and Outpatient Treatment Center was the number one priority.

The Bobby Nichols Charity Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 2002, is a group of Fiddlesticks members known as the Pipers who volunteer to organize and run the Nichols Cup Celebrity Pro-Am Golf tournament. The mission of the Pipers and the foundation is to raise funds for local children's charities, while recognizing the golf legacy of Bobby Nichols. The Foundation has raised more than \$1.4 million since the tournament began five years ago.