

## September 11th & 19th, 2005: (Dallas, Texas Area)

Since the disaster of Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast 3 weeks ago, the entire country has come together to aid their fellow man in all sorts of ways. The Dallas, TX area shuffleboard players were no exception.

Park's Place Club in Garland, TX and The Island Club in Dallas, TX (both members of the Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association - GDSA) teamed up to sponsor a benefit to help the victims of this catastrophe.

On Sunday, September 11, Ann & Sam Parks opened their doors at 12 noon to the public as a drop-off point for donations of food, clothing and anything else that their customers and friends could carry in. Money was raised throughout the day by bidding on songs and singers on the Karaoke machine (including buying your way out of singing), live music donated by the Texas Blues Project, raffles on numerous donated items, and Car Bashing (knocking off a piece of car with a serious hammer). The kitchen staff also donated the profits made that day from food sales to the Red Cross, with items collected being turned over to the Salvation Army.

The following Sunday, September 19, it was Mike & Karen Blohm's turn to host their part of this event, a benefit tournament at The Island Club. This was a blind-draw, double elimination event with half of the amount collected in entry fees added to the donations already raised. In addition, Mike & Karen added a generous donation of their own to the Red Cross as well as to the tournament.

After several hours of intense and fun competition, first place honors went to host Mike Blohm and his partner Robert Hoffman, with second place going to Pam Lee and Sal Mancuso.

The total of monies raised are not yet available for this 2-day event because donations and pledges continue to come in on an almost daily basis. It is obvious that more donations will be needed in the future as victims try to rebuild their lives.

Meanwhile, our hats are off for these two dedicated couples for their effort to give help and support to people in distress. It is very reassuring to see how some business owners can give back to the community that they make their livelihood from, and that is what makes them family, as well.



(Above L-R): Karen & Mike Blohm Island Club Owners

- Submitted by Sal Mancuss