



**For Immediate Release**

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## **4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WESTLAKE BAJA BENEFITING WESTLAKE ACADEMY RAISES \$185,000**

October 3, 2012 (Westlake, Texas): On October 2, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Westlake Baja at Vaquero Club raised over \$185,000 to benefit the teachers and students of public charter school Westlake Academy. Dozens of sponsors and donors as well as over 250 attendees enjoyed “Big Break” style golf events and King & Queen of the Court format tennis events. “This event is an unbelievable collaboration with the school, Vaquero Club and local supporters who want to elevate public education in our community,” said Westlake Baja Chairman Rob Scott.

First place winners of the golf event were Troy Parker (male division) and Connie Wilmes (female division). First place winner in the tennis event was Carol Horton.

A highlight of the evening was Park Place’s Helicopter Ball Drop on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Of the 546 balls dropped (48 dozen), three landed in the hole. A pitch-off from the short grass decided the contest winner.

Westlake Academy students were able to participate by emailing or uploading to Facebook a “My Favorite Teacher” video prior to the event. Each video became an entry into a drawing for an iPad2.

Topping off the evening was a live auction with 17 items including: a Glenn Beck power lunch and behind-the-scenes TV show experience, a Texas Motor Speedway Suite for the NASCAR AAA Texas 500, original oil paintings by Trish Biddle, a 5-day Crested Butte condo get-a-way, an Adam Smith’s Harley Davidson ride for 6 to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, game day locker room and on-field experiences with the Colorado Rockies and Myrtle Beach Pelicans baseball teams, Dallas Cowboys executive packages and tickets, a London holiday experience, a 7-day trip to Casa Trilby in Zihuatanejo, Mexico and Vaquero club golf outings with former Texas Rangers pitcher Jose Guzman, NFL alumni Ray Mickens and professional golfers Todd Hamilton and Ryan Palmer.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the Foundation used Baja proceeds to award \$262,275 in grants to recruit 7 new teachers from countries including Great Britain, Mexico and Slovakia, to hire an additional Mathematics Support teacher, to provide tools and technology to engage students in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, and to provide 38 teachers with professional development opportunities around the world.

As the fundraising arm of Westlake Academy, the Westlake Academy Foundation provides over \$1 million annually for school operations, curriculum, teacher training, equipment and technology. As a charter school, Westlake Academy receives approximately 70% of state dollars, per student, of the average public school.

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### **About Westlake Academy Foundation**

Westlake Academy Foundation is an independent, non-profit 501(c)3 corporation whose purpose is to raise and receive contributions in support of the quality education at Westlake Academy. It was organized exclusively to provide operational and supplemental funds for educational programs and activities benefiting the students and teachers of Westlake Academy. Westlake Academy is located at 2600 JT Ottinger Rd., Westlake, TX 76262. Call 817-490-5757, visit [www.WestlakeAcademy.org](http://www.WestlakeAcademy.org) or email [SMyers@WestlakeAcademy.org](mailto:SMyers@WestlakeAcademy.org) for more information.