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3rd Annual Golf Ball Celebrates 25 Years of ECCO Serving the Community Two-day Fundraiser to Benefit Local Low-income Families

Charleston, S.C. (May 5, 2015): East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) announces the return of their annual Golf Tournament and Gala fundraiser, the Golf Ball. The two-day charity event will take place at the Daniel Island Club, with the Tournament on Tuesday, May 12 at 11am, followed by the Gala on Friday, May 15 at 6pm. All proceeds will directly benefit local families in need, supporting the organization's mission to "provide safety net services to our low-income neighbors, while empowering them to create a better future for themselves, their families and the community." The 2015 Golf Ball is generously supported by Roper St. Francis (*Presenting Gala Sponsor*), Nucor (*Presenting Golf Tournament Sponsor*), and Boeing (*Supporting Gala Sponsor*). Additional sponsors and media partners include Daniel Island Real Estate, MUSC Health, Adams Outdoor Advertising, Charleston Regional Business Journal, Digico Agency, and iHeartMedia.

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary year of ECCO, the 2015 Golf Ball will recognize the organization's ongoing service and growth since its creation after the devastation of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The Gala especially will emphasize this theme and "Hope Out of the Storm" by recognizing personal stories from ECCO clients. Stephanie Kelley, a long-time volunteer and supporter of ECCO, is serving as Chair of the Golf Ball for the second consecutive year. "I am once again honored to lead this charitable effort," Kelley said. "ECCO continues to play a critical role in the community for those who are less fortunate and in need of hope. The 3rd Annual Golf Ball provides a vehicle for hundreds of friends and supporters to demonstrate their commitment by helping this nonprofit to thrive and ensure its future stability." The Golf Ball will once again highlight the importance of "Giving Local" to emphasize ECCO's direct impact on the community and to encourage guests to support the local businesses that sponsor the nonprofit.

Thanks to Lexus of Charleston, Tournament players will have the chance to win a two-year lease on a brand new Lexus and other prizes. Attendance is expected to exceed 160 golfers, utilizing both world-renowned courses at the Daniel Island Club. Legendary long-drive champion Sean Fister is also participating to help raise additional funds for ECCO - golfers will have the chance to play from Sean's drive for a small donation. The Gala will feature a Silent Auction with more than eighty items and experiences, and a spectacular Live Auction led by benefit auctioneer, Tom Crawford. Live Auction highlights include: a Country Music Superstars Autographed Guitar, two roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines, a People's Choice Awards – red carpet viewing packaged vacation, a Classic Wrigley Field Rooftop Experience, an EZ Go Golf Cart, and more. Permanent Vacation, a Charleston-based band, will also return to entertain guests throughout the evening, and a Westbrook Brewing Company tasting station will offer guests locally made craft beer.

Golf Tournament registration is \$225 per player; \$1,200 for a Foursome and includes four Gala tickets; Gala tickets are \$100 per person for general admission; Patron Level Sponsor at \$500 includes four tickets and program listing; Table Sponsor at \$1,500 offers reserved seating for eight guests at one table with signage. All event proceeds will directly benefit ECCO's programs to serve families in need. Purchase tickets online at www.ECCOcharleston.org/GolfBall or call 843.416.7112.

East Cooper Community Outreach

The mission of East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) is to provide safety net services to our low-income neighbors, while empowering them to create better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. Founded in 1989 as an emergency relief effort after the devastation from Hurricane Hugo, ECCO strives to eliminate poverty in the East Cooper region, and focuses on three main program areas: Basic Needs, Health Services and Empowerment. More than 4,500 families a year receive emergency assistance for food, clothing, household furnishings and financial aid, and have access to dental and medical care, counseling, prescription assistance, health education, financial literacy classes, job readiness classes, and employment services.