

BARON ACADEMY IS THE BIG WINNER AT FUNDRAISING GAME



Kristine Erice and Bill Penney of Marine Bank & Trust.



Bill Penney and Luther Robinson.



Will Armstead, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie, at the plate.



Jaime Chamberlin of SLC Commercial Realty & Development.



Team Orange.



Team Blue.

A lineup of local celebrities, including Jeremiah Baron of Baron Real Estate, former NFL players Yamon Figurs and Luther Robinson II, Lynette Marraffa of the Treasure Coast Business Summit, St. Lucie Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff Brian Hester, Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie CEO Will Armstead, William Talley of Marine Bank, and many others formed two softball teams and competed to raise funds for the Baron Academy for differently-abled learners.

Right off the bat, students of the Academy stepped onto the field at Port St. Lucie's Clover Park to greet their fans. School ambassador Dylan Erice tossed out the first pitch following the presentation of colors and a fife and drum performance by Fort Pierce Central High School's Jr. ROTC.

Premier sponsor Marine Bank and Trust President/CEO Bill Penney presented \$5,100 to Academy Director Kristine Erice. "I would like to thank William Talley and Bill Penney of Marine Bank for sponsoring and organizing this fantastic event to help raise Autism Awareness in the community. We were so honored that they chose us to be the recipient of the funds raised, and we really appreciate their support of our school and our amazing students," said Erice.

Seven lively innings kept players on their toes with a few errors, lots of base hits, RBIs and even a couple of inside-the-park home runs! And, although one team eked out a 2-run win in this very competitive game, the Academy kids took home the BIG win.

Country music star and Vero Beach native Jake Owens made a surprise appearance via videotape shown on the scoreboard jumbotron relaying his support for the Baron Academy and its mission "to provide a customized education for children with Developmental Disabilities in an accepting and nurturing environment."

For additional information, visit ExceptionalAcademyPSL.com/. ■

— CONTRIBUTED/MARYANN KETCHAM

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