

## Benefit to be held for MOHM's Place

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**By TIM JOHNSON**

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Sam's Club and the Iowa Blackhawks will team up to hold a fundraiser for MOHM's Place in conjunction with the Blackhawks' game against the Kansas Koyotes this weekend.

The event will begin with a tailgate party from noon to 4:30 p.m. at Sam's Club, 3221 Manawa Centre Drive, and finish up at the Mid-America Center, 1 Arena Way. Hamburgers, bratwurst and hot dogs will be available for purchase during the tailgate party, along with chips and pop.

A silent auction will be opened at Sam's and continued at the MAC. Doors to the arena will open at 6 p.m., and the game will kick off at 7:05.

The silent auction will offer 20 to 30 items donated by local businesses, said Tony Doremus, marketing and public relations manager for the Blackhawks.

Winners will be announced and items distributed after the third quarter, he said.

On the auction block will be a weeklong condo stay for two valued between \$1,200 to \$2,400, two \$250 gift certificates from Mouw Chiropractic & Spinal Rehabilitation Center, a \$250 voucher toward a cruise from Four Corners Travel, one night at Holiday Inn & Suites, a dinner-and-movie package from Quaker Steak & Lube and Star Cinema, dinner at Tish's Restaurant, 18 holes of golf at Bent Tree Golf Club, gift cards from various stores at Mall of the Bluffs and an ice cream freezer from Wal-Mart, said Jeannie Feller, outside business representative for Sam's Club.

The collaboration between Sam's and the Blackhawks began earlier this year, Feller said.

"We have been working with the Blackhawks all season," she said.

"They did something with us for the Children's Miracle Network; and their favorite charity is MOHM's Place, so now we're helping them with that."

"The idea started out fairly simple, and we were able to make it bigger than that," said Rhonda Letuli, advantage coordinator for Sam's Club.

MOHM's Place's construction project and operating costs led the Blackhawks to select the meal site as its charity for the year, Doremus said.

"We chose MOHM's Place, in part, because they're in the midst of building a new shelter."

Also, raising money is especially challenging right now for shelters, he said.

"Any fundraising we can do with the Blackhawks for MOHM's Place is a good opportunity," Doremus said.

Work is being wrapped up on construction of New Visions, a four-building complex at 1435 N. 15th St. that will include a bigger dining facility, men's shelter, transitional housing facility and office building.

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