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## ‘Bachelorette’ star Tyler Cameron in Tequesta Friday for charity event

By [Sam Howard](#)

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Tyler Cameron, the Jupiter native who shot to fame on the recent season of ABC’s “The Bachelorette,” is back in town this week. He’ll be at an event Friday in nearby Tequesta raising money for the Pearl Mae Foundation.

[JUPITER](#) — A Jupiter-based nonprofit expects a big turnout for a fundraiser it’s hosting Friday.

The headlining attraction? Tyler Cameron, the Jupiter native who became a fan favorite on the most recent season of ABC’s “The Bachelorette,” will be on hand for [the Pearl Mae Foundation’s Sips for Scholarship](#) event Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Josco Bar and Oven in Tequesta.

“This is going to be pretty big,” said Lauren Sullivan, the foundation’s executive director. “I’m saying, ‘Wine, cheese and Tyler C.’”

The foundation helps low-income seniors in the area by providing them with grants of up to \$500 so they can meet needs related to their health and well-being.

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For some seniors, that might mean assistance with a health insurance co-payment, Sullivan said. For others, maybe they need a hand in paying their power bill, she said.

“It just upsets me to see somebody fall through the cracks,” Sullivan said.

Cameron, 26, has close ties to the organization. The former Jupiter High football standout said he’s known Sullivan’s fiancé, Zachary Finnel, since they were young.

Finnel’s mother, Debbie Finnel, founded the organization, named after her grandmother, Sullivan said.

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Part of the foundation’s mission includes offering \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors and graduate students who want to pursue healthcare-related jobs. Since 2017, the foundation has awarded about \$42,000 to students, Sullivan said.

The event Friday — featuring live entertainment, wine and cheese tastings and a silent auction — will raise more money for scholarships. It’s a cause Cameron said is worth backing.

“The Pearl Mae Foundation is doing a lot of great things,” Cameron said. “They’re creating a lot of opportunity for the youth. That’s something I stand by and support.”

Recently diagnosed with cancer, Sullivan said she’s experienced firsthand the value of investing in students pursuing careers in health care.

“These are the nurses and doctors that take care of me,” Sullivan said.

She expects a crowd of about 150 people and said Tuesday afternoon that there were about 50 tickets left for sale. VIP tickets, costing \$80, were available for purchase on the foundation’s website Wednesday. Josco is located at 157 U.S. Highway 1 in Tequesta.

Sullivan, 25, thinks of Cameron as a friend who used to drop by and hang out, but she acknowledged his recent rise to fame.

He attracted an intense, nationwide fanbase during his time on “The Bachelorette” that did not wane even after season lead Hannah Brown broke it off with him in the finals that aired in July.

“I don’t have googly eyes but everyone does,” Sullivan said.

The show also gave Jupiter some national exposure. Cameron took Brown on a hometown date for one episode. They met at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, boated on the Loxahatchee River and danced at Square Grouper Tiki Bar.

Cameron said this week marks the first time he’s been back in Jupiter since July, when he held a group run at Carlin Park.

“I’m hoping I can spend some more time here,” he said, adding that he’d like to have more time with loved ones, particularly his potcake dog, Harley.

Cameron’s soft spot for helping kids fits well with the Pearl Mae Foundation’s scholarship program, she added.

He agreed, noting his involvement with ABC Food Tours, a company that works with sponsors to take underprivileged children in New York City on food and fitness excursions and spark their interest in potential career paths.

“It really fits all my ideals,” Cameron said of the Pearl Mae scholarship campaign.

The reality TV star will likely make a quick speech and mingle with guests, Sullivan added.

She said she hopes the event puts “ourselves on the map in Palm Beach.”

“This is great hype,” she said. “This is huge for us. We’re just a little mom-and-pop charity helping our seniors and students.”

[showard@pbpost.com](mailto:showard@pbpost.com)

@SamuelHHoward