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The First Tee of Connecticut is an initiative of the Connecticut Golf Foundation, Inc.

The First Tee of Connecticut is incorporated under IRS Rule 501 (c) 3 as a non-profit, tax-exempt entity.

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FALL 2009 — VOLUME 11

CWGA & SNEWGA WOMEN TEAM UP TO BENEFIT THE FIRST TEE OF CONNECTICUT

On September 8th, the Connecticut Women's Golf Association (CWGA) and the Southern New England Women's Golf Association (SNEWGA) joined forces in a charity golf invitational to benefit The First Tee of Connecticut at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. Liz Janangelo, Ladies Professional Tour player and West Hartford resident, was also in attendance as a guest of both organizations, hitting a tee shot for each foursome and taking pictures.

This was the first time in the two organizations' histories that they had



CWGA & SNEWGA members with Liz Janangelo (c)

worked with one another to benefit a charity. "This was a perfect opportunity for the golfing women of Connecticut to come together to benefit TFTCT," says Roberta Massey, past CWGA President and current Board Member of TFTCT. Linda Woods, TFTCT and SNEWGA Board member adds, "The TFTCT youth program is unlike any other, teaching from a curriculum based on Nine Core Values including honesty, integrity and respect. I don't know of a better vehicle than golf to teach children these principles."

"It is an honor and privilege to work alongside SNEWGA and CWGA in raising funds to benefit The First Tee of Connecticut," says Ms. Janangelo. "From the time I was 11 years old, both women's organizations have been extremely supportive in my pursuit of a golfing career."

The First Tee of Connecticut is grateful to Liz Janangelo and these two great organizations for their support and we look forward to continued success with this event in the future.



The Flomax Putting Challenge at the Travelers Championship

FLOMAX PUTTING CHALLENGE

In exchange for providing volunteers for their promotional event during the Travelers Championship, Flomax made a \$5,000 donation to TFTCT. These volunteers, many of whom were TPC River Highlands members or parents of TFTCT members, worked two hour shifts Wednesday through Sunday running a putting contest for Travelers Championship patrons. Each volunteer was then given a day pass for the event following his or her shift. Thank you to Flomax and all of the volunteers who helped make this donation possible.



TFTCT members meet PGA TOUR pro Stuart Appleby as Tournament Director Nathan Grube looks on

Travelers Championship & The First Tee of Connecticut – A Great Twosome

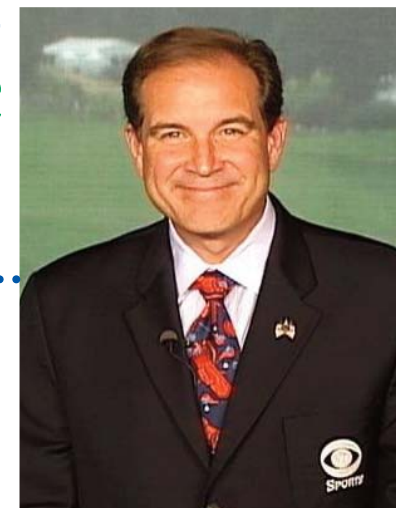
Since its inception, The First Tee of Connecticut and the Travelers Championship have had a terrific relationship. Over the years TFTCT members have participated in many functions related to the state's only PGA TOUR golf tournament. "The Travelers Championship week is always one of the highlights of the season for our members", says Ian Baxter, TFTCT's Director of Programs. "There are so many activities during the week, both golf and non-golf related, and our kids always have a blast."

TFTCT and the Travelers

Championship is a strong partnership.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

CBS Sports Commentator Jim Nantz recently filmed a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about The First Tee of Connecticut. You can see the PSA in its entirety at www.thefirstteect.org.



"Hi, I'm Jim Nantz. Golf is more than just a game – it's the game of life. Each year The First Tee of Connecticut teaches more than 50,000 kids right here in our state, the value of life through the game of golf. Golf teaches integrity, sportsmanship, respect and more. Support The First Tee of Connecticut – I do. The First Tee of Connecticut – together, we change lives, one swing at a time."

MESSAGE FROM The President

A Decade of Successful Programming

We will meet this year's economic challenge, thanks to our base of loyal supporters and a number of new benefactors. More than 85,000 Connecticut youth since 1999 have been introduced to golf and The First Tee Nine Core Values through our unique programs. It is due to the overwhelming generosity of our patrons that we will continue to make a positive impact on the youth of Connecticut.

In reference to our growth, I am struck by the number of youth who have participated in our program for more than five years. Many of them are now furthering their education and on their way to completing college. It is heartwarming to hear that many of them attribute much of their success to the Life Skills lessons they experienced with The First Tee of Connecticut.

We are looking forward to our next decade of growth beginning in 2010. As a supporter of The First Tee of Connecticut, CBS Sports Commentator Jim Nantz says in a PSA, "Golf is more than just a game – it's the game of life. Together, we change lives, one swing at a time."

I invite you to support The First Tee of Connecticut in 2009. As a non-profit organization, your support is very important to the kids in our program. For every \$100 we receive, 8 school-aged children have an opportunity to participate in our seven-week Group Lessons program. Please consider making a donation today to The First Tee of Connecticut using the enclosed envelope.

Thank you,
Bruce Wilson,
President and CEO

Great Twosome continued

“Being able to work with The First Tee of Connecticut is a privilege,” says Tournament Director Nathan Grube. “It is inspiring to see the lives that are changed through the curriculum and programming that they run. We are proud to be a partner.”

TFTCT would like to thank the Travelers Championship and its sponsors for their hospitality in making this annual event one of the highlights of the summer! Some of the events in which TFTCT members participated are listed below.



Dennis Walters performs his show in front of TFTCT members during Travelers Championship Family Day

Family Day

On Tuesday, June 23, The First Tee of Connecticut once again brought hundreds of children and parents to the Travelers Championship Family Day. There were several activities during the day

including lessons from local CT Section PGA professionals, autographs from PGA Tour players, a show by trick shot artist Dennis Walters, and more.



Women's Day, sponsored, in part, by the ING New England Golf Classic.

Scholarship Presentations

During Family Day, three TFTCT members (Chris Wall, Chris Bussiere and Brian Barrington) were presented with college scholarship awards. Wall and Bussiere were awarded \$1,000 each through the William P. Lyons Scholarship, while Barrington was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation.

Junior Pro-Am

By fundraising through the Birdies For Charity program, four TFTCT members (Arthur Ouimet V, Garrett Tougas, Ben Goldman and Casey Johnson) earned the opportunity to play in the Travelers Championship first ever Junior Pro-Am. A total of 36 children played in the nine-hole tournament at TPC River Highlands with a PGA TOUR player on Tuesday night of tournament week. In the reception following the tournament, all TFTCT members expressed what a great thrill it was for them to play the course and also get to know the PGA professional. One member even noted that he planned on being back there in a few years as a Travelers Championship participant!

The Travelers Experience

Three TFTCT members (Kyle LaPorte, Gabriela Rizzo-Velez & Grace Berry) earned the opportunity through the Birdies For Charity fundraiser to have a behind-the-scenes tour of the Travelers Championship. This tour was conducted by Tournament Director Nathan Grube & Andy Bessette, EVP and CAO of Travelers. Messrs. Grube &



L to R: TFTCT Director of Programs Ian Baxter with scholarship winners Brian Barrington, Chris Wall and Chris Bussiere

Bessette introduced the members to several PGA TOUR players, showed them how the tournament worked and arranged for them to be interviewed by the local media. By the beaming smiles on the kids' faces afterwards, it was obvious that they all had a great time!

Caddying During Celebrity Pro-Ams

On Monday and Wednesday of tournament week, several TFTCT members once again caddied in the Pro-Ams. TFTCT members caddied for several big names including PGA TOUR pros Brad Faxon and David Toms and other celebrities such as coach Bill Belichick and ESPN's Chris Berman.



TFTCT members Chris LaBonte and Ahmad Jordan with PGA TOUR professional David Toms

Inside the Ropes

TFTCT member Allen Hansrisuk was given the opportunity to walk inside the ropes with a group of PGA TOUR professionals during the Tuesday practice round. You can read a first-hand account of Allen's experience on page 3 of this newsletter.

HYPE's "Tee It Up for Charity"

The Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE) recently presented The First Tee of Connecticut with a check for \$7,000, which was raised at their first ever "Tee It Up for Charity" event. This event was held Thursday, June 25 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell after the first round of the Travelers Championship.

Tee It Up for Charity festivities included a three-hole mini golf tournament, live music by the Brian Jarvis Band, a silent auction and Wii golf. Over 250 young professionals from the Hartford Region took part in this fundraiser.

"It's inspiring to see HYPE members come together to support the great work of The First Tee Connecticut, and we couldn't have done it without the overwhelming support of the Travelers Championship," Julie Daly, HYPE Program Manager, said. "We'll definitely be strengthening our partnership over the next few years."

HYPE works to position the region as an attractive place for diverse young professionals and entrepreneurs to live, work and play. It is made up of young professionals in their 20s and 30s from the Hartford region and is supported by MetroHartford Alliance investors. HYPE is an initiative of the MetroHartford Alliance. You can visit their website at www.hypehartford.com.



L to R: Julie Daly, Nathan Grube, Oz Griebel and Andy Bessette enjoy the festivities at the HYPE party



Past Greater Hartford Open Champion Olin Browne speaks on behalf of The First Tee of Connecticut

Patrons Breakfast

On Saturday, June 23rd, The First Tee of Connecticut held their third annual Patrons Breakfast at The First Tee of Connecticut Learning Center in Cromwell.

This fundraiser, sponsored in 2009 by St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, takes place each year on Saturday of the Travelers Championship.

Master of Ceremonies Scott Gray, from WTIC Newstalk 1080, led the festivities.

Guest speakers at the breakfast included PGA Tour professionals J.J. Henry & Olin Browne, CT Section professional Suzy Whaley and TFTCT scholarship winner Chris Bussiere. Each spoke about their personal experiences with The First Tee of Connecticut and the

impact it has made on both their lives and on children throughout the state.

Bruce Wilson, TFTCT's President & CEO,

surprised the crowd with an announcement that an anonymous donor had pledged \$10,000 in a challenge grant through the Hartford Foundation for Public

Giving. In addition, TFTCT's new media partnership with WFSB TV3 was announced (see page 3 for more details).

Following the breakfast ceremonies, several TFTCT Team members and dignitaries hit a ceremonial tee shot on The First Tee of Connecticut short course. Special thanks to Suzy Whaley and Gary Reynolds for their impromptu lessons for the beginners. By all accounts the Patrons Breakfast was a successful event, raising more than \$20,000 for The First Tee of Connecticut.



J.J. Henry signs autographs for TFTCT members at Patrons Breakfast

Charity BEGINS ON THE GOLF COURSE

To bring our programs to the thousands of children who participate each year, The First Tee of Connecticut relies on many supporters throughout the state and beyond to help fund its initiatives. In 2009, The First Tee of Connecticut once again conducted two major development efforts: Charity Golf Invationals and the Annual Giving Campaign.

Charity Golf Invationals

In 2009, The First Tee of Connecticut hosted three Charity Golf Invationals. The tournament dates and locations were as follows:

July 13 New Haven Country Club
July 27 The Xerox Invitational at Rockrimmon Country Club

September 8 TPC at River Highlands

TFTCT also helped conduct a new event in partnership with the CWGA & SNEWGA (see page 8). In total, these tournaments raised a significant portion of our statewide program costs. Next



Bridgeport Team members and UCONN Golf Coach Dave Pezzino (back row – second from left) at Rockrimmon CC.

year's Charity Golf Invationals are scheduled for the following: Race Brook CC (August 2), TPC River Highlands (September 7) & Stanwich CC (September 21). The First Tee of Connecticut would like to thank all of those corporations and individuals who supported our Charity Golf Invationals.

2009 Annual Giving Campaign

The First Tee of Connecticut is running its fourth Annual Giving Campaign. Supporters are offered the opportunity to contribute at one of several giving levels. As of printing, more than 350 people have contributed to this year's Annual Giving Campaign. All 2009 supporters will be listed in the Spring 2010 newsletter and on the TFTCT website.

Outside Events on behalf of TFTCT

In 2009, TFTCT was fortunate to have several individuals and/or groups actively raise funds and awareness for our program. Some of these events are listed below:

Final, Final Open

Started in 2007, this tournament was established to honor the memory of Thomas Altmann. In 2009, The Final, Final Open was held on June 8th at

Glastonbury Hills Country Club. In three years, this tournament has raised close to \$55,000 on behalf of TFTCT. Special thanks go to Dan Keller, Bill Carbone and Dr. Paul Bocciarelli of Dish Bar and Grille for all of their hard work in putting this event together each year.



Final, Final participants enjoy the day at Glastonbury Hills CC

Interfaith Golf Open

For the last two years, a portion of the proceeds of this event has been designated to The First Tee of Connecticut's Learning Center in Cromwell. This tournament is a joint project between Congregation Adath Israel of Middletown and St. Mary's Parish of Portland. It is the only known inter-district, inter-faith charity tournament in the state. Held in August, this year's event attracted more than 150 golfers and raised more than \$75,000 in total.

Other Fundraisers

Several other events were run this past summer with a portion of the proceeds going to support TFTCT. These include the "Swing for Charity" outing run by the CT Club Manager's Association at Tamarak CC, the Harry Nowobilsky Memorial Celebrity Tournament at Tallwood CC, the Mayor Stewart Golf Outing at Stanley GC, the "I'm Not Leaving Connecticut" Tournament at Silvermine CC, the NFL Alumni Outing, the MasterCard Employees Outing, the Dogg Day Outing for the Andrew K. Dwyer Scholarship, and the SNEWGA-Betty Boyko Memorial Scholarship Tournament at Indian Hill CC. The First Tee of Connecticut would like to thank all of the people who have so generously supported us this past season through these events.

Inside the ROPES of THE FIRST TEE OF CONNECTICUT

By Allen Hansrisuk

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to be an honorary observer during the Traveler's Championship. At first, I was somewhat confused as to what being an honorary observer actually meant. Later on, I realized that it meant that I got to walk inside the ropes with a randomly assigned group. I didn't think I'd have as much fun as I did because I was almost positive I'd end up with a group of three pros who I wouldn't recognize. However this was not the case. I got extremely lucky and ended up in a group with Zach Johnson, Scott Verplank, and Jerry Kelly.

Right off the bat, I was excited to see how the round would unfold. Being so close to the pros, I heard things that people outside the ropes would never hear. I got to hear how the pros and caddies use each other to make decisions

on where to aim and what club to hit. What was surprising to me was the fact that the pros were actually pretty down to earth people. Although they may be professional golfers, they're still people like you and me. A few times I heard them talk among each other about how their travel was and what restaurants in the area are good. Their discussion made them seem so relaxed even though I knew that in a situation like this, they are all under extreme pressure to play well.

We weren't required to stay with a group for the whole round but I did. I didn't want to miss a single shot. I got to watch



Allen (R) with Coach Perry at the Hartford Team Banquet

some great golf and at the end of the round, after the players left the scoring area, Zach Johnson signed the ball he played with and gave it to me. All in all, it was a great experience and I am grateful to The First Tee of Connecticut for giving me this opportunity.

WFSB TV 3 BECOMES MEDIA PARTNER

This past summer, WFSB TV 3 and The First Tee of Connecticut agreed to team up for a comprehensive, two year marketing and youth programming partnership. This agreement has provided TFTCT with 30-second TV promotional spots to be aired at different times, in-kind air time each year on Channel 3, and various public relations support on special events



and programming during the season.

The first 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) featuring former UCONN & NBA star Donny Marshall

was played for the first time at TFTCT's Breakfast Tee in June. This PSA, which also contained footage of TFTCT programming, was broadcast by WFSB TV 3 during its Saturday evening Travelers

Championship special. Following the breakfast, renowned CBS Sports Commentator Jim Nantz recorded two more PSAs for TFTCT. These were eventually broadcast over the Independence Day weekend on WFSB TV 3 statewide.

TFTCT has agreed to provide youth programming, both on-site and at our Cromwell Learning Center, to the Channel 3 Kids Camp. TFTCT is also recognizing WFSB TV 3 as a sponsor in all of our materials. The First Tee of Connecticut would like to thank WFSB TV 3 for their wonderful support and we look forward to a great relationship moving forward.

Teeing It Up; 2009 Program Review



In 2009, The First Tee of Connecticut continued to expand its reach within Connecticut through four core programs: In-School Instruction, Group lessons, Teams & Travel Teams. 2009 also saw the opening of the new 4-hole short golf course adjacent to TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, where hundreds of children now participate in The First Tee of Connecticut program. As you will read below, TFTCT was just as active as ever in impacting the lives of Connecticut children.

In-School Instruction

For the sixth consecutive year, The First Tee of Connecticut conducted extensive golf and life skills programs in schools throughout the state. From January to April, over 43,000 children from 100+ schools in eight cities or towns (Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury, Hartford, Cromwell & Rocky Hill) participated in this free program for the children. The primary goal of the school program is to introduce thousands of children to the game of golf and The First Tee's Life Skills Experience, while also informing them about upcoming TFTCT programs in their area. TFTCT would like to acknowledge



Coach Tom teaching in the In-school Instruction Program

the Travelers Championship and the PGA Tour for their financial support with this program. See the Spring 2009 newsletter for a more detailed summary of TFTCT's In-School Instruction program.

Group Lessons

In TFTCT's Group Lessons program, which were conducted in the spring, summer and fall, children received golf instruction in classes with no more than an eight-to-one student/instructor ratio. The lessons were taught by PGA professionals or other qualified instructors at over 15 different golf courses and facilities throughout the state. The classes met once/week for five to seven weeks, during which time the participants were taught the fundamentals, rules and etiquette of golf along with a curriculum of life skills. Children were



There's nothing more important than a proper grip!

able to advance levels according to TFTCT guidelines (Par, Birdie, Eagle). In order to advance a level, each participant was required to pass both written and demonstration tests covering golf, etiquette and life skills. In 2009, the Group Lessons program was conducted in several cities including Danbury, Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, Stratford, Waterbury, Prospect, Hartford, New Haven, Madison, East Granby, Cromwell and



Members of the Hartford Team warm up prior to a match

more. The nominal fee for the Group Lessons (\$2/class in most cases) was waived for those in need and for select organizations whose children participate.

A major component of the Group Lessons program is the teaching of The First Tee's Life Skills Experience. The Life Skills Experience is one of the unique features that separate The First Tee from many other junior programs. The teaching of life skills is used to further enhance and instill the

values of the game of golf and show participants how these values transfer into other aspects of their lives. The First Tee Life Skills Experience is based on a set of Nine Core Values: Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Courtesy, Judgment, Confidence, Responsibility and Perseverance. In 2009, over 3,000 children participated in at least one TFTCT's Group Lesson



Coach Ted gets the kids loose prior to Group Lessons class

session (spring, summer, fall), with many children participating in more than one session.

TFTCT Teams

In 2009, over 350 children played for one of the TFTCT Teams in Norwalk, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, East Granby or Waterbury. This is an increase of more than 50 children from 2008. The growth of this program has enabled more children to play the game of golf while also learning more advanced life skills lessons.

Through the Group Lessons program, each Team participant must first certify at the Par level according to The First Tee guidelines and be able to show enough golf proficiency to get around the course in a timely manner. During the season, all Team participants are taught the Birdie or Eagle Level Life Skills Curriculum, which focuses primarily on goal setting and health/wellness.

Playing on a TFTCT Team gives each young person a chance to play competitive rounds of golf, meet new people and make lifelong friendships. Over the years we have seen noticeable improvement from our players, both on the golf course and in everyday life. At the end of the season, the children were evaluated on their Birdie or Eagle Level life skills knowledge as well as being

tested on specific golf skills. Those who successfully completed all requirements are prepared to move to the next level and continue next season. Congratulations to all of the participants who passed a level this year!



Former UCONN and NBA star Donny Marshall with Travel Team members at TPC River Highlands

Travel Teams

In 2009, TFTCT continued with its Travel Teams program. There were Travel Team members from four areas – East Granby, New Haven, Hartford and Waterbury. Each Travel Team match was comprised of a total of eighteen players from at least two different area Teams. The Travel Teams played 9 or 18-hole matches with each other at these courses throughout the state: Wethersfield CC, TPC River Highlands, Oak Lane CC, New Haven CC, Race Brook CC, Stanley GC & Tumblebrook CC.

This program was designed to bring TFTCT members from across the state together to compete at courses where most of them had never played before. TFTCT thanks all of the participating courses for their support and we look forward to expanding the program to more venues next season.

The First Tee's Life Skill Lessons

PAR LEVEL

- Welcome And Introductions
- Respecting The Rules
- Meeting And Greeting
- Having Fun While You Learn
- Staying Cool
- Finding Your Personal Par

BIRDIE LEVEL

- Dreams And Goals
- Stating A Goal That Is Important
- Stating Goals Specifically
- Setting Goals Under Your Control
- Getting To Your Goal
- Dealing With Challenges

EAGLE LEVEL

- Stay Well For Life
- Building A Go-To Team
- Appreciating Diversity
- Dealing With Conflicts
- Be A Go-To Person
- Planning For The Future