

## What our parents say...

“——  
First Tee has been an amazing introduction to golf for my child and our family. Thank you!  
——”

“——  
Our boys look forward to their golf lessons every week. Thanks to the coach 😊  
——”

“——  
We LOVE this program!  
——”

“——  
We love First Tee and highly recommend it to friends!  
——”

“——  
My daughter loves coming to golf with her friends and her amazing coaches  
——”

“——  
Excellent experience every time- what a beautiful program and pleasant coaches and workers! Gem!  
——”

“——  
This was an amazing experience and we look forward to doing it again.  
——”

“——  
Love this program. Thank you for everything.  
——”

“——  
My son loved it and we will be registering again next season.  
——”

2418 Silver Star Rd. Orlando, FL 32804  
407-618-1665  
firstteecfl.org



 **first tee**  
central florida

**2023 Annual Report**



## Our Mission

Our mission is to positively impact the lives of Central Florida youth by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

We are 1 of 156 Chapters Worldwide

We impact 100,000 of the 3.2 Million Young People reached each year by the First Tee Network



## Message from Brian Boone, Board Chair

Dear Chapter Stakeholders,

Growing up here in Florida, I was blessed with parents who provided an example of what it means to invest in the next generation, giving of their time, talent, and treasure. When I was asked to step up as the next Board Chair of First Tee – Central Florida, it was not a decision I took lightly, I viewed it as a duty and honor to give back through the game that has given me so much, and what I want for our next generation.

Our mission remains as relevant as ever. It is with sincere praise for everyone who made 2023 the success it was, for the reasons that matter most. Staying true to our five-year strategic plan, we welcomed a record number of kids and teens to the game of golf to teach life skills, strengthen character and deepen core values. Our Community Program, which brings First Tee – Central Florida to underserved and underrepresented communities, grew by six new locations. Retention of 10 – 14-year-olds, our most vulnerable population, rose again. Reaching populations where girls and boys are the first in their family to be introduced to the game of golf increased.

To the First Tee – Central Florida team of coaches and staff members, thank you for your tireless contribution to the kids and teens we serve.

To my fellow board members, to our donors and sponsors, be proud of your investment in our next generation, through the game of golf and First Tee – Central Florida.

Please enjoy highlights of 2023 on the ensuing pages.

Sincerely,



## Board of Directors

**Brian Boone**  
Chair  
**Stacey Oleck**  
Vice Chair  
**Jamie Walson**  
Secretary  
**Jessica Bessler**  
Treasurer  
**Harrison Babb**  
**Rene Blanco**  
**Brian Bruce**

**Laurie Burns**  
**David Meek**  
**Nadia Carmino**  
**Jerramy Hainline**  
**Dylan Hooper**  
**Rose Lajiste**  
**Nicole LaMontagne**  
**Brandon Lee**  
**Ashleigh Guerra**  
**Kenny Nairn**  
**Amy Wheeler**

## Advisory Board

<b>Thomas Bengston</b>	<b>Matthew Levine</b>
<b>Jason Douglas</b>	<b>Gabriel Lozano</b>
<b>Michael Dymond</b>	<b>Cristina Parson</b>
<b>Ron Gruninger</b>	<b>Peter Scott</b>
<b>Brandon Johnson</b>	<b>Chris Thurman</b>
<b>Jonathan Kearn</b>	<b>Adam True</b>
<b>Kevin Kroll</b>	<b>Beth Winkopp</b>

## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chapter Supporters,

Serving as your new Executive Director provided a year filled with purpose, passion and promises kept.

48 hours in, a coach arrived at our chapter office to retrieve sets of youth clubs and welcome goodie bags for the start of a new program session. He had a booming voice and a soft smile. I asked, "Phil, why do you serve as a First Tee Coach?" Without missing a beat, he responded with pride for the organization he represented and with resolute purpose, "Because I know I can make a difference. Just last week a student ran up excited to share what happened at school. 'Coach Phil! You know how you said I have the choice to be a part of a problem or a part of a solution? Today I chose to be a part of a solution by letting a teacher know a kid was being bullied and she stopped it!' Phil continued, "That's not always the case, but it is often the case."

Two months in I sought out First tee alum, Matthew Large, this chapter's very first student back in 2012. I wanted to know what Matthew gained as a First Tee student and what if anything transferred to his career. Matthew enthusiastically shared, "I enjoyed the visualization exercises about what I wanted for my future. I always loved cars and keeping that top of mind led me to discover my neighbor was a dealer who ended up being my mentor in the auto industry. I was taught goal setting which is still relevant as the owner of my own dealership." Matthew channeled his passion for what First Tee – Central Florida does for youth, taking it upon himself to locate a 15-passenger van our chapter needed to close the gap between kids wanting to be a part of our program and the lack of transportation. Matthew's passion for what First Tee did for him inspired him to donate the cost to transport the van from out of state, along with registration and tag fees.

A few months later I met a widow. She and her husband intended for their three daughters to grow up playing golf. I assured her it was not too late. This family was experiencing paralyzing financial strain due to the sudden loss of income and health coverage. Demonstrating how we break down barriers to get into the game of golf, the girls came to the office to be fitted for their sets of clubs and began their program free of charge. First Tee – Central Florida lived up to the promise that no family is turned away due to the inability to pay. Once a week these sweet girls experience another promise – to feel safe to learn.

To the families and communities we embrace and serve who find purpose in the programs we provide, thank you. To our supporters whose passion financially fuels our ability to keep our promises, thank you. To the First Tee – Central Florida team who delivers purposeful programs with unparalleled passion, thank you.

Together, we are Game Changers!

With gratitude,



## Thank you Chris Barley

Private Wealth Advisor, Chris Barley has been involved with First Tee before the inception of the Central Florida Chapter. As a First Tee Trustee, Chris committed to giving well over \$1,000,000 to the organization starting in 2012. To date, our Central Florida chapter has been the recipient of his generous giving, now exceeding \$500,000.

## Thank you Jerramy Hainline and NBC Sports NEXT

Jerramy Hainline became a First Tee – Central Florida Board Director in 2020. His conviction to make golf accessible and golf instruction affordable for all kids and teens in Central Florida is what drives Jerramy to connect our organization with businesses and community leaders who share his vision. Thanks to Jerramy, these relationships and his own generosity has now surpassed \$300,000 in giving to our chapter.





First Tee is a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, we create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do. We're Building Game Changers through our junior golf programs.

### From Filipe Gurjao- 2023 Coach of the Year

I began coaching at the First Tee in 2012 at the San Francisco chapter and got immediately connected with the purpose of the organization and the work with the children.

It was fascinating to see the engagement of the students and their happiness as they progressed and were able to hit "that" shot that we all know the feeling and that keeps us coming back.

At the First Tee Central Florida chapter, I am able to expand my involvement with the organization and spread my love of golf to many developing youngsters as well as instilling in them character building values that they can use for the rest of their lives.

After all these years involved with First Tee and seeing all the positive results, I am very motivated to continue sharing my love for the game and developing these youngsters into responsible citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of these girls and boys. ~ Filipe



Coach Filipe with a First Tee participant



## Staff

**Wanda Brewer Ickes**  
Executive Director

**Julie Leventhal,**  
Sr Dir of Programs & Operations

**Mike Coutu,**  
Finance Mgr and Equipment Donation Program

**Jimi Morotti**  
Program Coordinator

## Coaches

Jorge Arteta  
Lisa Coe  
David Chong  
Mariel Galdiano  
Phillip Geiger  
Ryan Gomes  
Andrew Gottlieb  
Filipe Gurjao  
Brock Hildebrand  
Megan Johnston  
Bretton Mackiewicz  
Doug Schafer

Tano Melatin  
Kyle Messina  
Natalia Mestre  
Sean Murray  
Jack Newman  
Aryana Persuad  
Jacob Ryan  
Raven Sanders  
Brian Skena  
Stan Stevens  
Matt Yarvi  
Michael Marini

## Volunteers

Joseph Eubank  
Bill Lindquist  
Michael Marini  
John McCarthy  
Edwin Padilla  
Tom Pasha  
Chris Reagan  
Danny Seman  
Todd Simmons  
Rob Snyder  
Stewart Zelnick

# 2023 By the Numbers

## People

5

New Coaches

4

New Board Members

2

New Advisory Board Members

## Places

20

Central Florida Golf Locations in Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties

140

Elementary and K-8 schools in Central Florida delivering First Tee's School Program

## Metrics

879

First Tee Program Kids and Teens at golf courses and practice facilities after School

39%

Female participation in First Tee's Golf Course Program

16%

Participants receiving financial assistance in programs

9

First Tee National Opportunities Awarded to our Chapter

48%

Retention Rate

49%

Participants in First Tee's Golf Course Program from diverse backgrounds

# 2023 Course Partners

## Orange County



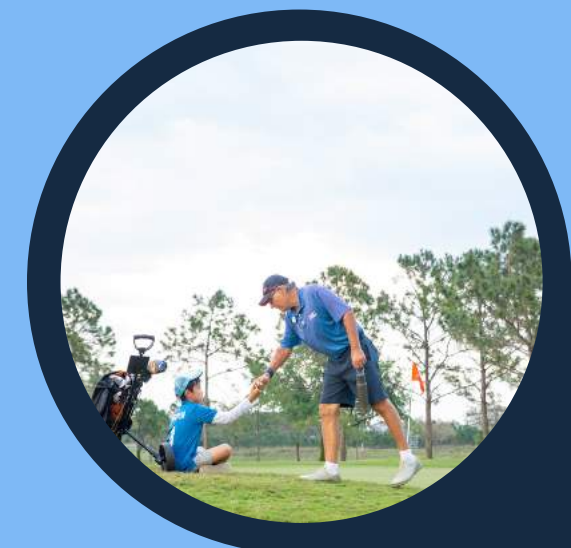
## Lake County



## Seminole County



## Osceola County





## Empowering Girls Through Golf!

In 2023, we held 12 Girls Golf events with over 250 First Tee girls! Some of the highlights were January's Lunar New Year event featuring Epson Tour professionals, our 4th annual Girls Golf Olympics, and our year end Girls Golf Gala! One of our members, Bella Miller, was selected to represent our site at the "All In at the Hay" fundraiser at Pebble Beach ahead of the U.S. Women's Open!





Provides opportunities for kids to begin competition in a friendly team environment! In our second season, we had two full teams



# Outreach

In 2023 we GREW our community impact!

- We continued with students from Northwest and brought back Rosemont Community Center who attended weekly classes at Lake Lorna Doone Park
- We welcomed students from the Winter Park Community Center at Winter Park 9, Tangelo Park Elementary at Tangelo Park, the Salvation Army, Wendover's Wellington Park in Apopka, Elevate Orlando and the S Orlando Y.



# Focus on: Teen Retention

With support from the PGA TOUR Superstore's Teen Retention Initiative, First Tee - Central Florida held life changing opportunities for our teens and preteens locally.



Mentor Cup- Myrtle Beach, SC. Teens and preteens were given the opportunity to apply to select one mentor in their life and compete against other First Tee mentor/mentee pairs in Myrtle Beach!



Players Club: Founded by our Program Coordinator, Jimi Morotti, our teens met on Friday afternoons during the summer to play 9 holes and share a meal. Players Club created bonding moments between teens and gave them a safe space on Friday afternoons into the early evenings!

Standard Bearers at the Arnold Palmer Invitational: Teens walked inside the ropes serving as Standard Bearers. They met Jordan Spieth to thank him in person for a grant for our Mentor Program.



4th Annual Bay Hill Short Game and Goal Setting Bootcamp: Teens refined their short game skills while receiving "Design Your Life" Curriculum by alum Bobby Sena with the Rollins Social Impact Hub



Quarterly teen education sessions: Teens were provided opportunities to attend panel discussions throughout the year with topics such as mental wellness and careers in golf.



# National Opportunities

First Tee offers teens exciting opportunities for growth. With support from corporate partners, First Tee headquarters hosts a series of events for our participants, allowing them to meet new people, play some golf, and achieve greatness. As a chapter we were proud to have 9 selections to National Opportunities in 2023.

Aryana Persuad- First Tee National Leadership Summit in Partnership with the PGA TOUR Superstore, John Deere Drive Your Future Academy, and Go for the Greens Conference.

Emigrant, MT  
San Francisco, CA  
Orlando, FL



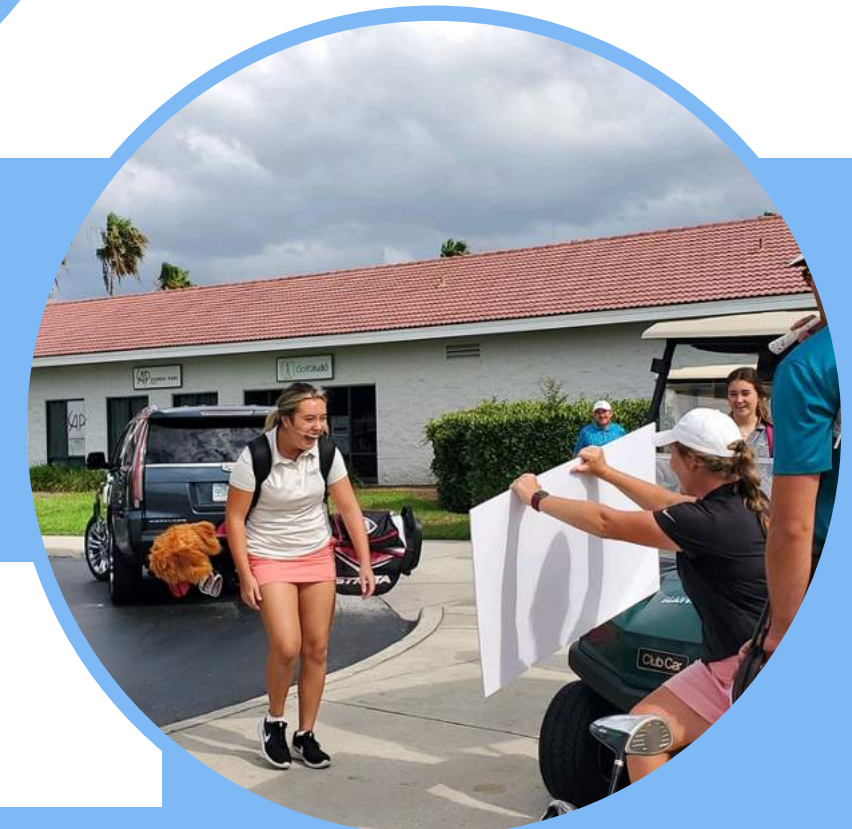
Bretton Mackiewicz- First Tee National Championship and First Tee PURE Insurance Open benefiting First Tee. Stanford University, CA  
Pebble Beach, CA



- Communication
- Honesty
- Cooperation
- Openness
- Have Fun!
- Respect
- Trust
- Support



Luis Santana- First Tee Game Changers Academy and First Tee Innovator's Summit. Philadelphia, PA  
Ponte Vedra, FL



Bella Blesso- First Tee Leadership Summit in Partnership with the PGA TOUR Superstore. Atlanta, GA

# Arnold & Winnie

## Palmer Foundation Scholarship at First Tee – Central Florida

In 2023, the first scholarships were awarded from the Arnold Palmer Scholarship Program at First Tee – Central Florida to deserving graduating seniors and alumni. Applications were scored on academic merit, financial need, chapter participation and service, an essay, and interview. The announcement was made during API's Youth Day.



Brock Hildebrand- First Tee – Central Florida graduate attending UCF. Brock was a First Tee participant for 9 years and remains involved as a coach.



Sara Rintoul- First Tee – Central Florida graduate attending UF. Sara was a First Tee participant for 8 years and after graduation will be working for Proctor and Gamble.



Cole Chastain- First Tee – Central Florida graduate attending LeTourneau University. Cole remains active as a First Tee volunteer in Texas and is a member of LeTourneau's golf team.



Maya Carmino- First Tee Game Changer's Academy, Go for the Greens Conference. Philadelphia, PA Orlando, FL



Aliya Carmino- First Tee Leadership Summit in Partnership with the PGA TOUR Superstore, Go for the Greens Conference. Atlanta, GA Orlando, FL

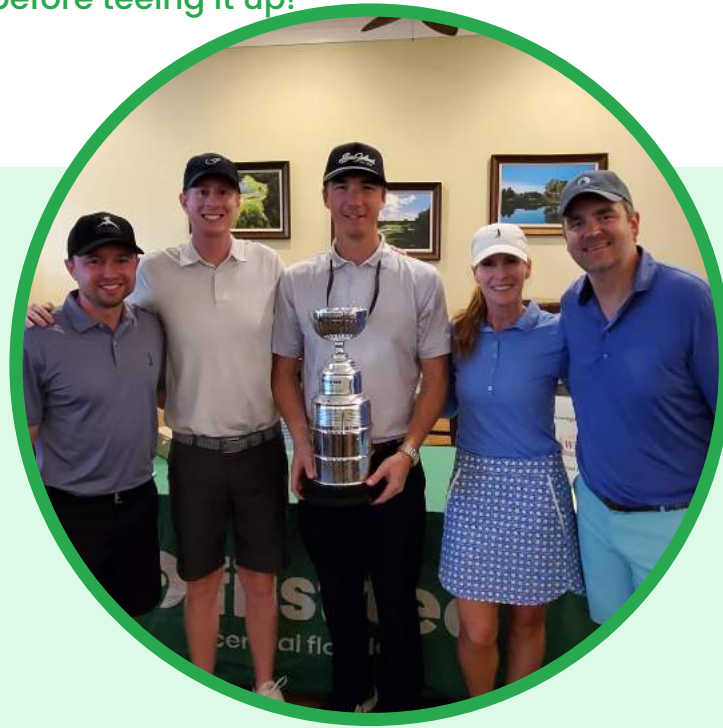


# Fundraisers

In 2023 we hosted 6 unique fundraisers throughout the year. This year's Swing for the King was extra special with the addition of a dinner & auction the night before teeing it up!



3rd Annual Central Florida Cup  
Hosted by Alauqua Country Club  
Eagle Sponsor NBC Sports Next



10 Five Member Teams crowd sourced team donations before competing in a 27 hole challenge. Team Interlachen was our Gross winner, and Team Winter Park Racquet Club was our Net winner.

## 11th Annual Swing for the King

Hosted by Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club  
Sponsored by Dave & CJ Harris  
Tournament Presented by Ravago for the 5th straight year!



A new event was added to this year's lineup -- Chef's Bourbon & Bacon Experience! Top tier sponsors and their guests experienced an entertaining, educational and delicious bourbon and bacon pairings before being joined by additional sponsors and their guests for live music, food stations, open bar and a live auction.



Winter Park Amateur Championship  
Hosted by Winter Park Golf Course  
and The City of Winter Park  
Presented by Wendover



120 Men, Women, Boys and Girls competed in their respective categories for the coveted, Amateur Champion of 2023! First Tee kids received a scholarship from First Tee trustee, Chris Barley to cover their entry fees. Our very own First Tee teen and youth coach, Bretton Mackiewicz medaled as the Women's Amateur Champion!

The next morning foursomes took to the course for an 18-hole shamble. On course contests and lots of great golf was enjoyed by all. 2023 winners: Team Assurance Partners, 2nd place Team Orlando Health-Jewett Orthopedic, 3rd place Team Dave Harris.



# Fundraisers

## Final Drive On Course Hosted by Alaqua Country Club

Foursomes comprised of an Ambassador (donor) and their new to First Tee guests, enjoyed lunch donated by Jersey Mike's and a leisurely round of golf. The experience was rounded out with heavy hors d'oeuvres in the clubhouse during a presentation by First Tee staff who were once First Tee kids, one of our teens who is a Youth Coach, and a mom sharing how First Tee is a safe haven for her girls after tragically losing their father.



## Johnston Family Golf Day Hosted by Orange County National Presented by Whiting Turner

Families enjoyed 9-hole rounds in the morning and in the afternoon teeing it up to enjoy golf as a family sport and yummy pizza donated by Andy Rosen and Celebration Restaurants! Coach Megan Johnston welcomed players with a heartfelt message about golf shaping her youth and providing a career she loves, and her hope for her own daughters' access to the game.



## Heat Check Cup Hosted by Topgolf Orlando Presented by Jersey Mike's

High school students representing their schools competed for the inaugural, Heat Check Cup. Teams enjoyed a hot breakfast buffet, three hours of fun competition, and a golf fitness analysis by Orlando Health - Jewett Orthopedic. Windermere High School won in a scorecard playoff against Olympia High School. Olympia High School was the highest fundraising team and the recipient of a Jersey Mike's meal!



# 2023 Financials

## Revenue

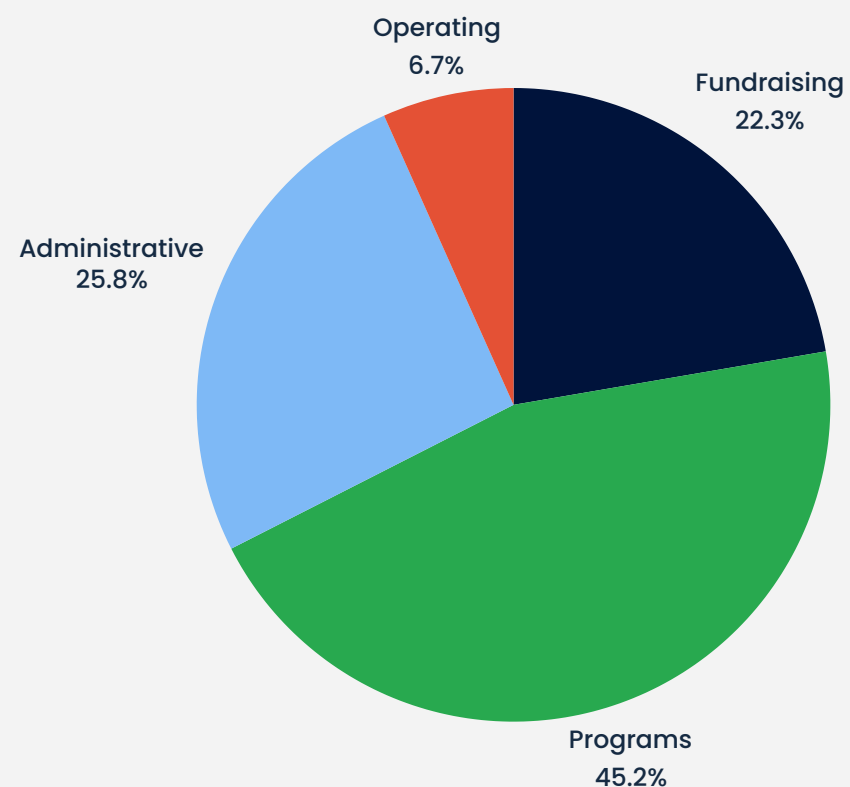
Investments	\$44,000
Operations	\$31,089
Program Service Fees	\$109,078
Individual Donors	\$42,144
Fundraising Events	\$249,538
Grants and Corporate Support	\$380,370

**\$856,219**

## Expenditures

Operations	\$42,389
Programs	\$286,724
Fundraising	\$141,606
Administration	\$163,625

**\$634,344**



# Our Supporters

## Eagle

Assured Partners Inc  
 Christopher Barley  
 Florida Junior Golf Council  
 Gracia Belle Livingston Foundation, Inc.  
 John Craig Clothier  
 LPGA Foundaton  
 Orlando Health  
 Randy Parks  
 Simpkins Family Foundation, Inc.  
 Wendover Housing Partners

## Birdie

Alliance One Management Consulting  
 Brownlee Lighting  
 Laurie Burns & Jill Ramsier  
 Camco Printing d/b/a Minuteman  
 Press  
 Dash bpo  
 Double O's Coffee  
 Electronic Arts/EA Sports  
 Dan Elmalem  
 EPOCH Properties  
 Estein USA  
 Ryan Fitzgerald  
 Florida Blue  
 Gray Robinson  
 Jerry Harger  
 Hylant Family Foundation  
 Kisselback Ford  
 Lee Wesley Companies  
 Kristofer Mitts  
 Munda Charitable Trust Fund  
 One Florida Bank  
 Ryan Parent  
 PCL Construction  
 John Pinel  
 RL Engineering and Tech Solutions  
 Andy Rosen

## Birdie <sup>Cont.</sup>

Rotary Club of Dr Phillips Foundation  
 The Spragg Family Giving Fund  
 Tampa Promotions  
 Dan Walters  
 Stephanie Wix

## Par

Olivia Babb  
 Virginia Babb  
 Jack M And Charo Berry  
 Rene Blanco  
 Brian Boone  
 Brian Boulerice  
 Bryan Builders  
 Craig DeLongy  
 Darrell DeVaney  
 Paul Dutra  
 Goldman Sachs  
 Jerramy Hainline  
 Dylan Hooper  
 Nicole LaMontagne  
 Lily Pulitzer  
 Macauley and Helen Dow Whiting  
 Foundation  
 Raju Mantena  
 Shawn McManus  
 David Meek  
 Sandi Mitrovich  
 Mark Nordenberg  
 North Orange Animal Hospital  
 Cristina Parson  
 Sandy LaBauve Foundation  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Sam Soudah  
 Greg Soufleris  
 Gordon Stewart  
 James Street  
 The Lee Foundation  
 Marc Watson  
 Wells Fargo Advisors  
 Casey Wheeler  
 Gradon Willard

# Our Supporters

Thank you to our  
 National Trustees

Chris Barley

Arnold Palmer,  
 Posthumous

## Champions

Arnold & Winnie Palmer Foundation Inc.  
 Arthur Blank Family Foundation  
 Dave And CJ Harris  
 Five Star Neighbors United Foundation  
 Jordan Spieth Family Foundation  
 NBC SportsNext

## Ace

Darden Restaurants  
 DeVos Family Foundation  
 RAVAGO

# Our Supporters

## Player

AAARichard Anderson  
Aquabanas  
Scott Arthur  
Cory Atwood  
Clifford Austin  
Harrison Babb  
Dawn Banaszek  
Michael Banaszek  
Ron Barnes  
William Bates  
BDO USA  
Brian Bellows  
Johnpaul Bennett  
Bill Benson  
Patricia Bernard  
Drew Bernstein  
Jessica Bessler  
Bird Haus  
Tom Bisanti  
Greg Blalack  
John Blum  
Kirtus Bocox  
Shannon Boe  
Kelsey Boone  
Kevin Boone  
Patricia Botic  
Ryan Bowman  
Kevin Bray  
David Breedlove  
Tara Breter  
Wando Brewer Ickes  
Robert Bride  
Ronald Broadway  
John Brost  
Scott Bruno  
Kirk Burnett  
Paula Burnett  
Dan Burquist  
Cadence Bank  
Matteo Carnevale  
Timothy Casper  
Kati Christensen  
Maggie Clinton  
Walt Conn  
Randy Connor  
Joan Cook  
Ila Cooper  
Dean Curtis  
Harold Davis  
Rodney Davis  
Timothy Dearborn  
Jeff Deery  
Wando Del Rossi  
Brent DeVantier  
Kristie Doyle  
Peter Doyle  
Roberta Drell  
Tom Eisenhuth  
Edward Engles  
Equitable Advsiors  
Wando Equitable Foundation  
F4 Wealth Advisors

Jon Farmer  
Tom Fehnel  
Michael Feland  
Jewett Ferguson  
Clay Ferrer  
Gloria Flaherty  
David Flood  
Rap Francisco  
Dawn Ganley  
Lawrence Gendzier  
Joel George  
James Goodman  
Graham Grindstaff  
Kimmie Hall  
John Haral  
Brenda Heistand  
Diana Hill  
Kathy Hill  
Mike Hill  
Susan Hoeksema  
Hoots Beachcomber Salon  
Keith Houck  
Scott Hudgens  
Cara Huff  
Sarah Huskins  
ICON Park  
Justin Ingram  
Harry Ipema  
David Jacobson  
Randy Janis  
Andrew Katsanis  
Jonathan Kearn  
Barry & Karen Keegan  
Grace Kellar  
Lynn Kellar  
Ted Kennedy  
Aaron Kicklighter  
David Kirk  
Matt Klepper  
James Knauss  
Tana Sue Knetsch  
Dorrie Knizatko  
Chris Koch  
Sara Kosek  
John Kralovec  
Margaret Krendl  
Kevin Kutchinski  
Kevin Kutschinski  
Matt Large  
Daniel Laya  
Patricia Leedahl  
Dallas Lehman  
Jordan Leventhal  
Julie Leventhal  
Billy & Joanne Lewis  
David Lodinger  
Rey Lorenzo  
Mark Lowrey  
Martin Lucas  
Michael Magnera  
Michael Marini  
Roger Marks

Jade Mcgraw  
Mike Mckeekin  
Paul Melnick Jr.  
Paul Melnick  
Edmund Milford  
Grant Miller  
David Miller  
Mitchell Miller  
H Milner  
Clark Morris  
David Murphy  
Matt Nelan  
Janet Nestler  
Betsy Nicholson  
Hiram Nigaglioni  
C Octaviani  
Stacey Oleck  
Brian Olenick  
Travis Owens  
Anthony Packo  
Joseph Parinella  
Andrew Patten  
Sam Paul  
Marcia Perez  
Mark Peterson  
Michael Pineau  
Charlie Pledger  
Joe Pledger  
Regent Peak Wealth Advisors  
Richard Rivera  
Mark Roberts  
Ryan Robertson  
Marty Rodgers  
William Ruffier  
Erika S.  
Anthony Salamon  
Michelle Sanford  
Paul Sawin  
William Schade  
Michael Schaefer  
Steven Serafino  
Raj Shah  
Ronald Shane  
Maureen Sheehy  
Connor Shell  
Ryan Simmons  
Becky Simmons  
Debra Sisco  
Amy Skena  
Brian Skena  
Susan Skena  
Andrew Slaton  
Alvin Smith  
Bryan Smith  
Southeast Automotive LLC  
Jacob Stanton  
Steinbauer Assoc Inc  
J.R. Steinbauer  
Stonegate Niner's Womens Golf Assoc at Solivita  
Patricia Sullivan  
Allison Taliaferro  
Meaghan Tenney

Michael Tenney  
Sean Tenney  
The Geneva School  
Corey Thon  
Carly Thurman  
Chris Thurman  
Todd Triplett  
Truist Dealer Services  
Virginia Tuck  
Janet Tuggle  
Melissa Vaughan  
Spencer Vereecken  
Vermeer Southeast Sales & Service, Inc.  
James Walson  
Whit Watson  
Gary Waxler  
Hal Webb  
Gary Whitlock  
Heather Williamson  
Elizabeth Winkopp  
Jason Yenor  
Verena Young

# Thank you for a terrific 2023!

