

# SUNSHINE CLUBS

Thank you to the following clubs for their support of the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation.

- Aurora Country Club
- Beverly Country Club
- Bryn Mawr Country Club
- Butler National Golf Club
- Butterfield Country Club
- Calumet Country Club
- Conway Farms
- Cress Creek Country Club
- Crystal Lake Country Club
- Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club
- Evanston Golf Club
- Geneva Golf Club
- Glen Flora Country Club
- Glen Oak Country Club
- Glen View Club
- Hinsdale Golf Club
- Inverness Golf Club
- Kankakee Country Club
- Knollwood Club
- LaGrange Country Club
- Lake Shore Country Club
- Medinah Country Club
- Midlothian Country Club
- Naperville Country Club
- North Shore Country Club
- Old Elm Club
- Olympia Fields Country Club
- Quilmette Golf Club
- Park Ridge Country Club
- Ridge Country Club
- Ridgemoor Country Club
- Rockford Country Club
- Rolling Green Country Club
- Ruth Lake Country Club
- St. Charles Country Club
- Stonebridge Country Club
- White Eagle Golf Club
- Woodstock Country Club

## Big Heart at Little City continued from page 1

The Inverness camps, each one-hour long at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays in the spring, were taught by the club professional and his staff. That didn't change, even when the club pro did. Scottie Nield, the current head man at Inverness, and his assistants picked up the project immediately after coming on board three years ago.

This spring, Inverness will host a series of clinics for the seventh straight year, and once again Roth will spring for the luncheon that climaxes the six-week program.

"They (the special needs participants) feel like they're at Augusta National," said Roth. "At the end of the cookout they get awards, and I get more hugs than I get in a month."

Aaron Hirthe and Rick Johnson are just as happy as Roth about the clinics' success. Hirthe is the Special Olympics athletic director at Little City and Johnson is the facility's manager of internal and community relations.

That may be Johnson's job, but he also volunteers as a coach for the residents' programs in basketball and golf.



Tom Roth shows his hands-on approach at camp

"That's the fun part of my job, interacting with these folks," said Johnson.

His basketball teams made Little City's first two trips to the downstate Special Olympics in 50 years in 2008 and 2010. Golf is just as good of a fit. A few miles south of Little City is the Highland Woods public course, a Cook County Forest Preserve facility that has welcomed Little City's golfers to its practice facilities. A few miles to the north of Little City is Inverness, home of the teaching clinics.

Hirthe and Johnson conduct the lessons at Highland Woods, and about 20 Little City residents between the ages of 22 and 72 take part. Inverness gets 8-12 of those who progress the most.

"We used to take 20 or so, but that seemed chaotic, so we pared it down to the guys who were really good, the ones who do golf for Special Olympics," said Hirthe. "They find it awesome to go to a club like Inverness. And we always love it when people outside our population take interest in our programs."

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's camp program has been a great resource for Little City's staff.

"Ours is a great population to help out," said Hirthe, "and Inverness has taken us to a new level. In the past we had good athletes who didn't know how to strike a golf ball. Now some have come to the point where they could actually play a round of golf. The rewards go both ways. Our guys (residents) get a kick out of it, and it's a little dose of reality for (the Foundation and Inverness people who get involved)."

"It's a good thing because our guys get better instruction and feel special, too," Johnson added. Little City, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010, has been involved in golf almost from its beginning. Its Little City Invitational golf outing has been an annual event for 47 years and last year's was one of the most successful ever, with \$375,000 raised for the facility.

# 2011 Camp Calendar

Sunshine Through Golf camps provide professional golf instruction to individuals with special needs through partnerships between golf clubs, Special Recreation Associations (SRAs), private agencies, park districts and the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. Camps are conducted once a week throughout the season. For more details visit [www.sunshinethroughgolf.org](http://www.sunshinethroughgolf.org).

## SUNSHINE SERIES

The Sunshine Series, initiated in 2008 with funds from the USGA and Fortune Brands, provides individuals with special needs the opportunity to take their golf game to a more advanced level. The program is solely designed for golfers who have already participated in a Sunshine Through Golf camp. The Sunshine Series provides a forum to better prepare the athletes for the Special Olympics of Illinois State Golf Competitions by offering one-on-one training as well as the opportunity to play on a golf course.

Wednesday, May 11	Monday, July 11
Fox Valley SRA	Kishwaukee SRA
St. Charles Country Club	Buena Vista Golf Club
Monday, May 16	Wednesday, July 13
Kishwaukee SRA	Heart of Illinois SRA
Buena Vista Golf Club	Kellogg Golf Course
Sunday, May 29	Wednesday, July 20
Lincoln-Way SRA	Indiana Special Olympics
Sanctuary Golf Course	Creekside Golf Course
Tuesday, June 21	Sunday, July 24
Northern Illinois SRA	Lincoln-Way SRA
Randall Oaks Golf Club	White Mountain Golf Course
Monday, June 27	Thursday, August 4
Chicago Special Olympics	River Valley SRA
Marquette Park Golf Course	Alpine Hills Golf Course
Tuesday, June 28	Monday, August 8
Chicago Special Olympics	Chicago Special Olympics
Robert A. Black Golf Course	Marquette Park Golf Course
Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association	Orland Park SRA
Foss Park Golf Course	Silver Lake Country Club
Tuesday, July 5	TBA

## Organization

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation  
Warren SRA  
Rockford Park District  
Northeast DuPage SRA  
Little City Foundation  
Oak Lawn SRA  
South Suburban SRA  
Western DuPage SRA  
Western DuPage SRA  
Western DuPage SRA  
South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation  
Northern Illinois SRA  
Northern Illinois SRA  
West Suburban SRA  
Fox Valley SRA  
Kishwaukee SRA  
Special Opportunities Available in Recreation  
Special Opportunities Available in Recreation  
Illinois Valley Industries  
Illinois Valley Industries  
Aspire  
Heart of Illinois SRA  
Misericordia  
Lincoln-Way SRA  
SRA of Central Lake County  
Indiana Special Olympics  
Fox Valley SRA  
Fox Valley SRA  
Fox Valley SRA  
Champaign-Urbana SRA  
North West Suburban SRA  
South Suburban SRA  
Gateway SRA  
Warren SRA  
North West Suburban SRA  
Joliet-Bolingbrook SRA  
River Valley SRA  
Northwest Suburban SRA  
Tri-County SRA  
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation  
Northern Illinois SRA  
Northern Illinois SRA  
School District 54  
Northern Illinois SRA  
Dolton New Hope Center  
West Suburban SRA  
Rockford Park District  
West Suburban SRA  
Chicago Special Olympics  
Chicago Special Olympics  
Chicago Special Olympics  
Chicago Special Olympics  
Chicago Special Olympics  
Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association  
Misericordia  
North Suburban SRA  
Northern Illinois SRA  
Northern Illinois SRA  
Kishwaukee SRA  
Heart of Illinois SRA  
Indiana Special Olympics  
Lincoln-Way SRA  
Oak Lawn SRA  
South Suburban SRA  
River Valley SRA  
Fox Valley SRA  
Chicago Special Olympics  
Freeport Park District  
North Suburban SRA  
South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation  
Special Opportunities Available in Recreation  
Special Opportunities Available in Recreation  
Clearbrook  
Lincoln-Way SRA  
Clearbrook  
South West Suburban SRA  
Illinois River Valley SRA  
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation  
North Suburban SRA  
Northwest Suburban SRA  
Orland Park SRA  
Orland Park SRA  
Southwest Community Services  
Western DuPage SRA  
Western Suburban SRA  
Zion Park District

## Golf Course

Golf Center of Des Plaines  
Libertyville Golf Complex  
Ingersoll Golf Course  
Medinah Country Club  
Inverness Golf Club  
Stony Creek Golf Course  
Coyote Run Golf Course  
White Eagle Golf Club  
Glen Oak Country Club  
Cantigny Golf  
Village Greens of Woodridge  
Bowes Creek Country Club  
Bowes Creek Country Club  
Oak Park Golf Club  
St. Charles Country Club  
Buena Vista Golf Club  
The Links at Ireland Grove  
The Links at Ireland Grove  
Nettle Creek Country Club  
Nettle Creek Country Club  
Oak Brook Golf Club  
Kellogg Golf Course  
North Shore Country Club  
Sanctuary Golf Course  
Libertyville Golf Complex  
Creekside Golf Course  
Fox Bend Golf Club  
Phillips Park Golf Course  
Phillips Park Golf Course  
Stone Creek Golf Club  
Twin Lakes Golf Course  
Coyote Run Golf Course  
Flagg Creek Golf Course  
Libertyville Golf Complex  
Palatine Hills Golf Course  
Mistwood Golf Club  
Alpine Hills Golf Course  
Twin Lakes Golf Course  
Cog Hill Golf & Country Club  
Golf Center of Des Plaines  
Randall Oaks Golf Club  
Randall Oaks Golf Club  
Fox Run Golf Club  
Randall Oaks Golf Club  
Lincoln Oaks Golf Course  
White Pines Golf Club  
Ingersoll Golf Course  
Bushwood Practice Center  
Marquette Park Golf Course  
Diversey Driving Range  
Diversey Driving Range  
South Shore Golf Course  
Robert A. Black Golf Course  
Foss Park Golf Course  
Bryn Mawr Country Club  
Wilmette Golf Club  
Makray Memorial Golf Club  
Makray Memorial Golf Club  
Buena Vista Golf Club  
Kellogg Golf Course  
Creekside Golf Course  
White Mountain Golf Course  
Coyote Run Golf Course  
Alpine Hills Golf Course  
Eagle Brook Country Club  
Marquette Park Golf Course  
Park Hills Golf Course  
Winnetka Golf Club  
Village Greens of Woodridge  
The Links at Ireland Grove  
The Links at Ireland Grove  
Mt. Prospect Golf Club  
Prestwick Country Club  
Mt. Prospect Golf Club  
Midlothian Country Club  
Oak Meadows Golf Course  
Golf Center of Des Plaines  
Lake Shore Country Club  
Palatine Hills Golf Course  
Silver Lake Country Club  
Silver Lake Country Club  
Site TBA  
Site TBA  
Bushwood Practice Center  
Site TBA

## Start Date

Monday, March 28  
Wednesday, April 6  
Monday, April 11  
Monday, April 18  
Tuesday, April 26  
Tuesday, May 3  
Tuesday, May 3  
Wednesday, May 4  
Wednesday, May 4  
Thursday, May 4  
Thursday, May 5  
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Thursday, May 5  
Wednesday, May 11  
Wednesday, May 11  
Thursday, May 12  
Thursday, May 12  
Monday, May 16  
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Wednesday, May 25  
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Thursday, June 9  
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Monday, July 25  
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Tuesday, August 4  
Monday, August 8  
Tuesday, August 9  
Thursday, August 11  
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Thursday, August 18  
Thursday, August 18  
Tuesday, August 23  
Thursday, August 25  
Thursday, August 25  
Thursday, September 22  
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Vol. 8, No. 1, May 2011

Recognition, Inspiration and News from the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation

## Big Heart at Little City

By Len Ziehm

Golf was an activity for Special Recreation Association participants long before Tom Roth got involved.

That was back in 2005, though, and those individuals with special needs were introduced to golf largely at public facilities. Roth, a member at Inverness Golf Club, sought to change that as a member of the Chicago District Golf Association board.

A banker by trade, Roth had been involved in a variety of community projects and was president of the board of Aspire of Illinois, which also works with children and adults with developmental disabilities. Aspire had golf outings; the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation had golf camps.

Roth had strong support from Ed Hockfield, a Long Grove resident and fellow CDGA board



Little City campers prepare for a SNAG golf lesson

member who is also executive vice president of the board of directors for Little City -- a residential facility in Palatine that has 160 adult residents who deal with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"In those days most of the clinics were at public courses, and we wanted to bring them to private ones," said Roth. "I thought some members might object, but we've

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never had a complaint. In fact, it's been just the opposite. Some members' kids even came out and helped us. And they got a lot out of it, too."

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## Tending the Flagstick

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation is proud to introduce its new partnership program, a transition from the previous grant program, designed to support organizations focused on bringing joy to people with special needs through golf. In 2011, the Foundation will team up with RevelationGolf, Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois and Special Olympics Illinois.

RevelationGolf aims to impact the physical, social, emotional and spiritual quality of life for veterans using the game of golf to help them become active members of the community. With the assistance of the Foundation, a golf program for active-duty service members, veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and children of deployed service members will be introduced at Willow Glen Golf Course, located on the Great Lakes Naval Base. This partnership also affords RevelationGolf the ability to host a Veterans' Golf Day event at both Willow Glen and the Three-Hole Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House.



Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois is dedicated to enriching the lives of young children by providing them with an opportunity for personal growth and career enhancement through golf-focused mentoring programs. The Foundation's aid will provide Kids Golf with the means to operate its "Lights on Afterschool" program and put golf equipment in the hands of more than 5,000 junior golfers in the Chicagoland area.

Special Olympics Illinois provides year-round sports-training programs and competitions in a variety of sports, including golf, for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Through the support of the Foundation, Special Olympics will host a number of qualifiers and a State Championship for advanced golfers,

many of whom started as participants in the Sunshine Through Golf camp programs.

"Having the ability to collaborate with organizations whose missions so closely align with the Foundation has always been one of our goals," Brittany Ottolini, senior director of management, said. "We look forward to the additional opportunities these relationships will provide in growing the game among individuals with special needs.

To learn more about the Foundation's partners visit them on the web:  
RevelationGolf - [www.revelationgolf.org](http://www.revelationgolf.org)  
Kids Golf Foundation - [www.kidsgolffoundation.org](http://www.kidsgolffoundation.org)  
Special Olympics Illinois - [www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org)

## News and Notes

### Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Outing

Beverly Country Club, Chicago  
Monday, June 13, 2011

Play one of Chicago's premier private clubs in the 11th annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Outing at Beverly Country Club. For more information, contact Brittany Ottolini at 630-685-2313 or [btollini@cdga.org](mailto:btollini@cdga.org).

### Fifth Annual White Sox Fundraiser

Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland Indians  
U.S. Cellular Field, Chicago  
Thursday, August 18 at 7:10 p.m.

Over the years, hundreds of campers and their families have attended this event courtesy of the Foundation's generous donors. To purchase tickets for a special needs athlete or for personal use, contact Alex Nolly at 630-685-2351 or [anolly@cdga.org](mailto:anolly@cdga.org).

### Editor's Note

Rays for Hope has been published biannually since 2003 by the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation in cooperation with the Chicago District Golf Association. The May issue is mailed to friends of the Foundation while the November issue is included in the Association's magazine, *Chicago District Golfer*. For the first time in its eight-year history, the publication welcomes a new design.

