



# Rays of Hope

Recognition, Inspiration and News from the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation



The charitable organization of the CDGA

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## Veterans of the Game

By Len Ziehm

RevelationGolf isn't something new. Donna Strum and Kathy Williams started the far-reaching not-for-profit program in September of 2005.

Strum, a clinical, certified therapeutic recreation specialist, has been using golf in her efforts to help individuals with various physical disabilities since 1993. Williams, a former LPGA Tour player and Evans Scholar, is an LPGA Class A teaching professional.

"We came together to use golf as a therapeutic and life development tool," said Strum.

Together, with a support staff of 13 teaching professionals, they have helped physically disabled children and adults, cancer victims and at-risk youth. The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation has been a supporter from the beginning.

"With the Foundation, it started as a grant, and now it's a complete partnership," said Strum.



A RevelationGolf teaching professional practices with a veteran at Willow Glen

Recently, RevelationGolf turned its attention to military personnel, particularly those at the Great Lakes Naval Base in North Chicago and its programs there have since grown four-fold.

"What's unique about this program is that, once we got it started, we went to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation because we needed funding in a major way," said Strum. "(The STGF) sponsors all the programs that we do here."

For the Foundation, this is an opportunity to support its original mission. The initial purpose of the Foundation in 1944 was to assist war veterans coming back from WWII.

Strum and Williams work with veterans as well as active duty military personnel and their children at the Willow Glen Golf Course located on the base, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. one day every two weeks, giving them instruction to spur their involvement with golf.

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## Tending the Flagstick

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's Play with a Pro Day was held at the Three-Hole Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House in conjunction with the BMW Championship at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, allowing special needs athletes to play with Tour pros. In 2007, the first time PGA Tour professional Tim Clark played in event, he was enjoying it so much he nearly missed his Pro-Am tee time.

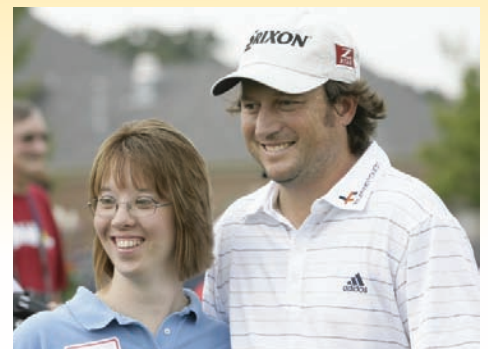
Since then, Clark has been an advocate for the Foundation. He returned twice more to play in Play

with a Pro Day, and when Clark placed second at the Sony Open at Waialae Country Club in Oahu, Hawaii in 2011, he donated a portion of his winnings to the Foundation through the PGA Tour Charities.

To honor Clark's generous contribution, the Foundation will dedicate a bench on the grounds of the Sunshine Course to the golfer. The bench will feature an engraved plaque in honor of Clark.

Alex Nolly, manager of foundation administration, says "We are incredibly

honored to have a PGA Tour pro like Tim experience what we do and respond with a donation."



Clark at the 2009 Play with a Pro Day



# Friends of the Foundation

Members throughout the District are participating in one of the following events to support the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. To join the fun, contact the Foundation at [foundation@cdga.org](mailto:foundation@cdga.org) or (630) 257-2005.

## GOLF OUTING

The annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Outing combines a golfer's passion for the game with a charitable giving opportunity. It caters to those looking for a chance to play at one of the District's premiere private clubs. Knollwood Club in Lake Forest will host the 13th Annual Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Outing on Monday, June 17, 2013.

The Outing field is limited and includes a high-end tee package, lunch and gourmet hors d'oeuvres alongside a silent auction and awards presentation.

Over the last 12 years, the Outing's fundraising campaign has contributed more than \$1 million to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's efforts.



## GOLF MARATHON

Golfers of all ages make the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation 100-Hole Golf Marathon an annual event to kick off their golf season. Zigfield Troy Golf in Woodridge will host the fifth edition of the Marathon on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Prior to Marathon day, participants reach out to their network for a one-time donation or per-hole event sponsorship. The Foundation recommends participants raise \$25 per hole, but many go above and beyond, raising as much as \$250 per hole.

When Marathon day arrives, some participants quickly work through the holes without keeping score, while others take their time, making sure a score is recorded for each hole. However they choose to play, there is one thing participants can agree on: the fundraising aspect of the Marathon is simple. Over the last four years, participants have supported the Foundation with more than \$275,000 in funds raised.



## TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The inaugural Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Tournament of Champions culminated Sept. 24 at Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman, Mich., where eight teams representing participating clubs from the Chicago District competed in an 18-hole, par-3 championship.

Nearly \$20,000 was raised by the participating clubs, which included Beverly Country Club, Black Sheep Golf Club, Bryn Mawr Country Club, Lost Dunes, North Shore Country Club, Ridgemoor Country Club, Sunset Ridge Country Club and Westmoreland Country Club.



Qualifying for the championship was held at participating clubs, where members who entered the event played their regular rounds of golf, tabulating their par-3 scores from the day, with the best gross and net players qualifying for the championship. Given this year's success, preparations are being made to add the event to the 2013 Foundation calendar of events.

# News & Notes

## Humanitarian Award

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation joined Judy Bell and Tammy Duckworth as the third recipient of RevelationGolf's Humanitarian Award. The Foundation was presented with the honor at RevelationGolf's annual Award Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at Makray Memorial Golf Club.



## Commemorative Bricks

Purchase a commemorative brick to share your love of the game with Midwest Golf House Complex visitors. Bricks are available in two sizes; a paver is 8x8 with six lines of text for \$500 and a smaller brick is 4x8 with three lines of text for \$150. To download an order form visit [sunshinethroughgolf.org/brickpaver.asp](http://sunshinethroughgolf.org/brickpaver.asp).

## 2013 Member Days

CDGA Member Days are hosted annually by the Association to benefit the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. These events foster a no-pressure environment for golfers to play private courses throughout the Chicago District they wouldn't otherwise have the ability to play. Visit [CDGA.org](http://CDGA.org) this spring for the 2013 Member Days schedule.

## Contact the Foundation

For more information about the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation, please contact the Foundation staff at [foundation@cdga.org](mailto:foundation@cdga.org) or (630) 257-2005.





Veterans, golf instructors and therapists celebrate after a day with RevelationGolf

The morning session is dedicated to veterans who are coping with a variety of physical issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries, physical and/or neurological limitations and blindness.

Harry, at 82, is the oldest member of this session. He was a caddie in his youth at Bob O'Link in Highland Park, and recounted how he once carried the bags of Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. He had stopped playing golf, but RevelationGolf brought him back to it.

"I'm glad I found out about it. It's a great program," Harry said.

Other veterans echoed his sentiments.

From James: "It shows me the things I can do, instead of the things I can't. It breaks the routine and the monotony of being sick. It helps when I'm feeling bad about myself."

Added Thad: "Even if you don't hit the ball a mile and you only hit it a few feet, you feel good."

The 90-minute session started with some stretching exercises, and then the veterans hit chip shots on the practice range. Some were able to put their chips into a net about 50 yards out, and that was cause for celebration by all.

The session concluded with the participants playing two holes, scramble-style. Each would hit from one spot, then they would go to the best shot and all would hit from there until completing the hole. There was a great deal of camaraderie throughout the session, and the veterans sat together for a few minutes of socializing before boarding a shuttle bus back to their residences.

In the afternoons, Strum and Williams work with active duty soldiers, encouraging them to learn to play golf as an outlet from their more serious military duties. After that session, youths between

the ages of 7 and 17 from families with military members who are deployed receive instruction. RevelationGolf introduces them to a social tool they can use on their moves around the world.

A team of specialists at the base support RevelationGolf. Dr. Anthony Peterson, section chief for the post-traumatic stress disorder program determines which of his patients would benefit from golf therapy. Karen Fleming, recreation therapist for the Community Living Center at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center, works with the RevelationGolf staff on the veterans' programs and Lieutenant Brendan Marty, non-medical case manager for Navy Safe Harbor, coordinates programs for the participants who are still on active duty.

Marty calls the program "fantastic."

"They (military personnel) tend to be very active," said Marty. "When a soldier is injured they think that part of their life is over. With a program like RevelationGolf they can see that it isn't. It also helps on the rehab side. It helps them regain their strength and balance, and it's pretty amazing to see the progress they can make."



A veteran practices on the driving range at Willow Glen

# SUNSHINE CLUB

The following clubs and their membership supported the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation in 2012 via an annual giving program and have earned a place in the Sunshine Club.

- Aurora Country Club
- Beverly Country Club
- Biltmore Country Club
- Bryn Mawr Country Club
- Butler National Golf Club
- Butterfield Country Club
- Calumet Country Club
- Conway Farms Golf Club
- Cross Creek Country Club
- Crystal Lake Country Club
- Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club
- Edgewood Valley Country Club
- Evanston Golf Club
- Geneva Golf Club
- Glen Oak Country Club
- Glen View Club
- Hinsdale Golf Club
- Inverness Golf Club
- Kankakee Country Club
- Knollwood Club
- La Grange Country Club
- Lake Shore Country Club
- Midlothian Country Club
- Naperville Country Club
- North Shore Country Club
- Old Elm Club
- Olympia Fields Country Club
- Ouilmette Golf Club
- Park Ridge Country Club
- Ridge Country Club
- Ridgemoor Country Club
- Rockford Country Club
- Ruth Lake Country Club
- St. Charles Country Club
- Twin Orchard Country Club
- Village Greens of Woodridge
- White Eagle Golf Club
- Winnetka Golf Club

2012 Special Olympic  
State Qualifiers



**Special Olympics**  
Illinois

The following Sunshine Through Golf Foundation athletes qualified for the 2012 Special Olympic State Games Golf Competitions.

Heather Anderson  
Heather Andress

Tim Bodner  
Tim Brown  
Guy Cae

Sarah Carlson  
Sylvia Collazo  
Nathan Ferris  
Roy Galaska

Rafael Gallardo  
Max Geilim

Danny Gillespie  
Paul Hansen

Chris Harris  
Sean Hatch

Max Herigodt

Matthew Holznagel

Laura Kazcmarek

Paul Kozora

Ryan Kurtyak

Sue LeVeque

Katie Malcolm

Lauren Massong

Charles McDaniels

Maria Mena

Kevin Mikan

Brad Miller

John Nichols

Jackie Olichwier

Frank Olivo

Allie Olsen

Kelly Powers

Adam Romanoff

Michael Senesac

Becky Shark

James Sikes

Adam Sikora

Sam Smetko

David Taylor

Aidan Toy

Obdulia Uriostegui

Adam Voyda

Chris Walti

Steve Weith

Andy Whitwell

Ellen Winkler

Jacob Yandell

# A Great Big Thank You!

A great big thank you to the 2012 Sunshine Through Golf camp program hosts. The following organizations, golf clubs and golf professionals made 92 camp programs possible for more than 1,200 participants this year.

Aspire  
**Oak Brook Golf Club**  
Trey Van Dyke and staff

Champaign-Urbana SRA  
**Stone Creek Golf Club**  
Tom Szymoniak and staff

Chicago Special Olympics  
**Diversey Driving Range**  
The First Tee of Greater Chicago staff

Chicago Special Olympics  
**Marquette Park Golf Course**  
Juan Espejo

Chicago Special Olympics  
**Robert A. Black Golf Course**  
The First Tee of Greater Chicago staff

Chicago Special Olympics  
**South Shore Golf Course**  
The First Tee of Greater Chicago staff

Clearbrook  
**Mt. Prospect Golf Club**  
Jeff Langguth and staff

Fox Valley SRA  
**St. Charles Country Club**  
Jim Sutherland and staff

Freeport Park District Special Recreation  
**Park Hills Golf Course**  
Jeff Hartman

Gateway SRA  
**Flagg Creek Golf Course**  
Flagg Creek staff

Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Assn.  
**Foss Park Golf Course**  
Patrick Byrne

Heart of Illinois SRA  
**Kellogg Golf Course**  
Kyle Meger and staff

Hope D. Wall School  
**Phillips Park Golf Course**  
Dan Abella

Ill. River Valley SRA  
**Oak Meadows Golf Course**  
Glenn Mason and staff

Special Olympics Indiana  
**Creekside Golf Course**  
Nancy Bender and staff

Joliet-Bolingbrook SRA  
**Mistwood Golf Club**  
Visanu Tongwarin and staff

Kishwaukee SRA  
**Buena Vista Golf Club**  
Tom Zeeh

Little City Foundation  
**Inverness Golf Club**  
Gregg Richbourg and staff

Lincolnway SRA  
**Prestwick Country Club**  
Brandon Adair and staff

Lincolnway SRA  
**Sanctuary Golf Course**  
Bob Schulz and staff

Lincolnway SRA  
**White Mountain Golf Park**  
LWSRA Staff

Maine-Niles Assn. of Special Recreation  
**Golf Center of Des Plaines (GolfTEC)**  
Tom Portera and Justin Bentley

Misericordia  
**Bryn Mawr Country Club**  
Terry Russell and staff

Misericordia  
**North Shore Country Club**  
Tim O'Neal and staff

Northeast DuPage SRA  
**Medinah Country Club**  
Mike Scully and staff

Northern Illinois SRA  
**Bowes Creek Country Club**  
Mike Lehman and staff

Northern Illinois SRA  
**Makray Memorial Golf Club**  
Don Habjan and staff

Northern Illinois SRA  
**Randall Oaks Golf Club**  
Steve Gillie and staff

North Suburban SRA  
**Lake Shore Country Club**  
Zack Fidler

North Suburban SRA  
**Wilmette Golf Club**  
Jamie Locke and staff

North Suburban SRA  
**Winnetka Golf Club**  
Cortney Miller and staff

Northwest Suburban SRA  
**Old Orchard Country Club**  
Marc Heidkamp and staff

Northwest Suburban SRA  
**Twin Lakes Golf Course**  
Travis Johns and staff

Oak Lawn SRA  
**Stony Creek Golf Course**  
George Benak

Orland Park SRA  
**Silver Lake Country Club**  
Gregg Tengerstrom and staff

River Valley SRA  
**Alpine Hills Golf Course**  
Dieter Jaehn, Jr.

Rockford Park District  
**Ingersoll Golf Course**  
Lloyd McWilliams

School District 54 – Special Olympics  
**Fox Run Golf Links**  
John O'Brien

South East Assn. for Special Parks & Rec.  
**Village Greens of Woodridge**  
Brandon Evans & Prince Winbush

Special Connections of Grundy County  
**Nettle Creek Country Club**  
Kurt Nolan and staff

Special Opportunities Available in Rec.  
**The Links at Ireland Grove**  
Jeff Hunt

South West SRA  
**The Players Club of Chicago**  
Brian Vaisnoras

South Suburban SRA  
**Coyote Run Golf Course**  
Tom Denklau and staff

SRA of Central Lake County  
**Libertyville Golf Complex**  
Tyler Wollberg

Tri-County SRA  
**Cog Hill Golf & Country Club**  
Jeff Rimsnider

Warren SRA  
**Libertyville Golf Complex**  
Ron Klein

Western DuPage SRA  
**Cantigny Golf**  
Emily Burns

Western DuPage SRA  
**Glen Oak Country Club**  
Danny Mulhearn and staff

Western DuPage SRA  
**White Eagle Golf Club**  
Ryan First and staff

Western Suburban SRA  
**Oak Park Golf Club**  
Rimmy Dunlop and staff

Western Suburban SRA  
**White Pines Golf Club**  
Chuck Lynch and staff



Sunshine Through Golf Foundation