



RAYS OF HOPE

News, Recognition and Inspiration from the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation

Sunshine Through Golf Foundation

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Family Affair

By Cathy Miles Ralston

The word “can’t” is not part of Paul Bures’ vocabulary. According to his mother, Liz, he never says, “I can’t,” instead asking, “What do I need to do it?”

Such a mindset is extraordinary, and rare. How many of us have talked ourselves out of a goal or dream because it seemed too difficult, unattainable? What makes Paul’s attitude even more astonishing is the defining challenge of his life—Paul is a quadriplegic.



The Bures Family

“He is wheelchair-bound and has no control over his motor movements from the neck down,” notes Brittany Ottolini, director of the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. “For him to golf is remarkable.”

Nonetheless, Paul IS a golfer. For five years, he’s been playing with the NorthEast DuPage SRA (NEDSRA), which partners with the Foundation to play its spring season at magnificent Medinah Country Club.

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TENDING THE FLAGSTICK

Rising Sun

As the sun begins to shine this spring, so too are the faces of novice Sunshine Through Golf campers. This season, Sunshine Through Golf athletes – who have been involved in the program previously and are ready to take their game to the next level – will have the chance to play in the “Sunshine Series” and “Tournament Series.”

These two new programs provide a summative opportunity for individuals with special needs to advance their golf skills. The “Sunshine Series” is a next step in the growth of the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation programs.

“As our athletes advance, we strive to enhance and grow our programming,” says Brittany Ottolini, director of Foundation operations. “By providing this advanced level of training, we are creating opportunities to better their golf skills, which they will likely use into adulthood and/or longer than other traditional sports.”

The “Sunshine Series” is a natural progression for more advanced golfers to continually improve in order to compete in Special Olympic competitions. In the “Sunshine Series,” there are half the participants of the current camps.

This smaller, more advanced program offers more one-on-one attention and access to the golf course. The 15 “Sunshine Series” sites link the athletes with special needs to local golf courses and their golf professionals. Down the line, it will provide opportunities and connections for the individuals with special need to have access to golf on a regular basis in their own communities.

In August, the “Tournament Series” will piggy back the “Sunshine Series” as a transition into tournament play and ultimately competing in the Special Olympics of Illinois golf competitions.

At the request of affiliates, the Foundation is hosting the “Tournament Series” to create a competitive tournament setting for those individuals who are already competing in the Special Olympics events.



Currently, there is not an avenue for these competitive golfers to test their skills against others of their ability in a tournament setting prior to the Special Olympics state competition. The Foundation will conduct four nine-hole competitions at different locations throughout Chicagoland.

The USGA is providing a portion of the funding necessary to kick-start the “Sunshine Series” and “Tournament Series” programs. Long time supporter, Fortune Brands has made a matching contribution.

“By exposing this golfing community to the “Sunshine Series” program, we will start to create more ‘access’ opportunities for our athletes with special needs, says Ottolini. “Also, as the “Tournament Series” provides more competitive entities to this population, they will be better prepared for Special Olympics competitions and life as a golfer.”



The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following individuals, corporations and foundations for their generous contributions during the past 12 months:

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Paul and his dad work together to line up and hit a putt.

Golf has become one of Paul's foremost passions while the sport, and the Foundation, have afforded Paul and his parents many amazing opportunities. Paul has played the Sunshine Course with PGA Tour golfers Chris Couch and Tim Clark, been interviewed by ABC Channel 7 Chicago, attended numerous storied tournaments with VIP status and bantered with the likes of Ben Crenshaw as well as Tiger Woods.

The family's circle of friends has been enlarged exponentially with fellow NEDSRA team members and their families joining the ranks. Most enduring of all, golf has brought the Bures clan closer, strengthening and enriching the father-son relationship in particular since father and son swing the club together.

"When you have a disabled child, it can be so limiting what they can do and what you can go out and do as a family," Liz reflects. "Golf has opened up a whole new world for us."

Paul was born 24 years ago at Loyola University Medical Center. Liz remembers delivering a full-term infant with no hint things were about to go horribly wrong. At three days old, Paul suffered a massive brain hemorrhage. "The portion of his brain that controls his motor skills was damaged and it impacted his entire motor development," explains Liz. When Paul was three months old, doctors confirmed he had paralysis and recommended early intervention therapy. Paul has been in physical therapy every week for the last 24 years with breaks only for family vacations.

An intense, gregarious guy, Paul holds two part-time jobs—one at Chateau Retirement Center in Willowbrook, the other as a guest guide at Brookfield Zoo—while attending

therapy thrice weekly. He and his dad share cooking and yardwork duty. Paul also has a busy social life, taking advantage of SEASPAR parties and outings: a luau one night, sports the next.

Paul's introduction to golf came at age 19. Liz and Paul saw a photo of a classmate of Paul's, also a quadriplegic, using a single-rider golf cart. The classmate's mom directed Liz to NEDSRA. "I called (coach) Ann Roytek, and Ann told me to come out and look at the program," Liz recalls.

Paul officially joined NEDSRA in January 2003. Ann tackled Paul's challenges head-on, designing a golf glove with Velcro and elastic enabling him to be more independent holding a club. Ann also found a custom golf shop that could bend Paul's clubs since he would be playing from a seated position in his wheelchair. "She's an unbelievable coach with how much she cares about her golfers," Liz says. "Without Ann, we wouldn't be golfing."

On the course, Liz acts as caddy, trailing closely behind Paul and Paul Sr., who pushes his son's wheelchair. At address, Liz and Paul Sr. push the wheelchair footpegs aside and hoist 100-pound Paul forward in his chair. Then father and son join forces to strike the ball.

Ann explains the dynamics. "Paul can somewhat grip the club with his right hand. Dad's right hand comes over and becomes the other hand on the club. Paul Sr. will give a verbal cue to Paul when he's ready to take the club back and Paul Jr. knows to start the club back in the backswing. Together, they become a swing. It's uncanny how precise they are. It is something to see, it really is."

"Our family now revolves around his golf schedule," Liz says with a laugh. "Paul wants to participate in any special event that comes up. If Ann mentions something, he's all ready to go. It says so much about what golf has opened up for him...a whole new world he gets to be involved with and it has given our family so many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities."



PGA Tour pro Tim Clark (left) strolls the Sunshine Course with Paul and Paul, Sr.

SUNSHINE CLUB

The following Chicago District Golf Association member clubs support the Association's charitable arm, the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation, through the Sunshine Club program. Club members contribute \$30 each toward the Sunshine Club, an annual giving program.

- Aurora Country Club
- Beverly Country Club
- Biltmore Country Club
- Bryn Mawr Country Club
- Butler National Golf Club
- Butterfield Country Club
- Calumet Country Club
- Chicago Golf Club
- Cress Creek Country Club
- Crystal Lake Country Club
- Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club
- Edgewood Valley Country Club
- Evanston Golf Club
- Geneva Golf Club
- Glen Flora Country Club
- Glen Oak Country Club
- Glen View Club
- Hillcrest Country 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
- Ouilmette Golf Club
- Park Ridge Country Club
- Ridge Country Club
- Ridgemoor Country Club
- Riverside Golf Club
- Rockford Country Club
- Rolling Green Country Club
- Ruth Lake Country Club
- St. Charles Country Club
- Stonebridge Country Club
- Westmoreland Country Club
- White Eagle Golf Club
- Woodstock Country Club

For more information about the Sunshine Club, contact the Foundation at 630-685-2313 or bottolini@cdga.org.

News & Notes

2008 SUNSHINE EVENTS

**Bank of America Open
The Glen Club, Glenview, Ill.
Thursday, May 29
Sunday, June 1, 2008**

On Monday, April 21, Mike Natale won the Bank of America Open Amateur Invitational at Oak Park C.C. Oak Park, Ill. The event served as a fundraiser for the Foundation and earned Natale a spot in the 2008 Bank of America tournament at The Glen Club. Bank of America has made a \$5,000 donation to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation on his behalf. The Foundation is a charitable beneficiary of the tournament.

**Sunshine Through Golf Outing
Shoreacres, Lake Bluff, Ill.
June 9, 2008**

For more information about the outing, please contact Brittany Ottolini at 630-685-2313 or bottolini@cdga.org.

**Chicago White Sox vs. Detroit Tigers
U.S. Cellular Field, Chicago, Ill.
Thursday, August 7, 2008**

Mark your calendars for the Foundation's fundraising event at the game. Last year, 200 tickets were sold and more than 50 of them were donated with the intent that Sunshine Through Golf athletes attend.

SUNSHINE COURSE TEE-TIMES

Online tee time registration is available at www.sunshinethroughgolf.org. Visit the site to book a tee-time on the Sunshine Course this summer.

REVELATION GOLF: In an effort to assist Revelation Golf in the advancement of their golf program for veterans, Revelation Golf is a 2008 recipient of a Sunshine Through Golf Foundation grant. For more information on Revelation Golf and their programs visit www.revelationgolf.com.

2008 SUNSHINE THROUGH GOLF 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 for five to six weeks. For more details, visit www.sunshinethroughgolf.org.

Start Date	Location	Organization
Monday, January 14	Golf Center of Des Plaines (GolfTec)	Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation
Monday, March 31 (skip April 21)	Golf Center of Des Plaines (GolfTec)	Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation
Monday, April 7 Wednesday, April 9 Tuesday, April 15 Monday, April 21 (skip May 26) Wednesday, April 23 Tuesday, April 29	Coyote Run Golf Club Libertyville Golf Complex Stony Creek Golf Club Medinah Country Club The First Tee of Aurora-Phillips Park Golf Course Inverness Golf Club	South Suburban SRA Warren SRA Oak Lawn SRA North East Dupage SRA Hope D. Wall School Little City Foundation
Thursday, May 1 Monday, May 5 Wednesday, May 7 Wednesday, May 7 Wednesday, May 7 Wednesday, May 7 Thursday, May 8 Wednesday, May 14 Tuesday, May 20 (skip May 27) Wednesday, May 21	The Highlands of Elgin Gwendolyn Brooks School Oak Brook Golf Club/Three Hole Sunshine Course White Eagle Golf Club Glen Oak Country Club Cantigny Golf Village Greens of Woodridge/Three-Hole Sunshine Course Links at Ireland Grove North Shore Country Club Kellogg Golf Course	Northern Illinois SRA Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep. Special Ed. Aspire Western DuPage SRA Western DuPage SRA Western DuPage SRA South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation SOAR Misericordia Heart of Illinois SRA
Monday, June 9 Tuesday & Thursday, June 10 Tuesday, June 10 Wednesday, June 11 Wednesday, June 11 Thursday, June 12 (skip July 3, 17) Friday, June 13 Monday, June 16 Tuesday, June 17 Tuesday, June 17 Tuesday, June 17 Wednesday, June 18 Thursday, June 19 (skip July 3) Sunday, June 21 Tuesday, June 23 Tuesday, June 23 Monday, June 23 Wednesday, June 25 Wednesday, June 25 Thursday, June 26	Golf Center of Des Plaines (GolfTec) Alpine Hills Golf Course Twin Lakes Golf Course Palatine Hills Golf Course Cress Creek Golf Training Center Phillips Park Golf Course Twin Lakes Golf Course Ingersoll Golf Club Stone Creek Golf Club Fox Run Golf Links-Driving Range Coyote Run Golf Club Libertyville Golf Complex White Pines Golf Club Cog Hill Golf & Country Club Diversey Driving Range South Shore Learning Center Randall Oaks Golf Course Flagg Creek Golf Course Makray Memorial Golf Club Libertyville Golf Complex	Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation River Valley SRA North West Suburban SRA North West Suburban SRA Indiana Special Olympics & Valparaiso Park District Fox Valley SRA North West Suburban SRA Rockford Park District Champaign-Urbana SRA School District 54-Special Olympics South Suburban SRA Warren SRA West Suburban SRA Tri-County SRA Chicago Special Olympics Chicago Special Olympics (Beginner) Northern Illinois SRA (Beginner) Gateway SRA Northern Illinois SRA (Beginner & Advanced) SRA of Central Lake County
Wednesday, July 9 Wednesday, July 16	Bryn Mawr Country Club Creekside Golf & Training Center	Misericordia Indiana Special Olympics-Valparaiso Park District
Thursday, August 7 Wednesday, August 13 Thursday, August 14 Thursday, August 21 Tuesday, August 26 Thursday, August 28 Thursday, August 28	Winnetka Golf Club Links at Ireland Grove Village Greens of Woodridge/Three-Hole Sunshine Course Silver Lake Country Club Mt. Prospect Golf Club Mt. Prospect Golf Club Prestwick Country Club	North Suburban SRA (Beginner & Advanced) SOAR South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation Orland Park SRA (Beginner) Clearbrook Clearbrook Lincoln-Way SRA
Wednesday, September 3 Wednesday, September 17	Odyssey Country Club The First Tee of Aurora-Phillips Park Golf Course	Southwest Community Services Hope D. Wall School
TBA TBA TBA TBA	River Forest Country Club Three-Hole Sunshine Course Thunderhawk Golf Club/Shepherd's Crook Golf Course Foss Park Golf Course	West Suburban SRA (Advanced) School Association for Special Education in Dupage Zion Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association

Sunshine Series

The Sunshine Series, partially funded by 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 more one-on-one training as well as the occasions to play on a golf course.

Chicago Special Olympics
Marquette Park Golf Course
The First Tee of Chicago Staff
Monday's, June 23-July 28
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Advanced)

Chicago Special Olympics
Robert A. Black Golf Course
The First Tee of Chicago Staff
Tuesday's, June 24-July 29
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

DeKalb/Sycamore Association of Special Recreation
Buena Vista Golf Club
Tom Zeeh
Monday's, May 12-July 28
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Doyens' and Friends
Bartlett Hills Golf Club
Bob Gavelek
TBA
TBA

Fox Valley SRA
St. Charles Country Club
James Sutherland
TBA
TBA

Heart of Illinois SRA
Golf Learning Center
Kyle Meier
Wednesday's
July 9-Sept. 3
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Indiana Special Olympics-Valparaiso Park District
Creekside Golf & Training Center
Nancy Bender
Wednesday's, July 16-Aug. 13
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Joliet-Bolingbrook SRA
Sanctuary Golf Course
Dan Phillips
Wednesday's, June 4-July 23 (skip July 2), 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln-Way SRA
Sanctuary Golf Course
Bob Schulz and Staff
Sunday's, June 1-July 16 (skip June 15) 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

North Suburban SRA
Exmoor Country Club
Ronald Romack
Wednesday's, July 9-Aug. 13 (skip July 16)

Northern Illinois SRA
Randall Oaks Golf Course
Frank Chieppa
Tuesday's, June 24-July 29
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Oak Lawn SRA
Stony Creek Golf Course
Carol Rhoades
Tuesday's, July 29-Sept. 2
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Orland Park SRA
Silver Lake Country Club
Greg Tengerstrom
Thursday's, Aug. 21-Oct. 2 (skip Sept. 25) 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

River Valley SRA
Kankakee Elks Golf Club
Dieter Juehn, Jr.
Tuesday's and Thursday's
July 29-Sept. 11
9:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Western DuPage SRA
Arrowhead Golf Course
Billy Klemz
Monday's, June 9-July 28
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

