

The First Tee Case for Support

As the closing bells ring in schools across the country, millions of students will leave school grounds and begin their afternoon. This is over 60,000 young people. Some will be challenged with making choices about how to steer their future in a positive direction.

In order to secure the economic future of the country, we must support the nation's children from their earliest years through their transition into college and the workforce. One in four public school children drop out before they finish high school. For students who do graduate, lack of readiness for college and the 21st century workforce is a serious threat. Post-secondary institutions spend millions each year on remedial education for students who are unable to handle basic college work in English, math and science.

Many will not be prepared to address the challenges that so many young people face today. Research indicates that positive youth development programs that promote a sense of physical and emotional safety, enable youth to build constructive relationships and support development of social skills - like conflict resolution, leadership, and teamwork - will result in positive academic and social outcomes.¹

Why The First Tee?

The First Tee programs teach young people life skills that allow them to face challenges at home, school and play in a constructive manner. The skills they learn include problem solving, goal setting, time management, controlling one's emotions, working well with others and improving relationships with family and community.

During personal interviews, 78 percent of The First Tee participants described their ability to transfer life skills through specific examples and stories. Skills including decision-making, self-management and goal-setting were consistently transferred to situations involving school, family, friends, jobs, college, career and out-of-school activities.² For example, many students found

¹ *How Out-Of School Time Program Quality Is Related To Adolescent Outcomes*
By Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D. and Kathleen Hamilton, M.A. August 2010

² *2005-2008 Longitudinal Effects of a Life Skills Education Program on Positive Youth Development* (led by Maureen R. Weiss, Ph.D., University of Minnesota)

that they were able to stay positive when frustrated with homework, to set goals to get better grades and to look for solutions to problems with friends.

The First Tee is more than just a place to learn the game of golf. The First Tee provides opportunities for young people to experience a positive, safe place, surrounded by caring adults. They learn the value of giving back to their community and the meaning of responsibility and respect.

The goals of The First Tee are to see participants graduate from high school on time with the life skills needed to succeed in college and life, with the ability to make healthy choices and with the desire to positively impact their communities.

To: Joe Barrow

Subject: Thank you all

Hi my name is Charles Wright. I would like to start by telling you how much this program has done for my child. I recently obtained custody of my eight year old daughter Summer Wright. When she came to live with me she was completely dysfunctional in many ways. I had been told that she was autistic, and I should not expect much from her. After buying her many of the regular toys that kids her age have, I became frustrated as she always lost interest quickly. In August I was having a pretty bad day and decided to go hit some balls at the local driving range. While I was doing this my daughter said "Hey dad can I try"? I went into the clubhouse and borrowed a few junior clubs and let her give it a try. She immediately showed an interest and much excitement when she hit the ball. When we were done, as we were walking to the truck, a gentleman named Matt Cradduck who was hitting balls told me about the first tee program. I filled out the application, but was having trouble coming up with the money. My daughter came to me with only the clothes on her back, and recovering from a recent back injury money is extremely tight. I called the number and spoke with Billy Gibbs. He informed me that there was a scholarship available and to bring her to the next class. I cannot tell you enough how much that day changed my daughters life. When she began she was reading at an early second grade level. (34words per minute) Friday the twenty eighth of October she was retested and she read 72 words. She has changed in so many ways. I do not know if its the way Billy has with kids, or the focus she has gained through golf, but she is not the same child. She now runs, plays, and makes friends everywhere she goes. She constantly wants to go hit balls, practice putting at home, and clean her golf clubs. In short I just want to thank you all for providing this opportunity for my child. Billy is the greatest and I feel this has rescued my daughter. Thanks again,

Mission

The mission of The First Tee Central Coast is to impact the lives of young people in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

Who do we serve?

The First Tee serves youth ages 5 through 18 through chapters at 14 program locations and more than 50 elementary schools and 1U.S. military installations. On the central coast we serve 4000 youth after school, over 30,000 in the schools and 120 at Vandenberg AFB.

Vision

During the past 18 years, more than 10 million youth have participated in The First Tee's programs which foster critical life skills, providing the foundation for the acquisition and internalization of The First Tee Nine Core Values™ - honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, courtesy, sportsmanship, confidence, judgment and perseverance. We have impacted over 60,000 on the central Coast.

The First Tee will further impact communities by positively influencing behaviors of young people and inspiring adults to mentor, coach, volunteer, and invest financially in the organization..

The First Tee has made significant strides in expanding the number of avenues through which it can deliver its programs, as well as in improving the nature and quality of those programs. Some of the major programs emerging from the past decade include The First Tee Life Skills Experience™, The First Tee National School Program™ and The First Tee Mentoring Program.

Programs

The First Tee provides programs that enable a young person the opportunity to receive the support needed to address issues that are associated with academic achievement.

The First Tee Life Skills Experience serves youth ages five and older during after-school hours, weekends and summer months. As such, it offers a safe and positive learning environment, providing character education and life skills lessons during non-school hours and providing an educational experience that combats summer learning loss. Locations include The

First Tee chapter golf courses, schools, parks, youth-serving organizations, community centers and military installations. Cost is not a barrier to participation as financial aid is available for young people who cannot afford to pay. The annual investment for The First Tee per participant is approximately **\$500 a participant**.

The First Tee National School Program is conducted during regular school hours and engages elementary-age students in a structured physical education curriculum that promotes motor skills and character development in every lesson. Main objectives include providing physical educators with the professional development opportunities to effectively teach skills, concepts, and The First Tee Nine Core Values within the school setting. The one-time investment for The First Tee National School Program is \$3,500 per school, averaging \$5-6 per student.

The First Tee Nine Healthy Habits™

The First Tee Nine Healthy Habits are nine health and wellness topics presented as a part of The First Tee National School Program and Life Skills Experience. Using an holistic and integrated format the program seeks to help youth understand vital life lessons needed to display a positive, productive, and healthy lifestyle.

These Healthy Habits are incorporated into both programs and are formatted for easy understanding and learning by elementary-age students and participants. The Nine Healthy Habits are organized under three categories of physical, emotional and social health. Within these categories, topics include understanding fitness and nutrition, maintaining quality friendships, dealing with bullies, and contributing to a healthy family and community.

Increasing opportunities for young people

There is a need for additional programs and opportunities for young people in our communities. Increasing the opportunity for young people to experience positive social interaction with their peers in safe places surrounded by caring adults will have positive outcomes within our communities. Through a sustained and successful program, The First Tee will help boost student achievement, improve high school readiness and provide extra support to those students who need it the most.

Project {include any special project or program you are seeking support for and financial goal} Examples:

- **Coach training**
- **Capital campaign**
- **Life Skills Experience scholarship**
- **Volunteer recruitment and training**
- **Mentoring**
- **Computer labs**
- **Summer camps**
- **Participant sponsoshhip**

Organizational History

Central Coast Junior Golf, Inc. organized as a 501©(3) not-for-profit organization in September of 1999 and began doing business as The First Tee Central Coast in October 2002. The organization was created to become a The First Tee Chapter and bring the Life Skills Experience to communities in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties and has expanded to Ventura County. We started with one site and about 100 participants and have expanded to 14 sites, three counties, over 60 Elementary Schools, 6 Junior High Schools, and a Juvenile encouragement program at Los Prietos Boy Camp.

Will you invest in the future of today's young people?

Please consider making an investment in The First Tee of Central Coast toward the greater goal of \$\$, to help The First Tee continue addressing the needs of young people by providing high-quality, positive youth development programs.

Fact Sheet

***Mission:** to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.*

- Established in 1997, The First Tee currently serves youth ages eight through 18 at 750 program locations, more than 4,000 elementary schools in 500 school districts and 120 U.S. military installations.
- The First Tee's 200 chapters are located in 50 states and six international locations: Vancouver and Montreal, Canada; Manchester, UK; Ireland; Singapore; New Zealand.
- The First Tee has more than 4,000 volunteers and 600 certified Life Skills coaches.
- The First Tee primarily reaches young people who previously have not been exposed to the game of golf and its inherent values.
- During the past 14 years, more than 4.7 million young people have participated in The First Tee programs which foster critical life skills that provide the foundation for the acquisition and internalization of The First Tee Nine Core Values™ - honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, courtesy, sportsmanship, confidence, judgment and perseverance.
- **The First Tee Life Skills Experience™** serves youth during after-school hours, weekends and summer months. It offers a safe and positive golf learning environment that provides an educational experience that combats summer learning loss.
- The First Tee programs teach young people skills that allow them to face challenges at home, school and play in a constructive manner that includes problem solving, managing time, controlling one's emotions, working well with others and improving relationships with family and community.
- The First Tee is more than just a place to learn the game of golf. It provides opportunities for young people to experience a positive, safe place surrounded by caring adults. They learn the value of giving back to their community and the meaning of responsibility and respect.
- The goals of The First Tee are to see participants graduate from high school on time with the life skills needed to succeed in college and beyond, with the ability to make healthy choices and the desire to positively impact their communities.
- **The First Tee National School Program™** is conducted during the normal school hours and engages elementary-age students in a structured physical education curriculum that provides a positive introduction to the life-long sport of golf, motor skill development and character education in every lesson through The First Tee Nine Core Values™.