



Growing Confidence, Building Community

Robert's story: from learning to leading

Robert started with First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin when he was 11 years old, curious about golf and eager to try something new. What began as a simple introduction quickly grew into an opportunity for growth and self-discovery. “We got Robert involved, and he liked it, and then he started to love it,” his mom, Paige, shared. “We started to see a difference with him and his attitude, how he was cooperating with people, and how he was just showing more responsibility.”

Now 16, Robert continues to grow as both a participant and junior coach. This summer, he helped lead our sessions with Neighborhood House of Milwaukee. As a coach, Robert has become a positive role model for the kids he works with as he shares the same lessons that shaped his own experience. He's known for setting an example with patience, showing responsibility, and creating a fun, welcoming environment.

Paige reflected, “We started with low confidence, not a lot of initiative, and now Robert is super passionate about everything that he does and about helping others, and that's what is most important for us.”

When asked what he values most about his time with First Tee, Robert had one word, “community.” It's that sense of belonging, made possible because of donors like you, that continues to help young people like Robert thrive on and off the course.

In this issue:

02 Neighborhood House **02** Board Member Spotlight **03** Smiles at Children's **04** Parent Q&A

Having fun with Neighborhood House

Weekly sessions bring growth and connection

For the past eight years, First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin has been proud to partner with Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, welcoming their youth to weekly sessions at Noyes Park Golf Course. This long-standing collaboration has created opportunities for kids to learn and grow outside of school and home.

Each week, participants bring their curiosity, energy, and enthusiasm to the course. Over time, we've seen their skills develop from the fundamentals of the golf swing to the life lessons the game teaches. Just as importantly, we've had the privilege of building relationships, watching kids return year after year, and sharing in their excitement as they improve.

This partnership is a reminder of what's possible when community organizations come together with a shared purpose. We value our relationship with Neighborhood House deeply and look forward to many more seasons of learning, laughter, and growth on the course.



Champion Golfer and Lifelong Mentor

Sharing lessons with the next generation

Katie Falk's name is etched into Wisconsin golf history — not only for her 21 state titles and induction into the Wisconsin Golf Hall of Fame, but for her unwavering commitment to youth. From her start as an 11-year-old competitor to decades of dominance on the state and national stage, Katie has always believed golf teaches lessons far beyond the scorecard.

For more than 25 years, Katie has brought that belief to First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin. Now in her eighth year as a board member, she also volunteers regularly at Lake Park and during Neighborhood House sessions at Noyes Park, where she works one-on-one with kids. "It's about keeping it simple and fun," she says. "If they're having fun, they'll keep playing."

Katie's story is one of passion, persistence, and generosity. By investing her time and talents, she continues to shape the next generation and ensures her impact on Wisconsin golf will be felt for years to come.



"Golf teaches you honesty, resilience, and how to recover when things don't go your way."

Driving Youth Forward

Building skills for life

On August 8, First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin hosted the third annual Fellowship Youth Clinic at Currie Park Golf Course in partnership with the Fellowship Open, MKE Fellows, We Black We Golf, Kappa League, and PGA REACH Wisconsin. The event brought together dozens of young participants for a day of learning, mentorship, and connection through the game of golf.



The clinic gave young participants a hands-on introduction to golf while also connecting them with community mentors. Guided by First Tee coaches and volunteers, kids explored putting, chipping, and full swings in a fun and supportive environment. After their time on the course, participants gathered for lunch and heard from community leaders, including David Cohn, CEO of First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin, and John Daniels III, President of MKE Fellows.

We're grateful to our partners for making this event possible and inspiring the next generation to grow with confidence. By working together, we are helping young people discover their potential and strengthening the communities we serve.

Bringing Golf to Children's Wisconsin

First Tee brings golf, laughter, and inspiration to kids receiving care

This summer, First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin had the privilege of bringing the game of golf to young patients and families at Children's Wisconsin. With stations set up for putting and swinging, kids had the chance to step away from their routines and simply enjoy being active and playful.

These moments may look like small swings, but they carry big impact. Laughter filled the room as children tried new skills, celebrated each other's efforts, and shared smiles with their families. For kids facing health challenges, opportunities like these create lasting memories of joy and confidence. We look forward to continuing to join Children's Wisconsin to bring more opportunities for play, encouragement, and connection.

Thanks to donors like you, we're able to bring the First Tee experience beyond the course. Together, we are proving that golf is more than a sport; it's a powerful way to inspire hope and encourage kids wherever they are.



Parent Q&A

Each year, we ask parents about the impact of First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin programming. Here's what they had to say this year:

"He tries harder to achieve his goals and communicates more with peers."

"The instructors went out of their way to establish personal relationships and strong rapport with the students from day one. Their patience and interaction was reflected in our daughters' continued focus and improvement throughout each lesson."

"He never felt left out and was treated with respect despite his learning disabilities."

"Their is more of a willingness to play golf outside of First Tee."

Shared Swings

Families growing together through golf

This fall, we introduced family clinics, inviting parents and children to learn and play together. Families shared time on the range, practiced new skills, built confidence together and deepened their connection through the game. These clinics created meaningful moments that extended First Tee's impact to the entire family. Watching families learn side by side reinforced the joy that comes from experiencing the game together.



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Game Changers Circle monthly donors provide a sustainable resource that gives the organization an opportunity to look past today, and dream big for tomorrow.

Your monthly support helps launch and grow exciting scholarship, access, and program opportunities, inspiring our young people today for a brighter future tomorrow!



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Building Game Changers

Mission

Our mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Vision

Our vision is that all kids in Southeast Wisconsin have the opportunity to build their strength of character through the game of golf.