

“Golf for Life”

2007 Program Guidelines

A Collaboration Between

The Professional Golfers’ Association of America (PGA)

and

National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)



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“Golf for Life” Pilot Program

“Golf for Life” is a golf instruction and developmental program provided exclusively for individuals with Down syndrome. It is being coordinated by the Philadelphia Section of the Professional Golfers’ Association of America (PGA) through collaboration between The Brad Hennefer Golf For Life Foundation and the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC).

The Inspiration Behind “Golf for Life”

The “Golf for Life” program concept was inspired by the golf accomplishments of Brad Hennefer. Brad is an eighteen year-old young man who has Down syndrome, and he has been playing golf for almost his entire life. He started playing miniature golf at about three years old under the close eye of his older brother. Brad’s brother, Bob, started playing in junior tours and Brad was always close by practicing along side his brother, and apparently comprehending far more than his family realized. Brad spent countless hours in his brother’s shadow watching him compete in tournaments and trying to imitate his every move at the driving range and on the course. Although Brad is a “lefty” and Bob is right-handed, Brad somehow figured out the complexities of a golf swing.

In October 2000, at age twelve, Brad played in his first Special Olympics of New Jersey golf tournament with his brother as his partner and coach, and they won their first gold medal together. Brad was the youngest golfer in the New Jersey state championship and was generally competing with men between ages twenty-five and forty years old. The two brothers were quite the team until 2002 when Bob went off to college. There was suddenly a void in Brad’s “golf life.” His mother, who was surfing the web for local golf programs, noticed that the Philadelphia Section of the PGA had a program whereby individuals with special needs were paired up with a PGA professional who volunteered to provide golf instruction.

In the summer of 2003, Brad first met Dick Smith, Jr. who volunteered to be his “golf buddy.” Dick had never worked with an individual with Down syndrome and had no idea what he was getting into, but fate changed both his life and Brad’s life that day. Dick, who is now President of the Philadelphia Section of the PGA, has provided professional golf instruction to Brad for the past several years. Brad has blossomed under his direction and is now able to independently play eighteen holes of golf. Brad is also participating on his high school varsity golf team, which practices at the course where Dick is the Director of Golf. Brad and Dick have developed a strong bond with each other over the years, and they seem to truly bring out the best in each other.

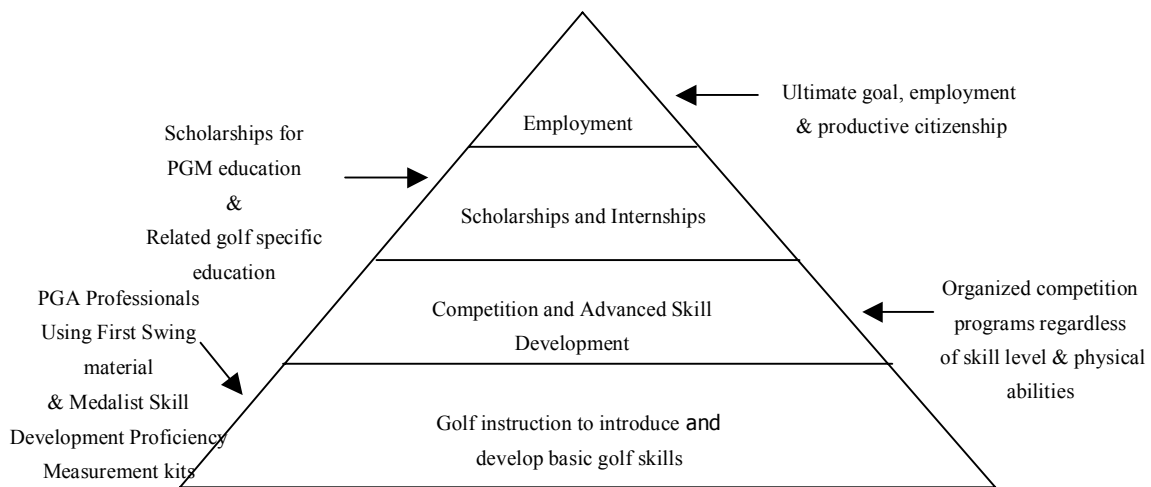
The Hennefer and Smith families’ goal is to now provide to other individuals who have Down syndrome, the same opportunities that are being provided to Brad. The duo approached both The PGA Foundation and the National Down Syndrome Congress to roll out a program that was piloted in the Philadelphia Section of the PGA during 2006 and is now being expanded to other areas of the United States. Through collaboration between The Philadelphia Section of the PGA and the NDSC, their goal is to provide a national golf instruction and development cycle to individuals who have Down syndrome. Dick Smith, Jr. is helping to identify PGA Professionals who are willing to donate their time for golf instruction, and the NDSC has the affiliate group infrastructure to help us match PGA Sections with NDSC affiliates who are willing to help expand the programs.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the “Golf for Life” program is to provide a golf developmental process for individuals with Down syndrome to introduce the game of golf, provide a level of consistency, maintain involvement and participation, provide opportunities for competition regardless of skill level and physical abilities, with support for education and special assistance that may ultimately lead to employment and productive citizenship.

PGA Golf Instruction & Development Cycle



Bob & Brad Hennefer (age 3)



Bob & Brad (age 12)



Bob & Brad (age 18)

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About The Professional Golfers’ Association of America and The PGA Foundation

The PGA’s origin can be traced back to 1916. When The PGA of America was formed, there was no distinction between club and touring Professionals. In 1968, PGA tournament players, who comprised a small percentage of the membership, broke away from the Association to form a Tournament Players Division. In 1975, the Tournament Players Division was renamed the PGA Tour. The PGA Tour and the PGA of America maintain a close working relationship, and most professional golfers maintain dual memberships in the organizations. Celebrating its 91st anniversary as a leader in golf, the PGA of America is committed to developing new programs, which bring both frequent and infrequent players into the game. Recognizing the passion that millions share for golf, The PGA of America, through its more than 28,000 men and women Professionals, has dedicated itself to the growth of the game.

PGA Section Offices oversee the 41 regions throughout the United States and provide the grass-roots network to facilitate communication amongst the nation’s amateur golfers and the PGA’s members. Each section conducts, for example, regional qualifying tournaments for amateur events as well as sponsor junior clinics. PGA Sections also conduct educational programs, workshops and seminars for the benefit of local PGA members and apprentices.

The PGA Foundation, a 501(c) (3) public philanthropic foundation, was created in 1954 as the charitable arm for The PGA of America. In keeping with the mission of The PGA of America, the foundation is dedicated to providing resources and the professional expertise to make golf accessible to all segments of every community. The PGA Foundation’s priority is to grow the game of golf while using the game to enhance the quality of life for all people. Directly associated with golf programs are core values such as honesty, integrity, respect, self-assurance, courtesy, and perseverance. Regardless of gender, age, social and economic background, or playing ability, every golfer experiences these values through their involvement in the game. These values are particularly important for golf programs conducted in under-served communities.

The PGA Foundation supports golf programs designed to help enrich the lives of children, the physically challenged, and various citizens who are considered underserved. Education enrichment programs for the same population in the form of scholarships are also a key initiative. The PGA Foundation also supports various community outreach and charitable programs that make a major difference in those communities.

Contact Information

The PGA Foundation
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www.PGAFoundation.com

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About the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)

The National Down Syndrome Congress is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1973. The NDSC is governed by a twenty-two member Board of Directors composed of parents and family members of individuals with Down syndrome, self-advocates and other individuals involved with people with Down syndrome.

The purpose of the NDSC is to promote the interests of people with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, public awareness, and information dissemination on all aspects of Down syndrome. The NDSC is financially supported primarily through membership dues and individual contributions.

The mission of the NDSC is to provide information, advocacy and support concerning all aspects of life for individuals with Down syndrome. The vision of the NDSC is a world with equal rights and opportunities for people with Down syndrome. That purpose is enhanced by the commitment of the NDSC to:

- Promote the availability of and accessibility to a full range of opportunities and/or resources that meet individual and family needs.
- Build a sense of community and fellowship for all people concerned with Down syndrome.
- Provide leadership in the formation of public policy.
- Encourage ethically responsible research related to all aspects of Down syndrome.
- Educate professionals, parents, and community in all aspects relating to Down syndrome.
- Foster self-advocacy and acknowledge the importance of self-actualization for persons with Down syndrome.
- Recognize and advance the full range of rights of all people with Down syndrome.
- Promote full participation of people with Down syndrome in all aspects of community life.
- Recognize the variability of personal needs and respect individual choices.
- Develop and disseminate position statements on major issues related to Down syndrome.
- Provide a network for linking state and local groups and affiliates.
- Foster and enhance relationships with the NDSC community and the broader disability community.

Contact Information

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About Down Syndrome

We recognize that some of the PGA Professionals who will be working with the “Golf for Life” program participants may not be completely familiar with Down syndrome, so we have provided some facts which should be helpful.

Facts About Down syndrome

- Down syndrome is a chromosome variation with no known cause. Ninety-five percent of people with Down syndrome have an extra #21 chromosome in every cell of their body. This is known as Trisomy 21. It is not related to race, nationality, religion or socio-economic status.
- In the United States, approximately one in every 800 – 1,000 children is born with Down syndrome.
- Between 250,000 and 350,000 families in the United States are affected by Down syndrome.
- About 80 percent of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under age 35.

Developmental Aspects

- Children with Down syndrome are more like other children than they are different. Language, motor and intellectual development are generally delayed in children with Down syndrome. Most people with Down syndrome experience some degree of cognitive delay, though there is a wide spectrum of mental abilities, developmental progress and behavior.

Health

- There is a wide range of health conditions associated with Down syndrome. Some people with Down syndrome have many serious medical needs and some have few. The most common, heart anomalies, affects approximately 40 to 45 percent of children with Down syndrome. Other medical concerns include gastrointestinal abnormalities, thyroid disorders and difficulties with hearing or vision.

Elementary and Middle School Years

- Research shows that the development of a child with Down syndrome is positively influenced by a caring and enriching home environment, early intervention and improved educational efforts. Inclusion in regular classrooms provides an opportunity for children to engage in sharing relationships with others and develop academic skills.

High School

- Teens with Down syndrome enjoy many aspects of the high school experience. These often include assisting in student government and athletics, participating in theater productions and attending campus clubs, sporting events, dances and special events like proms.

Adult Life

- In adulthood, many people with Down syndrome hold jobs, live independently and enjoy community life, just like everyone else. With proper support, people with Down syndrome thrive from birth through adulthood and give back far more than they receive. Undoubtedly, people with Down syndrome enhance our world.

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“Golf for Life” Program Coordinators

The “Golf for Life” pilot program is being coordinated through the efforts of The Brad Hennefer Golf For Life Foundation, the Philadelphia Section of the PGA and the NDSC. All questions about the program can be directed to the following individuals at the contact information below.

The Hennefer Family

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Pictured left to right:
Brad, Nancy, Bob and Bobby
Hennefer

Philadelphia Section PGA Contact Information

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Pictured left to right:
Mike Cole (Phila. PGA Past President)
Dick Smith, Jr. (Phila. PGA President)
Brad Hennefer
Mike Mack (Phila. PGA Past President)

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Recap of 2006

The first year of the “Golf for Life” pilot program was 2006, and it consisted of the following three events.

Spring – “Golf for Life” Inaugural Golf Clinic

The “Golf for Life” Inaugural Golf Clinic was held at a golf facility in the Southern New Jersey area which had access to both miniature golf and a driving range. NDSC affiliate parent groups within the boundaries of the Philadelphia Section PGA were invited to participate, and it was open to individuals of all ages who have Down syndrome. The initial goals of the inaugural golf clinic were to: 1) provide golf instruction to introduce and develop basic golf skills; and 2) expose the game of golf to as many individuals with Down syndrome as possible in the geographic area covered by the Philadelphia Section PGA and to enroll them in the “Golf for Life” program.

Philadelphia Section PGA Professionals were available at the clinic to provide golf instruction to the participants and to help identify their skill level for future aspects of the program. The clinic consisted of a miniature golf outing, a golf lesson at the driving range for those who are able to drive a golf ball, refreshments, and complimentary golf items for all participants.

Summer – “Golf for Life” Kick-off at the NDSC Teen & Young Adult Annual Convention

The “Golf for Life” program was officially “kicked off” at the NDSC Teen & Young Adult Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA. Representatives from The PGA Foundation, the Philadelphia Section PGA, and the Hennefer family were available to present the key aspects of the program. In addition, a golf practice area was staffed where participants in the Teen & Young Adult Conference were able to test their golf skills, receive golf instruction, and obtain information on future aspects of the golf program.

Fall – “Golf for Life” Intermediate & Advanced Clinic

During the Fall, an intermediate and advanced golf clinic was offered to individuals identified at the inaugural golf clinic who were functioning at the intermediate and advanced levels. The clinic was taught by Philadelphia Section PGA Professionals and focused on the correct golf grip, stance, swing, driving, chipping and putting. This was extremely beneficial for individuals who participated in the Fall Special Olympics golf season.



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Future Program Elements

Expansion To Additional PGA Sections

The format of the program that we are currently offering in the Philadelphia PGA Section is a series of golf clinics from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Participants pre-register at the beginning of the season for as many clinics as they would like to attend.

We are also expanding the “pilot program” format to additional PGA Sections and now cover New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Central Ohio, Kansas, Missouri and South Carolina. All pilot program information, both successes and challenges, is shared with the respective PGA Sections and NDSC affiliate groups.

PGA Sectional Down Syndrome Events

Our goals for the future include: 1) providing opportunities for competition and advanced skill development such as PGA Sectional tournaments; and 2) expanding the program to additional PGA Sections. The program can potentially be offered to as many NDSC parent groups who are willing to make the commitment to help organize the golf events. Ideally, we would like the “Golf for Life” program to be offered across all 41 PGA Sections. However, a very strong local NDSC affiliate group commitment will be extremely critical.

National Down Syndrome Congress Championship

Our goals also include having a National Down Syndrome Congress golf championship where the PGA Sectional championship winners could compete against each other for the NDSC national title. Consideration could be given to having this one-day tournament be scheduled as part of the annual NDSC Teen & Young Adult Annual Convention. The PGA Section winners and the NDSC champion could all be honored each year at the NDSC national convention. The location of the tournament could rotate each year with the national conference rotation.

Employment in the Golf Industry

Our vision is for participants who have grown up in the “Golf for Life” program to one day obtain internships to learn job skills and ultimately be offered employment in the golf industry. There are a number of positions in the industry that we believe individuals who have Down syndrome are capable of pursuing. We also believe that one of the best ways to train for a job in the golf industry is to grow up being involved in the sport from a very young age, where opportunities are provided to build lasting personal relationships with potential employers including the PGA professionals and golf members, learn the appropriate golf etiquette, practice social interactions, and hopefully learn the necessary job skills. The opportunities are endless!

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Golf Ability Levels

Participants in future aspects of the “Golf for Life” program will be offered professional golf instruction based on the ability levels identified at the inaugural golf clinic. The goal of the program is to help participants advance to higher levels once they have mastered the basic skills for each level.

Level 1 New Beginner

- Little or no golf experience and need to learn basic putting skills to participate in miniature golf.
- Golf instruction will primarily focus on teaching the basic skills of golf.

Level 2 Beginner

- Ability to participate in miniature golf but requires adult supervision to stay on task.
- Golf instruction will focus on correct golf grip, stance, posture, swing, and golf course etiquette.

Level 3 Intermediate

- Ability to play miniature golf independently with no direct adult supervision.
- Ability to play nine-holes in a Special Olympics “alternating shot” format.
- Golf instruction will focus on driving, chipping, putting, and learning to independently play nine holes of golf.

Level 4 Advanced

- Ability to play miniature golf independently with no direct adult supervision.
- Ability to play nine holes of golf independently.
- Golf instruction will focus on driving, chipping, putting, and learning to independently play eighteen holes of golf.

Level 5 Career Development

- Ability to independently play eighteen holes of golf.
- Instruction will ideally focus on the ultimate goal of employment at a golf course.

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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate in the Golf for Life pilot program?

You must have a diagnosis of Down Syndrome and live in the geographic area covered by the Philadelphia Section of the PGA.

What is the cost to the participants?

There is no cost to golfers during year one of the Philadelphia Section pilot program since we are soliciting Corporate sponsors to help defray start-up costs, and the PGA Professionals are donating the gift of their time and talent. We also have fundraising events planned to help cover the costs for future programs and to develop the national infrastructure to roll the program out to other PGA Sections.

What is the required parental or guardian commitment?

A strong parental or guardian commitment is required for all aspects of the program. Parents will be expected to arrange transportation to and remain at all “Golf for Life” clinics and events. Golf is not a sport that can be taught in one lesson. The individuals with Down syndrome will need to practice their golf skills in between events. PGA Professionals may be able to arrange additional group or individual additional lessons, although there is no guarantee that this will be available.

Is there supervision?

Although there are PGA professionals and volunteers on site, their primary role is to facilitate golf instruction. A parent or guardian is required to accompany the golfer and remain on site.

What is the dress code?

Golf attire generally should include a collared shirt, walking shorts or slacks. Jeans are not permitted at most professional golf courses.

What do I need to bring?

Golf clubs (if you have them), golf hat, sun glasses and sunscreen. Do not bring electronics, CD players or any valuable items.

Will I be grouped by age or ability level?

Golfers will be grouped by ability level rather than age. The ability levels will consist of “new beginner,” beginner, intermediate and advanced, defined in the program guidelines.

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When should I plan to arrive and depart?

Plan to arrive approximately 15 minutes before the start of the program so that it may begin promptly.

How can you provide the “Golf for Life” program in your regional area?

We are now in year two of our program and have expanded to serve New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Central Ohio, Kansas, Missouri and South Carolina. One of the key requirements for a successful expansion to other PGA Sections will be a strong NDSC affiliate group commitment. However, we need committed local NDSC affiliate groups to help make it happen. If you are interested in leading or assisting in the “Golf for Life” expansion program, it is necessary to contact the program coordinators for further information no later than September 30, 2007. Our goal is to expand the program to additional PGA Sections where we have a strong NDSC affiliate group commitment.

We continue to develop our national database of individuals who have Down syndrome that are interested in the program as well as PGA Professionals who are willing to donate their time. Ideally, one family within a NDSC affiliate organization and one PGA Professional will team together as the leaders in their PGA Section to roll out the program with our assistance. We will provide program information, sample brochures, program guidelines and other information to those team leaders.

One of our goals each year at the NDSC national convention is to register families in our “Golf For Life” database to identify geographic areas within the United States where there is already a strong interest in the program. Through our network of PGA Professionals, we hope to assist in identifying PGA Professionals in those target areas who would be the contact person in their PGA Section to work with the local NDSC affiliate family that leads the program. Given that there are 41 PGA Sections, our long-term goal would be to have 41 PGA Professionals and 41 NDSC affiliate family leaders throughout the country who would serve as the regional leaders of the program.

What will be the responsibilities of the regional NDSC affiliate family leaders?

The NDSC affiliate family leaders will be responsible for the following:

- Be the key contact person with the “Golf for Life” Philadelphia leaders to help coordinate programs in their local regional area.
- Be the key contact person with the PGA Section Professional in their local area.
- Work with the PGA Professional in their local area to set a calendar of events.
- Utilizing the local NDSC affiliate membership list, mail or e-mail registration brochures, compile registration information for all “Golf for Life” events in their area, and help organize local golf events.

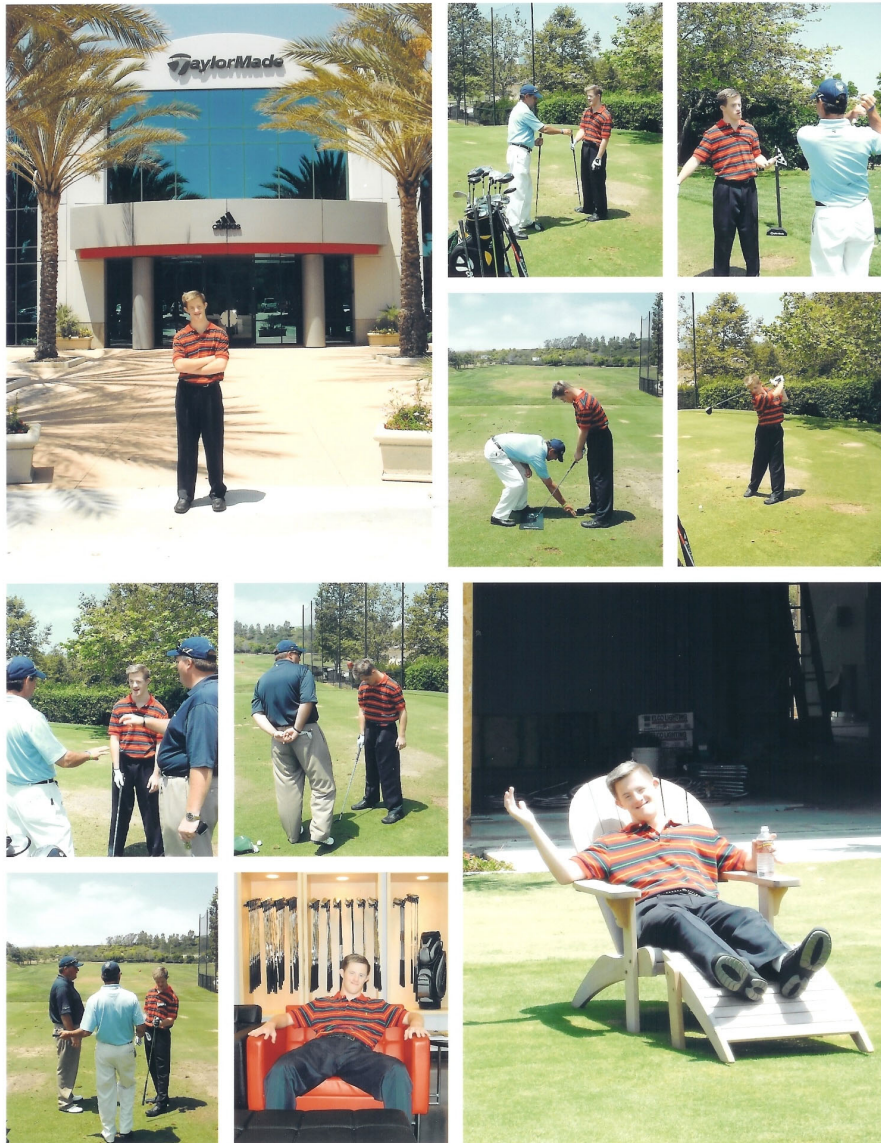
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- Attend local “Golf for Life” events to process registration and oversee the successful implementation of each event.
- Assist in organizing regional golf competitions.
- Assist the “Golf for Life” Philadelphia leaders

How will NDSC affiliates fund similar programs in their area?

Since NDSC affiliate organizations around the country are generally 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, the infrastructure should be in place for them to conduct local fundraising or fund a pilot program in their PGA Section from their operating budget. If the PGA Professionals are able to provide the golf instruction at their places of employment, there generally should only be minimal costs related to the facilities and administrative costs for registration, mailings, brochures, etc.

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*We hope you will join us on our journey of providing
“Golf for Life”
opportunities for all individuals with Down syndrome*