



PGA

Northern Texas Section

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JUNIOR GOLFER GETS INFUSION SUITE NAMED IN HIS HONOR AT CHILDREN'S

Dallas, TX – “‘Be good to the game and give back,’ were words that the late Byron Nelson was synonymous for,” said Mark Harrison, Executive Director of the Northern Texas PGA at Children’s Medical Center earlier this week. “This is our small way of doing just that.”

Through the annual Birdies for Kids fundraiser, eight Australians who all work in the golf industry in the north Texas area raise funds for children’s charities each year. In 2012-13 all proceeds benefited the NTPGA Junior Golf Foundation’s Growth of the Game initiatives and the Pauline Allen Gill Center (The Gill Center) for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s Medical Center.

PGA Head Professional at Royal Oaks Country Club, Dean Larsson recommended that the donation from Birdies for Kids for 2012-13 be directed to The Gill Center at Children’s after he learned about one of his student’s challenges several years ago.

Justin Thompson is a member of the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Foundation and has been playing golf for 3 ½ years. He took the game up after he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in March 2009 just before his 10th birthday. Justin was a patient at Children’s Medical Center for 4 ½ years after being diagnosed.

“After speaking with Justin and his mom, Cathy, they provided feedback on how the funds could be used best at the hospital. We considered directing the funds towards buying warming blankets, gaming technology, funding the annual Bone Marrow Drive or helping to generate revenue to build Private Infusion Suites as part of the remodel of The Gill Center at the hospital. After listening to Justin and Cathy, the funds were designated to help build a Private Infusion Suite,” said Larsson.

"In the past, all kids and their families were in the same room for 4-8 hours receiving treatment, no matter how sick the child was that day," said Justin's mom Cathy. "It's extremely humbling and rewarding to think how many thousands of children and their families will use the new private suite over the years. I know many children who pass through that room in the future will be blessed with the same positive outcome as Justin."

“Wow, this is amazing,” said Justin Thompson after being surprised with the unveiling ceremony at the hospital. “I knew that the funds were being donated to the Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, but I had no idea that this infusion suite was being named in my honor. It’s also really cool that it is infusion suite 18, kind of like the last hole of a round and crossing the finish line. I like that a lot,” said Thompson.

MORE

The Aussies that are a part of the fundraiser include: Justin Barrick, head professional at The Honors Golf Club of Dallas; Simon Buckle, head professional at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas; Stuart Deane, director of instruction at Rolling Hills Country Club in Arlington; Nick Griffin, assistant professional at Dallas Country Club in Dallas; Jeremy Langdale, head professional at Ranchland Hills Golf Club in Midland; Dean Larsson, head professional at Royal Oaks Country Club in Dallas; Cameron McCormick, the director of instruction at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas and Mark Harrison, Executive Director of the Northern Texas PGA. The last two years, Justin Thompson has joined the group as an “honorary Aussie” and played as well.

“It was amazing just how many people supported us once our members, friends and family learned about what we were doing. In ten years we have raised \$1,254,973.90 for various children’s charities in the area. We are grateful for all the support and are looking forward to continuing to give back in the future,” said Cameron McCormick who also teaches Thompson.

About the Charities

Founded in 1983, the nationally acclaimed **Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, is committed to introducing, promoting and growing the game of golf to a diverse group of kids in North Texas and instilling in them the positive, character developing traits for which the game is so well known. Each year close to 10,000 children and their families are impacted by the game that lasts a lifetime through a full circle of programs and services including:

- **Introduction** – Golf in Schools, Fairway to Success After School Program, Drive, Chip and Putt and Summer Golf Camps
- **Playing** – Team Golf, Prep, Medalist Levels and All-American Tours – 300+ tournaments per year
- **Education** – College Scholarships – \$1.2M distributed including \$116,000 awarded in 2013
- **Employment** – Internship and Camp Program
- **Philanthropy** – Kids Play FORE Kids, Ewing Charity Classic, Birdies for Kids and the Royal Oaks’ Great 108

Founded in 1913, the not-for-profit **Children's Medical Center** is the sixth-largest pediatric health care provider in the country, receiving nearly 700,000 patient visits annually with 595 licensed beds at its two full-service campuses in Dallas and Plano, and multiple specialty clinics and 16 primary care MyChildren’s locations.

Children’s was the state’s first pediatric hospital to achieve Level 1 Trauma status and is the primary pediatric teaching facility in North Texas, affiliated with UT Southwestern Medical Center. For more than 100 years, Children’s has been committed to making life better for children.

If you would like to learn more about the Birdies for Kids, the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Foundation or Children’s Medical Center, please visit the respective websites at www.birdiesforkids.org www.ntpgajuniorgolf.com or www.childrens.com.

If you have any questions about the fundraiser, please contact the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Foundation at (214) 420-7421.

Photos Attached:

- 1) Justin and Cathy Thompson
- 2) Infusion Suite Plate
- 3) Mark Harrison, Justin Thompson and Dean Larsson

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