

WHAT DRIVES US?

Executive Director's Message:

Dear Friends of The First Tee of Connecticut,

2017 was definitely a successful year and everyone reading this message should take pride in the fact that The First Tee of Connecticut introduced 74,801 young people to our Life Skills Curriculum and the game of golf. 2017 was also a year of expansion and transition.

On July 1 our chapter assumed sole responsibility for programs and operations in Fairfield County – specifically those at Fairchild Wheeler in Bridgeport. We welcome all those existing participants, coaches and volunteers to The First Tee of Connecticut family. In Fairfield County and across the state we continue to identify new golf facilities, schools and youth service agencies to partner with as we strive to expand our impact across the state.

We welcomed several new faces in leadership positions in 2017 including Dave Dixon as Chairman of the Board, Ilona Emmerth as Director of Strategic Partnerships and Mark Murnane as Program Director. Mr. Dixon most recently served as The First Tee of Connecticut's Treasurer and has been an active member of the board for many years. Ilona has spent the last several years in Alumni Relations at Yale University and got right to work in November renewing previous partnerships and establishing new ones. "Coach" Mark previously served two seasons as Director of Instruction for Summer Camp in Cromwell.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the support our chapter receives from friends and donors across the state and beyond. Thank you so very much for your belief in our 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. Most especially, I want to thank those who remember The First Tee of Connecticut upon the passing of a friend or loved one. We are humbled to be a part of the legacy of those who loved the game of golf and shared our belief that the next generation of young people can benefit in so many ways – on the course, in the classroom and in the business world – through their involvement.

On the topic of inspiration, several members of our staff and Board of Directors



attended The First Tee's Network Meeting last November in Orlando to celebrate the organization's 20th Anniversary. On the pages that follow you will read about Meghna Mazumdar who was named as The First Tee's Outstanding Participant – an incredible example of the inspiring young people within our chapter.

Please enjoy The First Tee of Connecticut's 2017 Annual Report that highlights all the exciting things happening at our chapter.

Sincerely,

Hard Maruel

Mark Moriarty, Execu<mark>tive Director</mark>

Board Of Directors:

Donald J. Barr, Emeritus Director Kenneth Baldwin, Secretary Theodore (Teddy) Bobroske Paul Bocciarelli, D.M.D. Tim Bunt Coach Jim Calhoun (Hon. Dir.) Ieff Calhoun Elizabeth (Liz) Caron (Hon. Dir.) Jeffrey L. Cohen, M.D. Javier Colon (Hon. Dir.) Alicia B. (Lisa) Davenport David Dixon, Chairman Barbara Karis Downey (SNEWGA) Brad Faxon (Hon. Dir.) Bill Flood (CTPGA) J.J. Henry (Hon. Dir.) Peter T. Joyce Joe LaCava (Hon. Dir.) David M. Ladd

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Staff:

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Christy Miller,
Director of Development

Ilona Emmerth,
Director of Strategic Partnerships

Mark Murnane, Program Director

Coleman Davis,
Director of Instruction

Tim Swensen, Partnerships Coordinator

Patrick O'Connor, Assistant Program Director

Marie Bernatchez, Administrative Associate

OUR FRONT 9



Influencer:

Marshall Ruben of Wallingford cares about our state's cities and the kids who live there. As a member of the Executive Committee of the First Tee of Connecticut Board of Directors, Marshall's primary role is fundraising and academic relations with schools throughout the state. "I'm committed to the economic development of our cities and our youth," Marshall says.

"I got involved with The First Tee to help cultivate after school education opportunities for kids in Hartford and New Haven." Marshall is on the Advisory Council of Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, a Trustee of Achievement First Hartford Academy and is President of HHH Properties Corporation and the Hartford law firm Ruben/Horan.



Volunteer Profile:

A Mentor-in-Residence at the Yale Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking, Rick Hunt knows the value of mentoring young lives. So as a volunteer coach for The First Tee of Connecticut at Fairchild Wheeler in Bridgeport since 2005, he knows the value of providing life skills to underserved populations. Rick says golf is a global game that brings people together, and learning

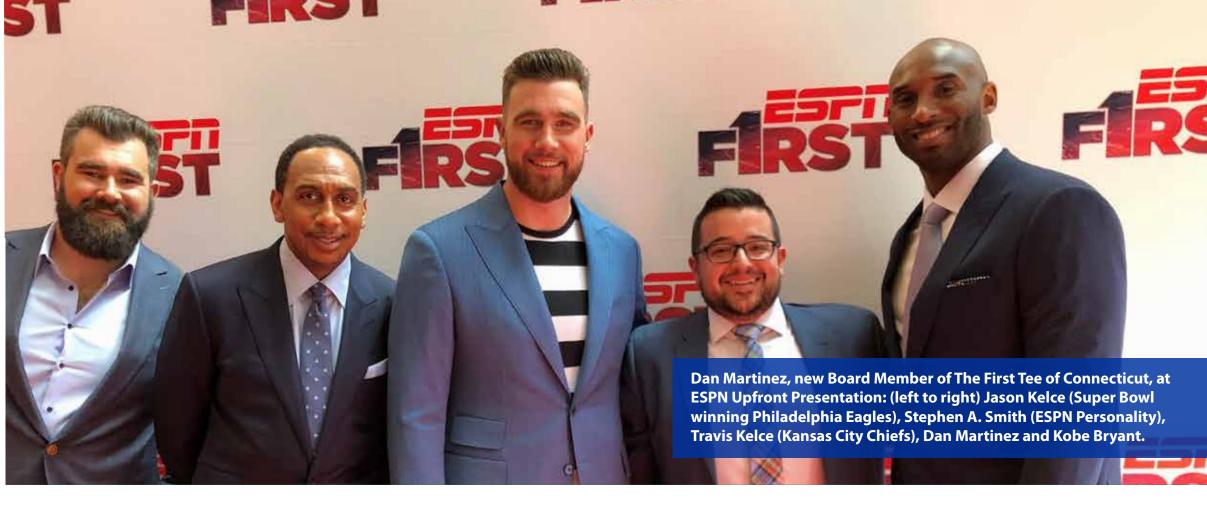
the game builds and displays character. "The best part for me is watching the kids grow into fine young people through season after season. This year a former First Tee student even asked me to write a college recommendation for him - and he was accepted!"



Coach Profile:

Karen Michaels has been involved with The First Tee for five years - initially as a volunteer, now as a Level I Coach. She teaches team programs in Waterbury, Branford and New Haven; and group programs in Waterbury and Cromwell. Unlike the kids she coaches, Karen was a late bloomer. "I found and fell in love with golf in my 30's and am now dedicated to growing

the game. The First Tee of Connecticut does so much for the kids. It's amazing to see how they grow and develop in our programs." Perhaps it's karma; Karen was born the same year the PGA TOUR was born in Connecticut.





Teacher Profile:

Marcy Peschke has 825 kids. That's the number of students in her First Tee In-School Program at H.S. Chase Elementary School in Waterbury. Every single student in the school, Pre- K thru 5, participates. Marcy has been with The First Tee of Connecticut program for 10 years. "This program gives our students a chance to participate in an activity they might not

otherwise get a chance to do, and they love it. My goal is to give my students the opportunity to learn about health and wellness as well as teaching them activities they can participate in to create a healthy lifestyle, so this program fits our students to a TEE," Marcy says.



Facility Operator:

About 15 years and 8,000 kids later, Jeff DelRosso is still going "lights out" as owner of Prospect Golf Driving Range in Prospect, one of The First Tee of Connecticut's longest running program locations. "To expose golf to kids who may not be exposed is one of the best things about teaming up with The First Tee," says Jeff. "Teaching life skills and golf in a group setting teaches kids to be

interactive with others." Jeff has dozens of great First Tee stories of kids going on to bigger and better opportunities—from playing college golf to pursuing rewarding careers.



Board Member:

Skip Wyatt, CEO/Owner, Mr. Handyman and HM Remodeling of Greater Fairfield County, went from a career in mainframes at IBM to help framing young lives as a Board Member with The First Tee of Connecticut. "I try to lend insight to help underserved youth in Fairfield County. My mission is to make the Fairfield County First Tee program as robust as the rest of

Connecticut so I'm glad to see how programs have flourished," Skip says. The First Tee also provides benefits to Skip on a personal level: "It's very gratifying to know that we're helping kids, especially kids in urban areas to be exposed to golf and The First Tee's Nine Core Values."



New Board Member:

Dan Martinez, 30, may just be the most veteran of The First Tee of Connecticut's alumni. Dan started as a 10-year old in 1998 in Hartford when the Chapter was known as The First Tee of Hartford. His favorite of the Nine Core Values—"The First Tee helped me grasp the importance of 'Confidence' at an early age," Dan says. "The First Tee also taught me the importance

of networking and not to be afraid to reach out." Today, Dan rubs elbows (literally) with some of the biggest names in sports as Marketing Manager for ESPN Deportes in New York City. His sister Sadie soon followed in Dan's footsteps in the sand (bunkers) as a participant of The First Tee of Connecticut, too, and has gone on to a career in golf.



Participant:

18-year old Andrew Maslar of Monroe is entering his freshman year at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he'll study Professional Golf Course Management. Andrew participated in The First Tee of Connecticut for six years and wants to make a career out of golf. "Learning life skills from The First Tee helped shape who I am today," Andrew says. The First Tee of

Connecticut opens doors: "The First Tee of Connecticut introduced me to the Travelers Championship where I was part of the maintenance crew and also was an amateur caddy at the Pro Ams."



The Right Course:

David Corrado, PGA professional, is living two dreams. As General Manager and Director of Golf at TPC River Highlands, David hosts the PGA TOUR'S Travelers Championship. David also helps grow young lives: "TPC River Highlands and The First Tee of Connecticut are great partners—we share the practice facility used by the PGA Tour pros as well as

maintaining The First Tee's Karl Krapek Family Learning Links." David is also on the Advisory Council for our Walmart Charity Classic, a Travelers Championship kick-off event. David shares not only common ground with The First Tee but common goals—"We both want to grow the game while instilling the right core values for our youth."

4



Meghna Mazumdar, Ted May Headline National Summit

First it was winning a spot with Rory Mcllroy at the 2016 Wells Fargo Championship. Now, The First Tee of Connecticut's Meghna Mazumdar made headlines again. At The First Tee's 20th anniversary Network Meeting (Nov. 8-11, 2017) in Orlando, Meghna Mazumdar, a ninth grader at South Windsor High School, was announced as one of two recipients of The First Tee's Outstanding Participant award. This national award recognizes exemplary achievement in the area of academics, community service, chapter involvement and leadership. Meghna received a \$20,000 college scholarship from The First Tee Founding Corporate Partner Shell Oil Company. They took the stage shortly after Former President George W. Bush, the

organization's honorary chair, addressed the crowd of more than 1,000 people.

The First Tee also presented other national recognitions and awards throughout the Network Meeting. Ted May, immediate past Chair of The First Tee of Connecticut's board, was one of two who were honored with the Jack Stephens Leadership Award for outstanding service, leadership and commitment to the organization's mission.

The 20th Anniversary Network Meeting was kicked off with a performance by Javier Colon, Honorary Director of The First Tee of Connecticut and winner of the inaugural season of the NBC television show, "The Voice".







Fairfield County Now Part of The First Tee of Connecticut

On July 1, 2017, The First Tee of Connecticut chapter assumed sole responsibility for programs and operations in Fairfield County – specifically those at Fairchild Wheeler in Bridgeport.



An 18 Hole Good-Bye

It only made sense that the send off for David Polk, the long-time Executive Director of The First Tee of Connecticut (TFTCT), would be at historic Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford.

"This season-ending tournament was supposed to be a secret and frankly I would normally be against such an event honoring me for doing my job," Polk said. "But I see this event as more about honoring the good work of The First Tee of Connecticut. To that I say thank you."

So at the end of a long day, as David Polk packed up his clubs for the last time as Executive Director of The First Tee of Connecticut, David can welcome this long good bye, all 18 holes of it. David will stay on as Emeritus Director.





Annual Patrons' Breakfast

Another very important event for The First Tee of Connecticut is the annual Patrons' Breakfast, traditionally held the morning of Saturday's round during the Travelers Championship. The Breakfast provides The First Tee of Connecticut's Staff and Board of Directors the opportunity to say "Thank You" to donors and is the perfect setting to present scholarships to participants who attend tuition-based schools. The 2017 Breakfast announced more than \$40,000 in 2017 Scholarships. Scholarship winners Jason Liu, Celina Jiang, Carson Delaney and Justin Mecca attended the Breakfast.

Yale University Athletics Presents The First Tee Charity Classic at The Course at Yale

The First Tee New Haven County Charity Classic at The Course at Yale was on July 17th. We had 80 players participate in this best ball of four event.



Over the past 14 years this event has raised more than \$752,000 to support programming in the Greater New Haven and Waterbury regions. Included in this number are this year's results – as we netted \$41,620.

A special thank you is owed to our top sponsors including hosted this tournament over the past four years and our

PwC First Tee Presented by MasterCard at **Rolling Hills Country Club**

The PwC First Tee Charity Classic was hosted at Rolling Hills Country Club Charity Classic hosted at Rolling Fills Country Grab in Wilton. Seventy-six players had the opportunity to play in this Best Ball of Four event.

> TFTCT is grateful to Craig Watchmaker and PwC for their sixth consecutive year as sponsors of the

PwC First Tee Charity Classic. Due to the generosity and commitment of PwC, MasterCard and all our sponsors, this event netted over \$74,000. A special shout out to Tim

Bunt at CBRE, Inc. who secured 9 of

the 19 foursomes that participated on

August 28th at Rolling Hills.



Joe Troy, Bob Bantle, Teddy Bobroske, and Al Schenck

The First Tee Season Finale at Keney Park Golf Course

On September 28th, we gathered at Keney Park Golf Course to honor David Polk, our former Executive Director who retired after 7 and a half years with The First Tee of Connecticut. It was a spectacular day as we sold out the event with 27 foursomes and raised \$22,000 to boot!

The dinner included a surprise video from The First Tee national staff including a special message from former First Tee CEO Joe Louis Barrow Jr. and a memorable speech from current First Tee of Connecticut participant, Jack Wise.



RAISING FUNDS, FRIENDS AND AWARENESS

All of us at The First Tee of Connecticut are so grateful for the support we receive to make our events successful fundraisers. We couldn't do it without our golf tournament committees, our faithful sponsors and our dedicated volunteers. It truly is a TEAM effort. In 2017, we raised over \$215,000 via our four golf tournaments, one benefit concert, a golf marathon and several races! We continue to put these dollars to good use to provide Connecticut's youth with the tools they need to achieve success and make wise choices. Because of the generosity of benefactors like you, we can maintain the high standards we have established in bringing The First Tee of Connecticut Life Skills Experience based on Nine Core Values - Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Sportsmanship, Courtesy, Judgment, Confidence, Responsibility, and Perseverance and Nine Healthy Habits - to more than 74,000 children state-wide.



The Celebrities

Walmart Charity Classic for The First Tee of Connecticut Presented by Stanley Black & Decker at TPC River Highlands

Our first event was the Kick-Off for the 2017 Travelers Championship at the TPC River Highlands on June 11th, otherwise known as the Walmart Charity Classic. This is our annual celebrity golf tournament where our golfers go out in groups of five – each group paired with a local celebrity. We had 22 fivesomes participate and netted just under \$67,000! Since 2003, the Central Connecticut Charity Classic has raised close to \$818,000 in support of programming in the central part of the state. This day would not be possible without all of our sponsors, with special emphasis on our top tier sponsors including: our Title Sponsor, Walmart and our Presenting Sponsor, Stanley Black & Decker.



Javier Colon at Infinity Hall fundraiser

An Evening with Javier Colon at Infinity Hall, Hartford

We wrapped up our event season with the musical stylings of our very talented Honorary Board Member and First Tee parent - Javier Colon. On November 25th, seventy First Tee supporters experienced the VIP treatment with a private meet and greet with Javier, a cocktail party and special seating in the Mezzanine section. Javier delighted the crowd with an acoustic soul performance and The First Tee of Connecticut raised \$5,000 from that evening!

A Month of Marathons

The First Tee of Connecticut staff wanted to follow the example set by all our wonderful supporters, so Executive Director Mark Moriarty and Development Director Christy Miller held mini First Tee fundraisers themselves last fall! In three consecutive weekends, Christy Miller ran two half marathons and one full marathon all to benefit The First Tee of Connecticut. In total Christy ran 52.4 miles starting at the Hogsback Half Marathon, followed by the Chicago Full Marathon and wrapped up with the Hartford Half Marathon and raised \$6,800. Christy was

Marathon Foundation at the finish line which resulted in an additional \$500 for The First Tee of Connecticut.

Mark Moriarty participated in his 4th Annual Golf Marathon For Charity at Sharon Country Club on Monday, October 16 with Sharon Pro Tom Halsted.

Tom persevered by playing 156 holes and making 38 birdies. Together they raised approximately \$5,700 to support junior golf across Connecticut.

Thank you to everyone who supported Christy, Mark and Tom's efforts!



2017 W PROGRAM W

It was a fun and active season for The First Tee of Connecticut with over 74,000 young people participating in programs at facilities across the state!

The spring season featured our annual Parent-Child event at Lyman Orchard's Apple Nine, the first of several LPGA-USGA Girls Golf programs including "Bring A Friend" Day and weekly programs across the state. As the spring season wrapped up, the Travelers Championship came to town and offered participants several unique opportunities to interact with PGA TOUR Professionals including participation in the Eversource PGA TOUR Player Experience for Junior Golfers.

the summer several events including the Travel Team

program, the Nutmeg State Games and the East Mountain Junior Open allowed participants to test their "golf skills" on the course while several participants attended national opportunities where they could showcase their "life skills." We are proud to share the success stories of those participants who represented our chapter at The First Tee events across the country on the previous pages.

In 2017 eight sessions of our

youngest friends within the TARGET Level for ages 5 & 6. Summer Camp includes plenty of practice on and around the golf course, and even some extracurricular activities like a water balloon toss and dodgeball. The week concludes with an Open House for families featuring awards and an ice cream party.

Despite popular opinion, the fall season brings almost as many participants as the rest of the year, proving again that the golf season does not end when school resumes!

Those are just a few examples of The First Tee's "Activity-Based" approach to seamlessly incorporating important Life Skills within golf activities. The Life Skills Experience is at the heart of what The First Tee is all about.

Thank you to the facilities operators and their staff who welcome The First Tee of Connecticut's coaches and participants to their golf courses or driving ranges for weekly programs! You are truly

- Elmridge, Pawcatuck
- Fairchild Wheeler, Bridgeport

The Pros Behind The Swings.

The Life Skills Experience would not be as effective (and at the same time fun) as it is without our wonderful coaching staff, made up of First Tee Coaches, Golf Professionals, high school and college students (many of whom are alum of the program) and volunteers.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford Boys & Girls Club of New Haven Boys & Girls Club of New Britain Channel 3 Kids Camp Hartford's Camp Courant Waterbury Police Activities League Hartford Police Activities League New Britain Police Activities League Manchester Early Learning Centers The Legacy Foundation of Hartford **Horizons at Ethel Walker School Indian Valley YMCA New Haven Parks & Recreation Yale African American Affinity Association Waterbury Public Schools**

New Haven Public Schools Hartford Public Schools Cromwell Public Schools Middletown Public Schools East Hartford Public Schools Newtown Public Schools Regional School District 13 Irving Lane School Brass City Charter School Elm City Elementary School Brownstone Intermediate School





MHERE ARE THEY NOW?



2018 at Dartmouth College

NOW

NOW

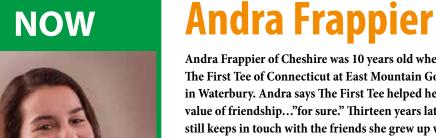
Jason Liu In 2008, Jason Liu started with

In 2008, Jason Liu started with The First Tee of Connecticut. He was 8 years old. Today, Jason, as a newly minted 19 year old, is completing his freshman at Dartmouth College and is a member of the Varsity Golf Team, where he was Ivy League Rookie of The Year. Jason is planning a career in environmental engineering. The Windsor, CT native hasn't forgotten his roots. This summer Jason will turn in his First Tee youth member status to be an Assistant Coach in First Tee programs. Jason says perseverance is his number one Core Value. "If you can persevere, you can accomplish anything." As for being an assistant coach this summer, "I want to mentor kids the way Coach Vic Svenberg mentored me. He watched me grow up."



2007

Today on the Fairleigh Dickinson golf team.



Andra Frappier of Cheshire was 10 years old when she joined The First Tee of Connecticut at East Mountain Golf Course in Waterbury. Andra says The First Tee helped her learn the value of friendship..."for sure." Thirteen years later Andra still keeps in touch with the friends she grew up with at The First Tee. Andra played four years of Division I golf at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she was a Pre-Law and Criminal Justice major. What's her favorite Core Value? Andra says, "Honesty always follows you. It starts with being honest with yourself." Today, Andra is a teaching Pro at Lyman Orchards Golf Course, and will be pursuing an LPGA teaching program.



2013 2018 Filming

Christian McDavid

Christian McDavid of Newington likes to direct things. He began directing golf balls as 7 year old in 2005 with The First Tee of Connecticut. Then he was directing amateur golfers as part of the Sankaty Head Caddie Camp held on Nantucket. The past two years Christian learned how directing is about leading at The First Tee's National Life Skills & Leadership Academy. Today, the 20-year old is the Director of Tour Photography and Video for well known musical acts. Christian's ultimate goal? He wants to direct a "box" movie (a film that runs in theatres). "I want to direct real life stories." Finally, The First Tee taught Christian how golf lessons apply to life lessons— "set a goal, build a goal, complete a goal." In other words, lights, camera, action!



Working the Travelers Championship, 2008



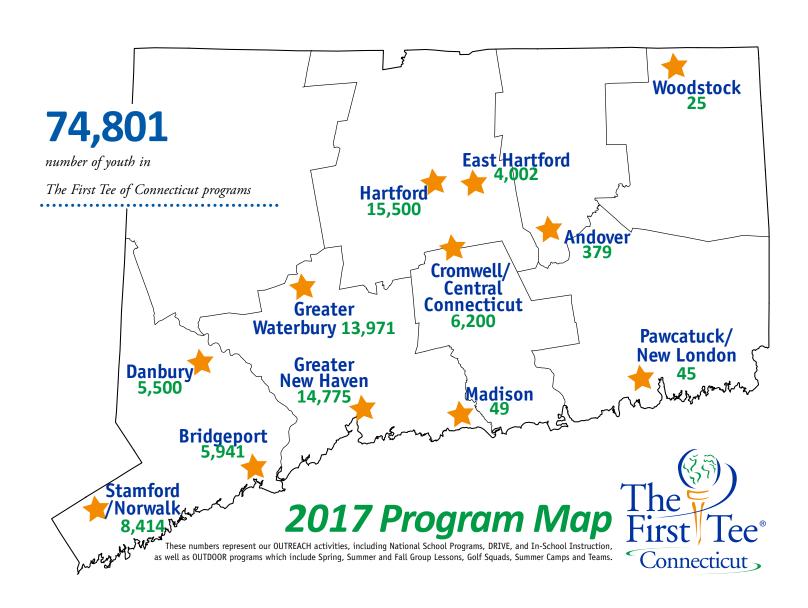
Today, with wife Danielle, son Brayden and dog Brody on Chris's 31st birthday.

Chris LaBonte

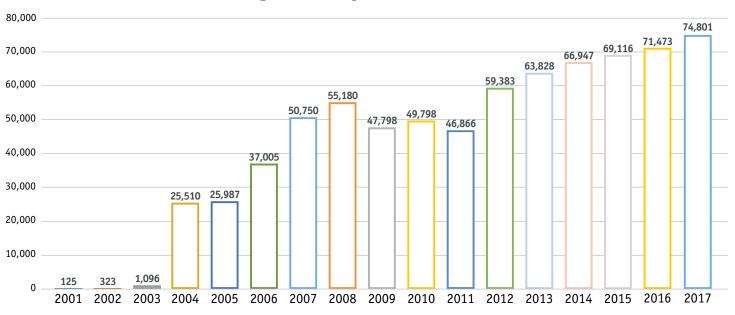
Chris LaBonte, 31, participated in The First Tee of Connecticut first as youth member then as Assistant Coach, from 2001 to 2011. Chris worked at ESPN for three years ("a dream job not a dream career"). Today, Chris is Senior Manager at UnitedHealth Group and a Beachbody Coach while married with one child and dog and lives in Middletown. Chris says the most valuable life-long lesson learned through The First Tee is being able to stay cool, calm and collected using the 4Rs (Replay, Relax, Ready and Redo). "I started with The First Tee to learn golf but soon learned The First Tee was learning about life on and off the course," Chris says.

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WHEN NUMBERS TELL THE STORY



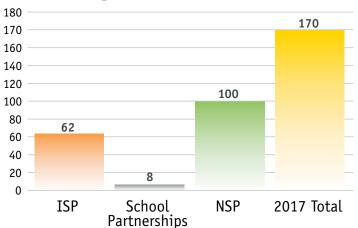
The First Tee of Connecticut Program History Total participants served



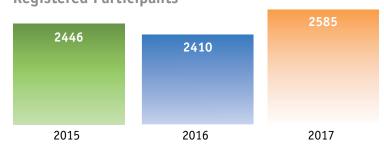
Registered Ethnicity (Non-Caucasian Goal: 33%)



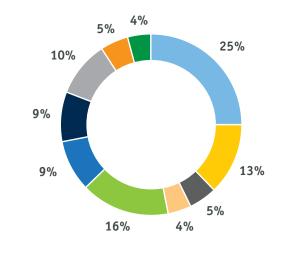
School Programs



Registered Participants



2017 Revenue Sources





Program Fees

- Annual Giving CampaignMajor Gifts
- Third Party Events
- p Grants
 - Alliance Partners

THE POWER OF SUPPORT

The First Tee of Connecticut is grateful to the many individuals, foundations, corporations, golf course staff, and alliance partners for providing chapter support during 2017. We also appreciate the many in-kind donations we received throughout the year. Thanks to this incredible support and promotion, we were able to introduce the Life Skills Experience to over 74,000 young people in Connecticut!

We worked carefully to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this list. We apologize for any mistakes, misspellings or omissions and ask that you contact our office at 860.882.1660 to correct any inconsistencies.

Named Learning Center Benefactors David & Geri Epstein

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Superintendents CT Club Managers Association CT Section PGA CT State Golf Association

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