



Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford



Batterson Park, Farmington



Goodwin Park Golf Course, Hartford



Karl Krapek Family Learning Links, Cromwell



Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, Bridgeport



Karl Krapek Family Learning Links, Cromwell



# What will your legacy be?

## First Tee – Connecticut – A Cause Near and Dear to her Heart



The title on Marie Bernatchez's First Tee – Connecticut business card reads "Administrative Associate," but it really should read "Jill of All Trades Officer" as Marie does it all. She is the first person to greet you when you come visit the Cromwell headquarters, she supports the staff in a variety of ways AND she definitely knows more about the mechanics of the building than anyone!

Bernatchez joined First Tee – Connecticut in October 2015 after teaching middle school science and math at Kingswood Oxford (a private school in West Hartford) for 33 years, right out of college. After Bernatchez stopped teaching and coaching she was exploring options for her next chapter and wanted to find "something that would feel meaningful" to her and "not just a job." A teaching acquaintance who knew Bernatchez was getting more into golf, suggested Bernatchez consider First Tee - Connecticut due to the combination of kids and golf. The rest is history!

Bernatchez describes what she likes best about First Tee – Connecticut, "I really appreciate the qualities our programs can help our kids develop – perseverance with something tough or challenging, honesty in both their golf game and in everyday life, respect for their opponents and the physical space they inhabit – the list goes on!" She continued, "And having the chance to still interact with kids, a wonderful staff and great volunteers

is a close second!"

"I didn't have a "grand plan" for what to do with my life, but knew I gravitated towards a work environment that would be very people-oriented." She continued, "I've been lucky that the jobs I've had kind of landed in my lap; along with KO and FTCT, I also had a lovely job running the office of a summer camp in Vermont for a number of years." As it turns out all three of Bernatchez's jobs had something in common - all were kid-oriented nonprofits and more importantly each organization helps the children they serve.

"The purpose each of these places gave to me made me want to give back to them," Bernatchez explained. "While I don't have the ability to make super large gifts every year, I figure I can squirrel away some of my funds so that I can make a meaningful contribution through a legacy gift."

Legacy gifts enable people like Bernatchez **to create a powerful philanthropic legacy by making a direct impact on the causes important to them.** In some cases, legacy giving can be a source of funding from supporters who haven't had the ability to make a major gift during their lifetimes. If you are interested in learning more about the First Tee – Connecticut Legacy Society, please contact Development Director, Christy Miller at [cmiller@firstteect.org](mailto:cmiller@firstteect.org) or (860) 316-2513.

Planned giving is for people from all walks of life and all income levels, who want to make a difference in the world; who want to leave a legacy; who want to make the world a better place. For donors, planned giving may be a way to give their life new meaning, to keep doing good even after death. Planned giving can play a critical role in ensuring a nonprofit's long-term financial health. A legacy gift can be structured over a period of time or can be deferred, and it can involve a variety of assets, including cash, stock, business interests, real estate, artwork, tangible personal property, life insurance, retirement plan assets and more. For more information on leaving a legacy gift, please contact Development Director, Christy Miller at [cmiller@firstteect.org](mailto:cmiller@firstteect.org).

## Chairman of the Board's Message:



Dear Friends of  
First Tee – Connecticut,

Despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic, 2021 was one of the most successful years in our chapter's history, especially on the fundraising front. For the last five years, two of our

major priorities have been 1) to build our presence and programming in Fairfield County after assuming responsibility from the Met New York chapter and 2) to reach more children in the inner cities of Connecticut. We've made meaningful progress on both fronts.

We are back on track with our in-school programs this winter after a one-year hiatus. The staff, particularly Mark Murnane, ensured we continue to work with the schools to deliver the programming that enabled us to reach many thousands of children in Connecticut each year prior to the pandemic. The number of children served will grow in the future as we have an exciting addition to our partner school systems. Between this year and next, the students in the City of Stamford elementary schools will have the opportunity to participate in our programs for the first time. When we assumed responsibility for Fairfield County a few years ago, this was one of our key objectives.

Our group lessons (or "green grass programs" as I affectionately refer to them) continue to grow and flourish. This year, our commitment to the major cities in the state has presented us a unique opportunity to teach children, who might not have otherwise had the opportunity, life skills through the game of golf. We will take over responsibility for golf operations at Goodwin Park, one of the two municipal golf courses in the City of Hartford. Running golf courses isn't part of our mission but delivering quality programs to the children of Hartford certainly is. Goody represents a unique opportunity to improve our outreach and recruiting to increase the number of children enjoying and learning from First Tee – Connecticut. Look for the First Tee coaches, staff and children of Hartford, particularly on the "flat nine" when you're at Goody and please stop by to say hello.

The future is bright for First Tee – Connecticut and the children and families we serve. Thank you to the staff, my fellow board members and all of our supporters and friends for making all of this possible through your unwavering support.

Dave Dixon

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

As an organization that aims to "Build Game Changers," we also aspire to BE a game changer within the broader golf world by welcoming and empowering those who are underrepresented throughout Connecticut's golf communities.

Recognizing that it takes ongoing and intentional effort to seek out those who might not otherwise find us, one of the focal points throughout 2021 was to proactively reach more girls and women. With the addition of several Girls Only Group Lessons, activities with groups like Girl Scouts of Stamford, and a presence at tournaments like the Connecticut Women's Open, we engaged new participants while activating the enthusiasm and talents of more women coaches. But there is more to do in this and many other aspects of providing "game-changing" experiences for kids and teens from various backgrounds, and we welcome your assistance in identifying potential partners, coaches, supporters and advocates!

Behind the scenes, the DEI Taskforce (launched in Fall 2020) worked to better understand current challenges and to facilitate opportunities in several ways:

- Considered unique regional contexts of our key locations by analyzing state and local data
- Listened to perspectives and ideas from female participants/alumni
- Employed an intern in some of our DEI work
- Applied for and won DEI-centered grants
- Connected with the First Tee network to align with HQ, share ideas with other chapters and participate in training

For 2022, we intend to create opportunities for more participant, coach and volunteer engagement in our DEI efforts, and we look forward to your involvement in these initiatives!



### Coach with us!

All golfer levels welcome

We are looking for enthusiastic and caring individuals to serve as positive mentors and role models to young people of various backgrounds.



**COACH ROLE**

- Deliver First Tee Golf and Life Skills Curriculum (we'll provide training!)
- Ensure a safe and inclusive learning environment
- Assist with setup and breakdown of activities

**COMMITMENT OPTIONS VARY BY LOCATION**

- For small group golf lessons: 1.5 or 3 hrs per week for 7 weeks (Spring, Summer and/or Fall sessions)
- For team play on golf courses: 2-4 hrs per week, ~8 weeks (Summer)
- More info at website, or contact Program Director Mark Murnane

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Complete SafeSport Training
- Pass background check

**www.FirstTeeCT.org**  
**860-882-1660**



# Game Changers

## Dan Earle – Board Member/Volunteer/Donor

Meet our newest First Tee – Connecticut board member Dan Earle. Earle has supported First Tee – Connecticut for about ten years. He started his involvement by participating in the annual New Haven County charity tournament. He then

joined the planning committee for the New Haven County event. In December 2021, Earle was invited to join our board due to his long history with and significant contributions to First Tee – Connecticut.

Earle explained how he first learned about First Tee, “Honestly, good friends of mine

at New Haven Country Club were very active on the First Tee board and the event in New Haven. They asked me if I would support the First Tee by purchasing a foursome and inviting a few friends. I remember driving into the event and wondering what all the signs were. It turns out they were the First Tee Core Values. After the tournament, a few First Tee kids approached to ask questions of the adults. That’s when I was hooked - watching the kids mingle with the adults and practicing the values. I’m definitely not much of a golfer but watching young people learning life-long values and some golf skills - what a combination.”

Earle admired First Tee – Connecticut’s outreach and the ability to impact our youth through golf and sharing the core values. Earle said, “First Tee is all about diversity and affording everyone an opportunity.”

When asked if Earle would recommend others get involved with First Tee – Connecticut he answered with an emphatic, “Absolutely!” Earle continued, “It’s simple, I smile whenever I am around the First Tee. Everyone that I have met is energetic

and shares the same great goals. The First Tee is a fantastic organization with a selfless, dedicated team.”

## Ava Silva – Alum / Scholarship Recipient

Ava Silva grew up with First Tee – Connecticut. She began taking lessons when she was 5 years old and continued for about 8 years until she reached Eagle. Silva said, “My dad and my brother play golf, so my family encouraged me to join First Tee which led me to develop a love for the sport at a young age.” Silva is currently a freshman at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

“My favorite thing about my participation at First Tee - Connecticut is how much I have learned from it; not just about golf but life itself. First Tee helped shape my character, integrity, and build my self-confidence tremendously.”

Silva shared that she loved participating in First Tee – Connecticut’s summer camp because she got to make new friends who shared her love for golf. She enjoyed spending the week playing with and against her new friends while building their skills.

“Even if you know nothing about golf, I recommend you get involved with First Tee - Connecticut.” She continued, “There is so much to be learned from golf and First Tee does an exceptional job at sharing that knowledge in a way that helps you grow as a person.”



## Dana Taylor – Third Party Event Organizer of “The Longest Day” Golf Marathon at Redding Country Club (In his own words)

My work with First Tee began as an offshoot of my obsession with golf that started shortly after my two daughters went off to college (circa 2007), and I suddenly found myself with plenty of recreational free time. Because I was still working, I found that the only way to play more than twice a week (i.e. once on Saturday and Sunday) was to play multiple rounds within a day. Therein started my reputation as the “Ironman” of my local course, The Redding Country Club. I soon gathered some cohorts that shared my passion and together we would walk, carry, and play on the undulating layout of our local tract. The trifecta of the long trek (8 miles for an average round), carrying a 30 lb. bag, along with the climb up and down these steep elevations added to the lure of the challenge. But I began to ponder: this focus seemed much too self-centered. Was there a way to channel this energy and do something beneficial for others?

At about the same time, a client of mine Stephen Roach, the Head PGA Professional at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course in Bridgeport (host site to Connecticut’s 2nd most active program location), described how the program helped use the game of golf to instill important core values (Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Courtesy, Judgment, Confidence, Responsibility and Perseverance) into young peoples’ lives (many of them inner city children).

With my crazy, like-minded friends, I created a fund-raising event at our club. In return for golfing 54 holes in one day, we would solicit and collect funds from friends and acquaintances. The big catch was that we must walk, play, and carry throughout the event. This would distinguish us from other “golf marathon” fundraisers where the participants rode in carts. We coined the fundraiser “The Longest Day” (around the Summer Solstice) as the logistics of getting all 54 holes



completed required sufficient daylight hours. We began our trek at 5:15 AM, ending 14 hours later with tired legs, sore feet, growling stomachs and a parching thirst for spirited drink. Except for an off year or two (we raised funds one year for local pandemic relief) we have always channeled our efforts towards First Tee – Connecticut.

Over the years, the event has created lasting memories. Golfing before sunrise with its picturesque vistas and surprising wildlife encounters has been a reward in and of itself. The camaraderie amongst the players has cemented life-long bonds that we will all cherish. Also, we have had several First Tee participants visit us at the Redding Country Club. The fact that each and every youngster has been courteous, respectful, and thankful has helped solidify our dedication toward this wonderful life-changing organization. In addition, the staff of First Tee (in particular Executive Director, Mark Moriarty and Director of Strategic Partnerships, Ilona Emmerth) have nurtured us through the years with their support and encouragement and by providing an all-important platform through which we can easily collect and collate the funds.

Please, join me in supporting First Tee – Connecticut's ongoing efforts to help Connecticut's generation of tomorrow by introducing them to the game that we all have come to love.

#### **Shorehaven Golf Club – First private club in Fairfield County to offer group lessons**

Shorehaven Golf Club in Norwalk holds a special distinction and a place near and dear to our hearts – they are the FIRST private club in Fairfield County to host First Tee – Connecticut group

lessons! You've heard the saying – it takes a village, and this is true of how this relationship with Shorehaven began. It all started with a friend raiser event at Shorehaven Golf Club with our Executive Director, Mark Moriarty, and several members of the club, including Joe Troy.

Joe Troy had gotten involved with First Tee – Connecticut eight years ago as a friend, tournament participant and most recently as a member of the Fairfield County Advisory Committee.

Troy said, "Once you've heard some of the participants and graduates speak at events about their experiences and skills they've learned at First Tee – Connecticut, you realize quickly how their lives are actually being changed for the good." He continued "They are obtaining life skills that are not necessarily taught in schools but are instilled using the great game of golf as the conduit."

Troy has witnessed the program's results firsthand and is committed to moving First Tee - Connecticut's mission forward so that more kids can benefit. And he stayed true to his word, by helping facilitate First Tee – Connecticut's ability to begin teaching lessons at this private club. Troy acknowledged Shorehaven General Manager James E. Connolly and Shorehaven Board Member Bill Fessler for helping move this idea forward to a reality.

Fessler said, "I am honored to be a very small part in bringing this to the attention of the Board." He continued, "I did push a little but at the end of the day it was your connection (referring to Troy) and my reliance on your character that got me behind this First Tee project at Shorehaven."

"I believe in giving kids a chance, as I was given the chance as a caddie to learn the game that has certainly shaped my life." He continued, "We are doing this at Shorehaven because it is the right thing to do. We are handing the next generation the right club at the right time in their development to hit all the shots in their bag and navigate the mishits on any course they play!"

Troy encourages others to get involved, "as you never know who will have the right tools, connections or the desire to help - and every little bit helps."

#### **James Boyle, First Tee – Connecticut Volunteer Coach**

Jim Boyle has been involved with First Tee – Connecticut as an assistant coach for more than 4 years. Boyle explained, "After spending more than 40 years in the field of medicine, I retired and quickly realized I needed a new outlet to keep myself active. I love golf and have been playing since I was 7 years old. First Tee – Connecticut seemed like the perfect fit."

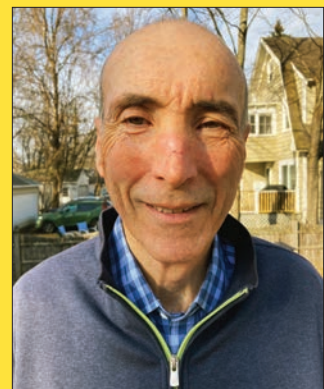
"When at First Tee, I see all these young golfers and think, 'that was me' before First Tee existed. What a great opportunity for these kids! The standards or rules of golf are easily applied to life and following them can lead to success in both golf and life."

Boyle believes that starting young is the key. "I have tried to keep the nine core values of First Tee within easy reach of the kids, by using them as I teach." He continued, "I might say 'nice shot' or 'that was courteous' or 'that showed respect,' for example. I think that is a big part of my role as a volunteer assistant coach."

Boyle feels that one of the best parts of volunteering as a coach is that he personally benefits just as much as the young players. "At the end of a session, even if it did not go well, the young players say, 'thanks, Coach.' A win-win if ever there was one."

"I would encourage anyone who plays golf, watches golf or wants to engage with young kids and make a positive impact on youngsters to consider volunteering for First Tee - Connecticut."

Thanks, Coach Boyle – we are lucky to have you as one of our positive mentors impacting young people and giving back!







Coach Jaquon Allen instructing the kids at group lessons at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course in Bridgeport.



Horizons at Foote School program participant Brandi Lewis working on her swing at Alling Memorial Golf Course in New Haven.

# 2021 Program Wrap-Up

Covid continued to impact our winter activities, as our school partners did not allow outside groups in their schools in 2021. However, our existing participants remained active at our Cromwell facility, in a safe and fun environment. In early 2021 we were able to conduct Small Group Lessons (ideally set up for a max of 3 children at a time indoors) and offered additional winter programming with just a few tweaks. We required appointment times for our three Open Houses and limited Golf Around the World (TrackMan use) to one family at a time. Our traditional group lessons and other outdoor activities ran in spring, summer, and fall, looking more like 2019.

Coach Taylor continued to make an impact with our Girls Golf events. Taylor and Coach Estela hosted 20+ girls every Friday in Cromwell during the summer and fall. This concept was well received by the girls and their parents; we look forward to offering all three seasons again in 2022. Our Girls Halloween costume golf event was held outdoors thanks to some mild late October weather, and we finished up with our traditional winter holiday event for the girls.

2021 brought some new faces to First Tee – Connecticut, who made a positive impact on our participants:

Katelyn Corr came on board to run

our Fairchild Wheeler site on an interim basis last spring and then ran our 8-week Summer Camp in Cromwell. Katelyn is a former Division I softball player and golf professional. She continues to coach for us.

Jay Taylor started with us July 1 as Site Director at Fairchild Wheeler. Jay manages a robust team of adults and teens to coach our Fairfield County participants in group lessons and our vibrant Teams program. He has forged relationships with our families downstate and looks forward to making a greater impact in 2022 for a full season.

Our busy summer season was highlighted by some new partners, events, and field trips to our Learning Links facility in Cromwell that we hope will continue:

We hosted a Police Athletic League (PAL) golf clinic and pizza party in early June, attended by our partners from Hartford, New Britain, and Waterbury. In late July, New Haven Boys & Girls Club and Solar Youth took a break from their summer activities in New Haven with Coach Tim for a field trip to Cromwell for a day of golf activities on the Learning Links. This was the first visit to a golf course for many of these children!

Our historical partnership with the city of Waterbury schools and city golf



Summer Camp at the Epstein Learning Links in Cromwell.







Summer Intern Milan Yorke assists with our Program Partners at Horizons.



First Tee – Connecticut provides golf programming at the Stamford Girl Scouts Jamboree at Cove Island Park.

course took another positive step when Coach Taylor and Coach Nick hosted a golf clinic at East Mountain GC for Crosby High School 9th & 10th graders in their Academy program in late July.

We continue to build and nurture partnerships in lower Fairfield County as we strive to gain access to golf facilities in that part of the state. This summer, Coach Mark and Coach Nick

led a golf clinic with 100 Black Men of Stamford at Sterling Farms GC for 35 teens. We also hosted a Women's Mentoring Network clinic at Mill River Park. In the fall, Coach Ilona, Coach Mark, and Coach Christy ran a golf station for the Stamford Girl Scouts Jamboree at Cove Island Park. We enjoyed introducing golf to about 100 girls from greater Stamford.

# Program Partners

- Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich
- Boys & Girls Club of Hartford
- Boys & Girls Club of New Haven
- Brass City Charter School
- Bridgeport Public Schools
- Brownstone Intermediate School
- Capital Prep Harbor
- Cardinal Shehan Center
- Channel 3 Kids Camp
- Consolidated School of New Britain
- Cromwell Public Schools
- East Hartford Public Schools
- Grace Academy - Hartford
- Hartford's Camp Courant
- Hartford Police Athletic League
- Hartford Public Schools
- Horizons
  - Greens Farms Academy
  - Sacred Heart University
  - The Foote School
- Indian Valley YMCA
- Irving Lane Middle School
- Juvenile Review Board
- McGivney Community Center
- Middletown Public Schools
- New Britain Police Athletic League
- New Haven Parks & Recreation
- New Haven Public Schools
- Newtown Public Schools
- Norwalk Public Schools
- Regional School District 13
- Stamford Public Schools
- St. Martin de Porres Academy
- Waterbury Police Athletic League
- Waterbury Public Schools
- Waterside School
- Yale African American Affinity Association
- YWCA New Britain

# Facility Listing

Alling Memorial, New Haven  
 East Mountain, Waterbury  
 Ellington Ridge, Ellington  
 Elmridge, Pawcatuck  
 Fairchild Wheeler, Bridgeport  
 Fairways, Branford  
 Goodwin Park, Hartford  
 Highland Greens, Prospect  
 Keney Park, Hartford  
 Prospect Golf, Prospect  
 Richter Park, Danbury  
 Stanley, New Britain  
 Twin Lakes, Branford  
 Woodstock Golf Course, Woodstock



# Thank You, Coaches!

Matt Allan  
Jaquon Allen  
Owen Angkatavanich  
Don Aronson  
Steven Banks  
Warren Beardow  
Jackie Bernstein  
Phil Blonski  
Peggy Boissoneau  
Anthony Bonelli  
Jim Boyle  
Katie Brandt  
Ryan Bucciferro  
Owen Campbell  
PJ Cavaliere  
George Claffey  
Nicole Clemons  
Matt Conelius  
Katelyn Corr  
Pat Deluca  
Sarah DeSanto  
JJ Drummond  
Jesse Duff

Libby Dunn  
Samantha Dunn  
Ilona Emmerth  
Pat Ferris  
Joe Forget  
Jane Freiler  
Nicole Gaddie  
Paul Haddad  
Lindsey Hansen  
Chris Hedden  
Mike Jackson  
Caitlyn Januario  
Taylor Januario  
Chloe Juthnas  
Peter Krzyzek  
Brian Lamberti  
Ellie Large  
Matthew Luponio  
Jill MacDonald  
Dev Madhavani  
Dorothy Malerba  
Sadie Martinez  
Liam McCusker

Richard Mead  
Justin Mecca  
Christy Miller  
Laniah Moffett  
Lilly Moreau  
Mark Moriarty  
Mark Murnane  
Patrick Murphy  
Richard Murray  
Meredith Norton  
Selam Olson  
Cherie Orenstein  
Michael Patafio  
Emily Perrotta  
Catarina Petrovic  
Jonathan Pinto  
Joseph Pontorerio  
Michael Pontorerio  
Bobby Powell  
Ryan Quinn  
Nick Quint  
Mary Reidy  
Matt Reilly

Matt Scheer  
Reece Scott  
Estela Segarra  
Rob Shaefer  
Walter Shelton  
KJ Smith  
Tim Swensen  
Rose Swiatkiewicz  
Jay Taylor  
Kevin Thompson  
Kevin Tierney  
Christian Waldron  
Jared Walter  
Jon Wilson  
Gene Winakor  
Kay Winakor  
Jack Wise  
David Wright  
Milan Yorke  
Brooke Zajac

## Next on the Tee for Programs

As we move into 2022, First Tee continues to evolve. Based on a multi-year effort of research from experts in youth development and sports psychology and listening to parents, students, and coaches, we have transitioned from skills-based to age-based programming. We expect this to be a fairly seamless transition for both existing and new participants. Look for the integration of the new curriculum in late 2022 and into 2023.

As always, thank you to the facilities operators and their staff who welcome First Tee – Connecticut coaches and participants to their golf courses or driving ranges for weekly programs! Each one of you continue to be supportive of our programming. You provide the classroom where our learning takes place and for that we are thankful.



Marnie Guadagno finishes her swing at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course in Bridgeport.



# Event Wrap Up

Every year we host three golf tournaments – one in Fairfield County, one in Hartford County and one in New Haven County as those are the three counties where we are most active with our programming. A special thank you to every corporate sponsor and individual who supported one of our three golf tournaments in 2021. Events make up the largest source of revenue in our overall budget and your generosity and participation makes it possible for us to keep growing and reaching more kids! Thank you to our event Title Sponsors – PricewaterhouseCoopers and Beverly Buckner Baker as well as Webster Private Bank, People's United Bank and Tito's Handmade Vodka for your support of multiple events!

## **PwC First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic, Country Club of Fairfield, June 1**

The PwC First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic was first up on June 1st at the picturesque oceanside Country Club of Fairfield, which is always a fan favorite! The event sold out with 26 foursomes and netted over \$101,000! The success of this event starts with our long-time partnership with Title Sponsor PwC and First Tee – Connecticut Board Member, Craig Watchmaker. We are so grateful for PwC's dedication and commitment to supporting First Tee – Connecticut and the kids we serve. We'd also like to thank Diamond Sponsor – Beverly Buckner Baker and all our Gold Sponsors – CBRE, Everest, Fairfield County Bank, LDE Real Estate Advisors, Marsh, Tokio Marine and Webster Bank. Last, but not least, a big shoutout to First Tee – Connecticut Board Members Tim Bunt, Karen Hopp and Teddy Bobroske for their contributions to the success of this event.



**Rennie Polk, Pat Haran, Carol Galbraith and board member Beverly Buckner Baker at Country Club of Fairfield.**

**Foursome from our Title Sponsor at PwC including Tim Hartnett, Mark Watermasysk, Larry Pfeffer and board member Craig Watchmaker at Country Club of Fairfield.**





## First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic in Memory of Shepard W. Baker Presented by Beverly Buckner Baker at TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, June 13

This event was up next, held at TPC River Highlands on June 13th, just a week prior to the Travelers Championship. We can't thank Beverly Buckner Baker enough for her generosity and for being the title sponsor of this event in memory of her husband Shepard who passed away in October 2020. Mr. Shepard "Shep" W. Baker (1930 – 2020) was a lifelong lover of the game and a long-time supporter of First Tee – Connecticut's work to impact young people through golf along with his wife and current board member, Beverly Buckner Baker. This event was a sell out as well with 27 foursomes and netted \$90,000. We would like to thank TPC River Highlands and Travelers Championship for their partnership with First Tee – Connecticut in hosting a top-notch event on this pristine course. We'd like to offer special thanks to our Diamond Sponsors including Eversource, Xfinity and Walmart. We'd also like to recognize all our Gold Sponsors including Bartlett Brainard Eacott, Emcor Services,



Basketball Hall of Fame Coach Jim Calhoun with volunteer Shelby Deep at TPC.



Justin Flaks with his dad, Dr. Jeff Flaks getting ready to tee off at TPC.

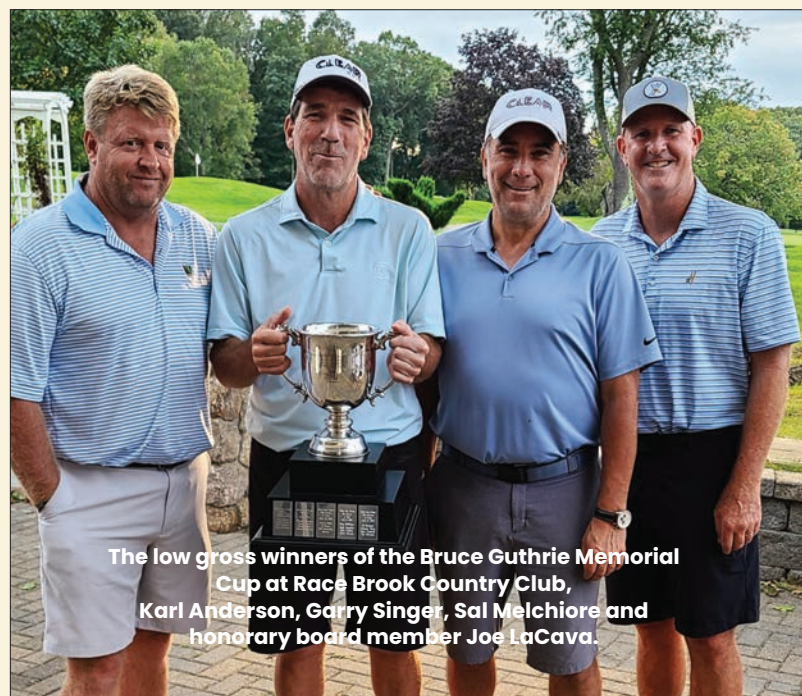
Gemma Power Systems, Hartford Healthcare, Interpreters and Translators, Inc., May, Boney & Clark, People's United Advisors, Private Capital Group, Robinson + Cole, Tito's Handmade Vodka and Webster Private Bank. A final thanks to our TPC Advisory Committee for this event – Ken Baldwin, Beverly Buckner Baker, Jeff Calhoun, Rick Carbray, Dave Corrado, Jeff Cohen, MD, Dave Dixon, Ted May, Tom Panczner and David Polk.

## First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic at Race Brook Country Club, Orange, September 14

Our final golf tournament of the season was on September 14th at Race Brook Country Club in Orange. It was a beautiful day to host our first tournament in New Haven County since 2019! Twenty-one foursomes participated in this event that netted over \$35,000. We'd like to thank everyone on our reenergized New Haven Advisory Committee including Daniel Carroll, Dave Dixon, Dan Earle, Jim Healey, Mike Jackson, Joe LaCava, Ted May, Brandon McFarlane, Mike Neubert, Patrick Pearson, David Polk, Carl Porto, Marshall Ruben, Jesse Springer, Shep Stevens, Joe Valentino and John Walsh. Special thanks to our Diamond Sponsors Beverly Buckner Baker and Bankwell Financial Group as well as

our Gold Sponsors – Connecticut Section PGA, Dan Earle, People's United Bank, Pure Insurance, Tito's, John & Marcie Walsh, and Webster Bank. We are excited to build on the success of the event in 2021 with our 2022 tournament at New Haven Country Club.

In addition to our fundraising golf tournaments, we also hosted several other meaningful events to give back to the community and to make sure we spread the good news of our mission and the impact we are having with our kids!



The low gross winners of the Bruce Guthrie Memorial Cup at Race Brook Country Club, Karl Anderson, Garry Singer, Sal Melchiorre and honorary board member Joe LaCava.



Yale Women's Basketball Coach Allison Guth and Yale Women's Golf Coach Lauren Harling strategizing their next shots at Race Brook Country Club.



## Blood Drives at First Tee – Connecticut

We partnered with the American Red Cross and used our beautiful building – the David & Geri Epstein Learning Center to host three blood drives in 2021. Due to Covid, blood donations have been down, yet the need is the same. We were so pleased to do our part and offer our facility to be used in this way – as one donation has the potential to save up to three lives. Our three blood drives collected a total of 111 pints. Those 111 pints can help 333 patients in need once they separate the red cells, plasma, and platelets! Our blood drives also resulted in an impressive 21 first time donors. Account Manager III, Donor Recruitment at the American Red Cross Joanne Krekian said, “the biggest takeaway for people to know is that the need for blood is constant. The need doesn’t really fluctuate, but donations fluctuate greatly by season and especially in the midst of the pandemic. In an emergency, or in a crisis, it’s the people who donated in the weeks leading up to the emergency that make a profound difference in the ability to respond to that crisis. Donors are eligible to donate every 56 days, or 8 weeks, and we encourage people to make blood donation a regular part of their routine.”



Board members Mim Schreck and Ellie Large doing their part and donating blood at FTCT's blood drive.



Volunteer Extraordinaires Bernice Parent, Kim Berthiaume and Brenda Hansen run the registration at the FTCT Blood Drive.

We'd also like to thank our wonderful volunteers who helped at our three blood drives. Thank you to John & Mary Ellen Nowobilski, Laura Dwyer Rice, Arthur Boothby, Kim Berthiaume, Bernice Parent and Brenda Hansen! Stay tuned for future blood drives at First Tee – Connecticut in 2022.

## Friend Raisers

We hosted three “Friend Raiser” events in 2021. These events are designed to help spread the word about all our amazing kids and how First Tee – Connecticut has helped them on their journey. People who don't know about First Tee – Connecticut may assume that we are a junior golf organization. These informal gatherings help us reach new individuals to explain that we are about using golf as the means to teach young people life skills and core values. We do that via our green grass programs, partnerships with



Emeritus FTCT Board Member John Walsh speaks to the audience at the New Haven Country Club Friend Raiser.



Participant Selam Olson and intern Milan Yorke attend the New Haven Country Club Friend Raiser.



outreach organizations and via our in-school programming. These friend raiser events also help us find individuals who may be interested in volunteer coaching with us so it's a win-win.

A big thank you to General Manager Andrew J. Cunningham and New Haven Country Club for sponsoring our friend raiser in June. This friend raiser featured several of our kids, coaches and board members who spoke from the heart about what First Tee – Connecticut has meant to them. We can't thank Emeritus Board member John Walsh enough for his instrumental role in organizing this friend raiser and for his involvement in all things that involve New Haven County! We look forward to hosting our 2022 New Haven County golf tournament at New Haven Country Club on October 18, 2022.

We'd also like to thank Joe Troy and Jim Romaniello for organizing and hosting a friend raiser event at Shorehaven Country Club in Norwalk. Joe and Jim are members at Shorehaven and also serve on First Tee – Connecticut's Fairfield County Advisory Committee. This friend raiser had significant results as First Tee – Connecticut is now in partnership with Shorehaven Country Club to host group lessons. Shorehaven is the first private club in Fairfield County to offer First Tee – Connecticut group lessons! Kudos to all who were involved in making this happen.

Last, but not least, thank you to Connor Bieling and Will Malpica for hosting a friend raiser and networking event at O'Neill's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Norwalk in November. All of these events are so very helpful to First Tee – Connecticut. None of these events are fundraisers – they are truly a way for us to casually make new friends and possibly find new positive mentors for our kids! If you are interested in hosting a friend raiser event, please reach out to Development Director, Christy Miller at [cmiller@firstteect.org](mailto:cmiller@firstteect.org) or at (860) 316-2513.

### **Adult Junior Open at Lyman Orchards Apple Nine, Middlefield, September 14**

In addition to our three fundraising golf tournaments, 2021 saw the return of our Adult Junior Lyman Orchards Apple Nine. This tournament is open to any young person to play with an adult of their choice. Fourteen twosomes participated in this super fun day that offers a family friendly atmosphere and as a bonus, each participant leaves with a famous 6" Lyman Orchards apple pie!

### **A BIG Thank You to Comcast**

Last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank our friends at Comcast for producing a fantastic public service announcement that we can use to educate others on what First Tee – Connecticut is all about. A film crew from Comcast came to our headquarters for two days of filming in July. Director of Development Christy Miller interviewed individuals involved in all aspects of our organization

– from donors to parents to board members to coaches to alumni to participants. Thank you to each person who took part in telling the story of what First Tee – Connecticut is all about, including: Phil Blonski, Beverly Buckner Baker, Javier Colon, Ellie Large, Sadie Martinez, Manu Mazumdar, Meghna Mazumdar, Ruki Mazumdar, Selam Olson, Brielle Oquendo, Bobby Powell and Estela Segarra. Thank you also to the team at Comcast who did a great job of taking all the pieces and weaving it into an amazing finished product – Brian Ferney, Jerry Kosturko, Marji Borkow, Dina Ann O'Brien and the film crew – Mike Fay and Paul Smith.

If you'd like to check out the video simply click on this QR code.



**Parent Ruki Mazumdar; board member and coach Ellie Large; program alumna Meghna Mazumdar; parent and board member Manu Mazumdar; coach Estela Segarra and coach and Director of Development Christy Miller.**





## Auction Items in Kind

Acushnet Company  
Alvarium Beer Co.  
The Americas ROYAL AIR MAROC  
Axis NA LLC  
Back East Brewing Company  
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Brooklawn Country Club  
Central Connecticut Chapter LPGA - AGA  
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Golf Club of Avon  
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Golf Tribute  
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OEC Brewing  
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Tumble Brook Country Club  
United States Golf Association  
Wampanoag Country Club  
Wanderlust Voyages  
Watertown Golf Club  
Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.  
The Windham Club  
Woodway Country Club

## Game Changers Society 2021

Ken & Kathleen Baldwin	Eric & Karen Hopp
Rick Berry	Dennis & Mary Lubozynski
Paul Bocciarelli	Ted & Debbie May
George & Kristine Claffey	Manu & Ruki Mazumdar
Sandy Cloud, Jr. Esq	Pat Meiser
Dave & Christine Dixon	Charlie & Nancy Pike
Barbara Karis Downey	David & Rennie Polk
Peter & Jackie Dunn	Robbie & Lisa Pyne
Dan Earle	Mike & Elizabeth Reilly
David & Carol Galbraith	Gary & Mim Reynolds
John Gernon & Rebecca Brienza	John & Marcie Walsh
Ken Gilbert	

**First Tee – Connecticut** has established the Game Changers Society as a way to extend certain benefits to our loyal donors who decide to make multi-year commitments. There are three levels – Ace (\$10,000 over 5 years), Eagle (\$5,000 over 5 years) or Birdie (\$2,500 over 5 years). These commitments can be customized to suit our donors, but does exclude event sponsorships. For more information on how to join the Game Changers Society please contact Director of Development Christy Miller at (860) 316-2513 or [cmiller@firstteect.org](mailto:cmiller@firstteect.org) **firstteect.org**. Thank you.



Horizons at Foote School program participant Jeremiah Lamboy sports some new headwear at Alling Memorial Golf Course in New Haven.

## Next on The Tee

We are hosting several AWESOME events in 2022. If you have any interest in participating in any of these events please visit our website [www.firstteeconnecticut.org](http://www.firstteeconnecticut.org) or contact Director of Development, Christy Miller at [cmiller@firstteect.org](mailto:cmiller@firstteect.org) or (860) 316-2513.

**PwC First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic at Country Club of Fairfield on May 31, 2022.**

**Adult Junior Open at Lyman Orchards Apple Nine in Middlefield on Saturday, August 20, 2022.**

**Taste of the Tee at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM.**

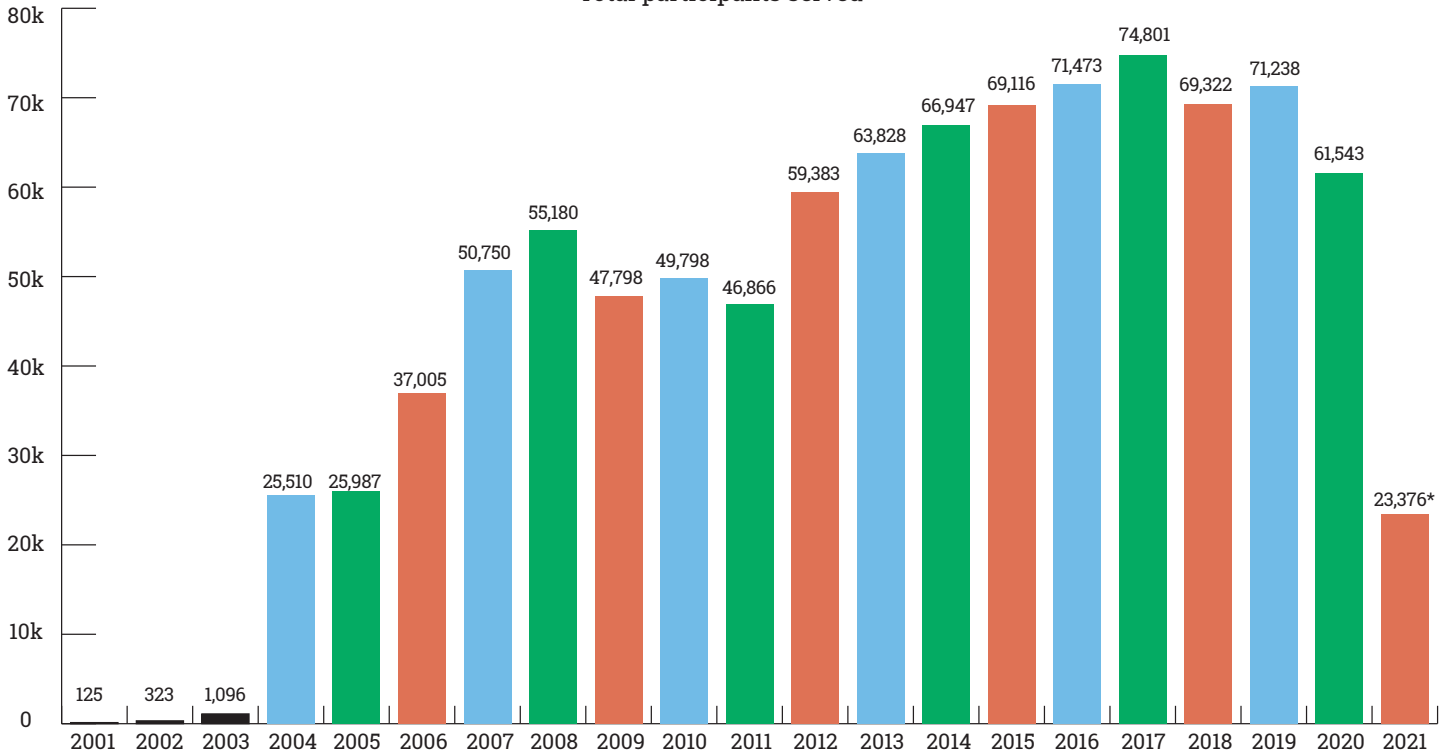
**First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic in Memory of Shepard W. Baker Presented by Beverly Buckner Baker at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.**

**First Tee – Connecticut Charity Classic Presented by the New Haven Country Club on Tuesday, October 18, 2022.**

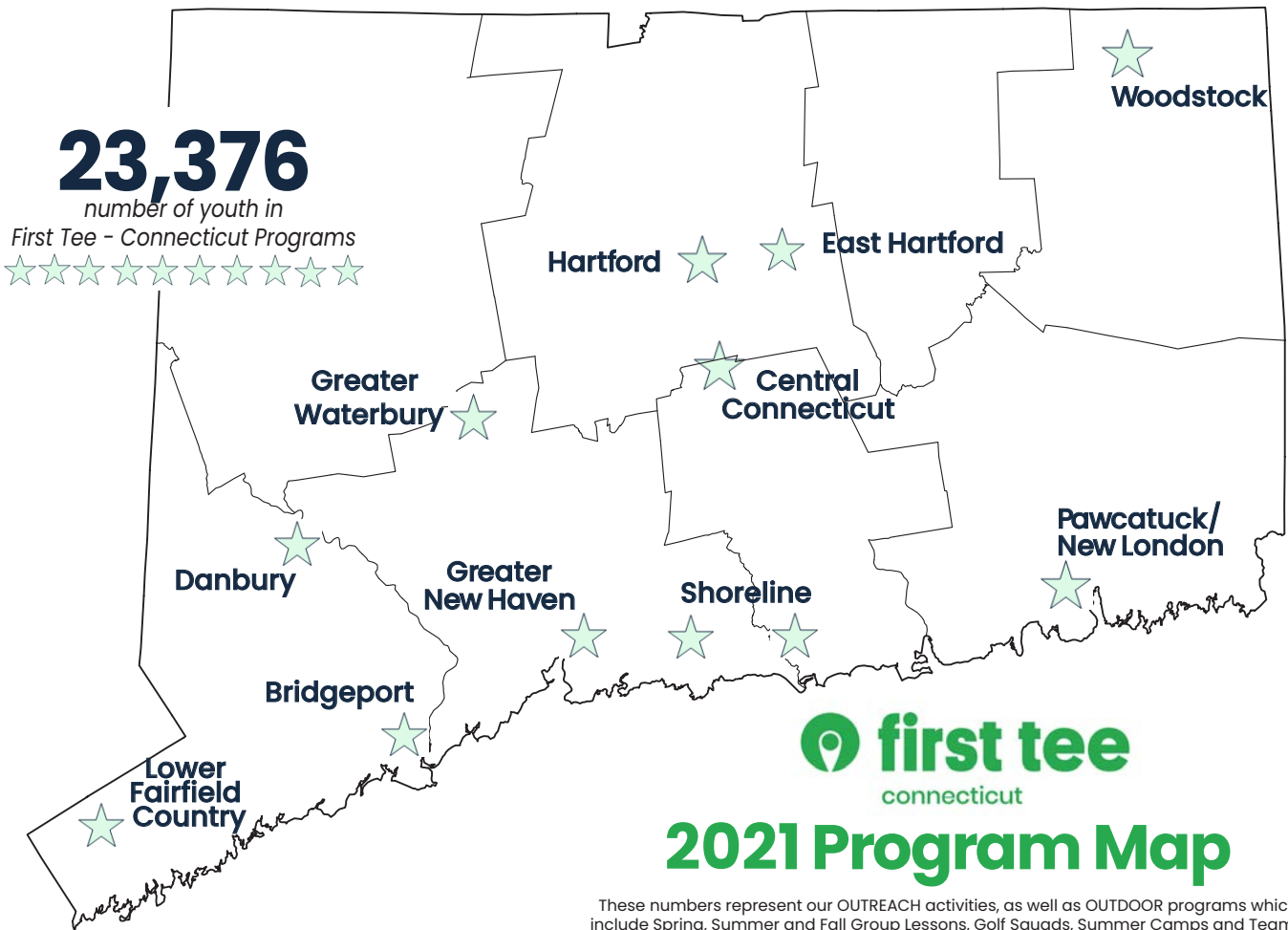


## First Tee – Connecticut History

Total participants served

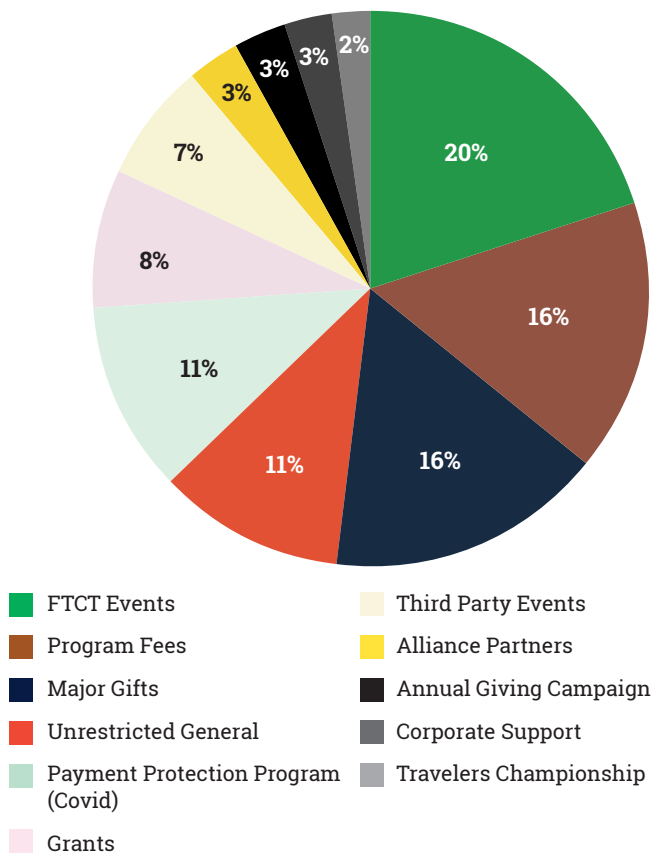


\*No access to School Based Programs in 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

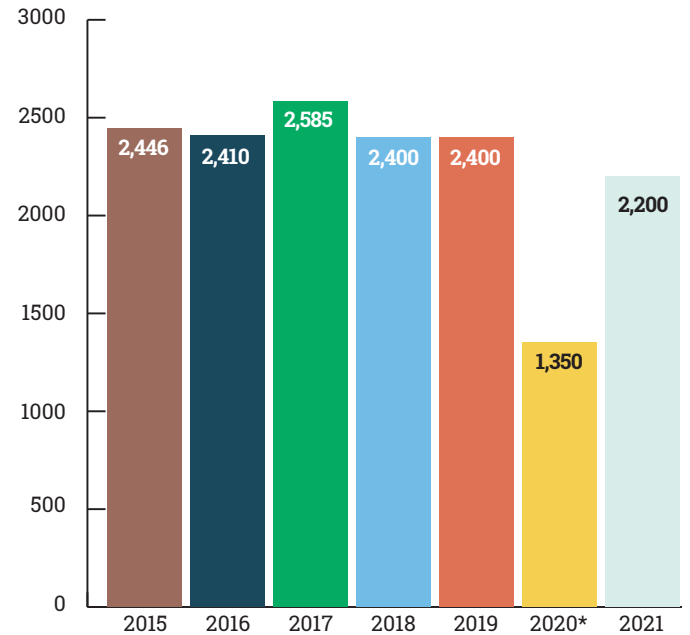




## 2021 Revenue Sources

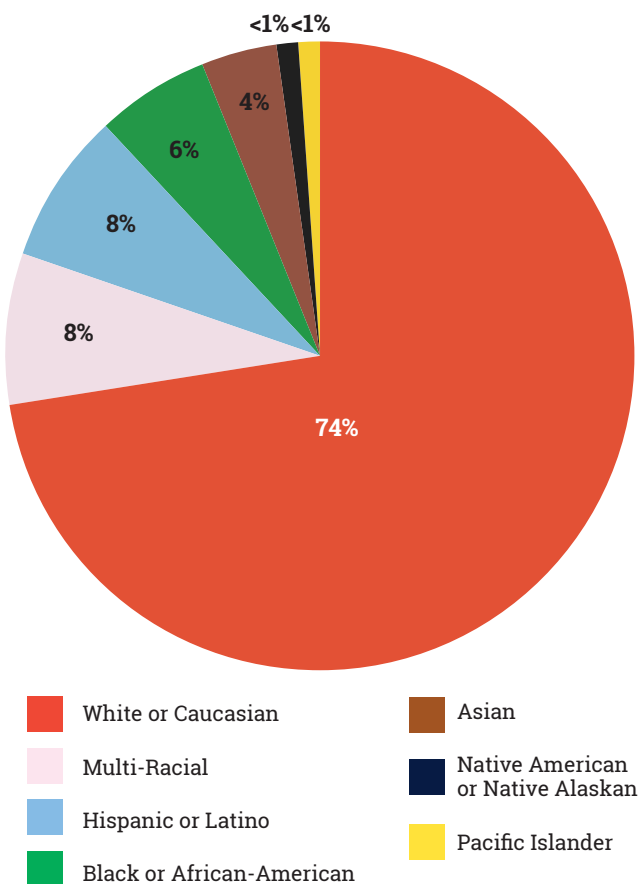


## Registered Participants

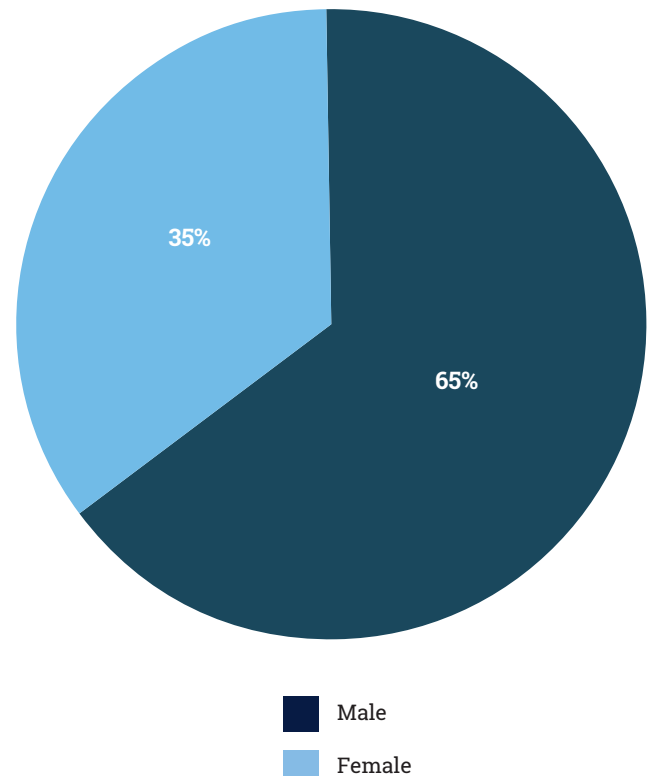


\*No Spring programming anywhere and no programs allowed in New Haven.

## Registered Ethnicity



## Registered Gender





# 2021 Annual Donors

First Tee – Connecticut is grateful to the many individuals, foundations, corporations, golf course staffs, and alliance partners for providing chapter support during 2021. 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 23,000 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 860.882.1660 to correct any inconsistencies.

## Named Learning Center Benefactors

David & Geri Epstein  
Karl Krapek

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CT Club Managers Association  
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CT Women's Golf Association  
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## Official Media Partner

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The Serra Family  
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Josh Overbay  
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Patrick Pearson  
Charlie & Nancy Pike  
David & Rennie Polk

## With special appreciation for the following scholarships:

Aetna Retirees Scholarship in honor of H. Grant Thomas and Roger Lawson  
Shepard W. Baker Memorial Scholarship  
19 Iron Scholarship (Downey Family Foundation)  
Andrew K. Dwyer Foundation Scholarship  
Epstein Family Scholarship  
William P. Lyons Scholarship  
Mazumdar Family Scholarship  
Dan Novarr Scholarship  
Donald E. Vacheron Scholarship



**We are grateful to the families of the following for selecting First Tee – Connecticut for gifts in their loved one's memory in 2021:**

William Brew  
Robert A. Callahan Jr.  
John M. Charpentier  
Robert Emil DeLuca  
John T. Heagney Jr.  
Thomas Charles McLachlan  
Noreen Murnane  
Bobby S. Payne  
Joseph Santaniello  
Robert W. Scully Sr.  
William "Bill" Summers III  
Aquitania "Ackey" Torza

**With appreciation to our grantors for their continued support of our mission:**

A.C. Israel Foundation, Inc.  
American Savings Foundation  
Connecticut Section PGA  
The Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation  
Richard P. Garmany Fund  
PGA TOUR First Tee Foundation, Inc.  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
TGR Foundation  
Toro Company  
United States Golf Association

The Proprietors of the  
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Mike & Elizabeth Reilly  
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**Integrity Level  
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Don Boyce  
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Unveiling our new wall mural with Coach Walter Shelton doing what he does best – inspiring young people. Mark Moriarty, Christy Miller, Walter Shelton, Marie Bernatchez and Mark Murnane.