

2023-2024

Annual Report



 **first tee**[®]
greater charleston



Building Game Changers

At First Tee - Greater Charleston, we believe confidence, perseverance, and respect for others can take a child far—on the golf course and in life. We also believe that experiences are our greatest teacher.

Our coaches don't just teach young people about perseverance; we show them how it's done. And then we help them put it into practice. We're using golf to teach life lessons. We give young people a safe space to try, fail, re-evaluate, and try again. It makes them good golfers and even better people—equipped for anything that comes their way.

Resilience is a game changer on the course, in the classroom, at home, at work, and in life. Thank you for helping us give that gift to thousands of Charleston Area young people. Thank you for Building Game Changers!

“We love that First Tee is teaching [our daughter] how to think strategically... We've noticed this skill development bleeding over into other areas of her life.”

Our Mission

To positively impact the lives of our local youth by providing structured educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choice through the game of golf.

Our Goal

Help kids develop positive self identity, interpersonal skills, and ties to their community that will prepare them for life beyond the golf course.

– Barbie S.

How We Reach Kids

In 2023, we served 19,869 children on golf courses, in schools, and through community partners.



On-Course Golf & Life Skills Program

More than 1,000 kids participate in Core Golf & Life Skills classes on golf courses each year. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with character-building curriculum, we create learning experiences that help kids create friendships, develop strengths, and build self-confidence for use in everything they do.



In-School Golf & Life Skills Program

We provide local educators at elementary and middle schools in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties with training, age-appropriate equipment, and a golf curriculum that enhances social-emotional learning (SEL) skills. Through this effort, we expose more than 17,000 kids annually to the game of golf.



Community Outreach Program

Every year, our coaches deliver Golf & Life Skills Curriculum to hundreds of kids through community partner organizations who share our mission to positively impact the lives of local young people. We supply coaches, equipment, and flexible lesson plans that can be adapted to any location, age group, or skill level.



Pathfinder Immersion Program

In 2021, we launched a golf and STEAM immersion program that provides impactful year-round experiences for students on the brink of success. Participants—who are nominated by mentors, teachers, or coaches—enter the program the summer before 6th grade and continue through high school. They meet Monday-Friday during the summer and on Saturdays during the school year for various enrichment activities.

“The coaches are great at teaching them responsibility and how to handle challenges. They make learning golf fun!” – Kristy N.

“We really appreciate the value in this curriculum as well as placing a focus on developing the child as a whole, not just as a golfer.” – Andrew S.

On-Course Program Locations

Berkeley Country Club, Charleston Municipal, The Club at Pine Forest, Dunes West Golf & River Club, Patriots Point Golf Links, Shadowmoss Golf Club, Wescott Golf Club

In-School Program Locations

A.C. Corcoran Elementary, Ashley River Creative Arts, Berkeley Elementary, Berkeley Preparatory Academy, Cainhoy Elementary, Carolina Voyager, Charleston Development Academy, Charleston Progressive Academy, Chicora Elementary, East Cooper Montessori, E.L. Frierson, Goodwin Elementary, Hunley Park Elementary, Hursey Elementary, James B. Edwards Elementary, James Island Elementary, Julian Mitchell School of Math and Science, Ladson Elementary, Lambs Elementary, Marrington Elementary, Meeting Street Academy, Montessori Community, Mount Zion Elementary, Murray-LaSaine Elementary, North Charleston Elementary, North Charleston Creative Arts, Oakland Elementary, Orange Grove Charter, Pepperhill Elementary, Phillip Simmons Elementary, Sanders-Clyde Elementary, Springfield Elementary, St. James Santee Elementary, St. John Catholic School, Stiles Point Elementary, Westview Primary

Community Outreach Partners

Be A Mentor, Camp Happy Days, Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission, Charleston Promise Neighborhood, City of Charleston Recreation Department, City of Charleston Therapeutic Recreation, Family Connection of South Carolina, Four Rivers Development Corporation, Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina, Kids on Point, Lowcountry Autism Foundation, Royal Foundation “I AM” Male Mentorship Program and Summer Camp, Special Olympics South Carolina, WINGS for Kids

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On-Course
Program Locations

37

In-School Program
Locations

14

Community
Partners



2023 Impact

19,869 Kids Served



1,167 On-Course Participants

Enrollment +13% vs 2022
Teen enrollment +107% vs 2022



1,254 Community Outreach Participants

Enrollment +67% vs 2022



17,448 In-School Participants

4 schools added in 2023



22 Pathfinder Immersion Participants

Enrollment +57% vs 2022



Kids Who Participate at No Cost

98%

of parents say they believe First Tee coaches are positive role models for their children

84%

of parents believe we provide opportunities their child might not otherwise have

“I like the possibility for my child to have exposure to a skill I can't teach him...”

- Michael S.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for helping me learn about chipping! My favorite part about golf is the hitting the ball far!

LOVE,
Zahlee 10 years old

Kids Who Experienced Positive Change

89%

Improved Confidence

77%

Improved Social Skills

71%

Improved Coping Skills

70%

More Responsible

68%

Better Judgment

94%

Improved Golf Skills

“[First Tee] taught my son a lot of real life things not just golf...”
- Dominique E.

Tools of the Trade

\$10,500 College/Post-Secondary Scholarships

2,800 Rounds of Free Golf

100 Sets of Clubs

125 Volunteers

Cost of Impact

Programming & Coaches
\$759,833

Fundraising/Marketing
\$402,514

Operations
\$279,128





Participant Spotlight

Darrell

Age 11 | Pathfinders Immersion Program

Joined summer 2023

Enjoys being out on the course; favorite part of the program is hitting with a driver and watching the ball go far

Favorite summer enrichment activity was learning chess, something he had never played before

“Almost everybody that I’ve met [in the Pathfinders Immersion Program] has changed the way I think about the future.”

- Darrell

Promoting Diversity

The Barbara A. Douglas and Dr. William J. Powell Diversity Award is inspiring a more inclusive future.

Our Journey Continues

In 2022, First Tee - Greater Charleston received the Barbara A. Douglas and Dr. William J. Powell Diversity Award. This honor, presented by First Tee Headquarters (St. Augustine, FL) and The Toro Company (Bloomington, MN), recognizes outstanding leadership and commitment to promote ethnic diversity within local golf communities. It was wonderful to receive validation that we are on the right track, but the work doesn't end with a plaque.

Inclusion is not a destination. It's a journey.

We spent 2023 identifying ways in which we could make our programs more geographically and financially accessible than ever before. It has become clear that transportation and golf course availability are our greatest challenges, and by addressing them, we can not only reduce or eliminate the waitlist for our On-Course Program, we can also reach more young people in underserved neighborhoods.

In 2023, we secured a new bus, which brings our vehicle fleet to two. In 2024, we're dedicating more resources to partnerships that will sustain program growth.

To the partners, coaches, volunteers, donors, board members, parents, and program participants who have helped us get this far, thank you! We can't wait to share our plans for the future with you, and we know that your continued support will change the game of golf and the lives of young people by ensuring access for all.

Sincerely,



Bucky Dudley, PGA
Executive Director



Get Involved

Join us in Building Game Changers by donating your time, treasure, and talent.

Become a Volunteer or Mentor

You don't have to be a golf pro to volunteer with us; all you need is a passion for helping young people!

Volunteers participate in weekly 1-1.5 hour classes for an 8-week season (spring, summer, or fall). You make your own schedule - sign up for as many classes as you'd like!

Mentors participate in at least one event per month throughout the year.



"We are thrilled to invest in First Tee... Their work will have a generational impact on kids and families across the Greater Charleston community for years to come."

– Ryan Hanks, Managing Partner of Madison Capital Group

Support Our Programs with a Financial Gift

Building Futures Partners donate \$1-20K annually. Partnership benefits and corporate recognition—such as press releases, eblast spotlights, and website placement—are based on level of support.

First Tee Ambassadors make a recurring gift, as little as \$10/month or \$120/year. These recurring gifts play a crucial role in sustaining our mission. Ambassadors receive a branded thank you gift in addition to monthly newsletters and our annual report.

YAC Members pay an annual due and participate in fundraising initiatives throughout the year. They receive invitations to exclusive networking and golf events in addition to monthly newsletters and our annual report.

Lend Us Your Unique Talents

Photographers, doctors, lawyers, and financial institutions are just a few examples of the individuals and organizations who have helped us plan fundraising events and execute dynamic enrichment activities for kids. Email Bucky@FirstTeeCHS.org to explore available opportunities.



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Thank You
Legacy Partners



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