



WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION INC.

A BRIEF HISTORY

February 2020

Who's turning 20?

The WMGA Foundation!

As the WMGA Foundation approaches its 20th anniversary, we will be sharing information with you about our history, plans for the future, and how your support helps the Foundation meet its mission.

So how did the WMGA Foundation get started?

Legend has it that two women sharing some laughs and a bottle of wine after a round of golf came up with the concept of raising money to help college-bound young women. While that could be true (only a few know), the official story is that the WMGA Board of Directors recognized the importance of having a charitable arm, similar to most other state and regional golf associations, in order to give back to the golf community and grow the game of golf. This initiative was led by Brigid Lamb (WMGA President 1999-2000) and Nancy Paton (WMGA Vice President 1999-2000 and President 2001-2002).

Organized in 2001 as a 501 (c)(3) charity, the WMGA Foundation granted its first scholarship in 2003 to a young woman finishing her degree in turf management. The Foundation really gained traction in 2006 when it hosted its first "Golf Classic" Tournament. By the following year, the Foundation had raised enough money to award scholarships to seven young women with limited resources. The lives of these women, who are approximately 30 years old now, will be featured in subsequent emails to you. The momentum, that began in 2007, has continued and every year since then the Foundation has awarded between six and eleven impressive young women scholarships. To date, \$717,000 has been committed to 115 young women.

The Foundation was led for many years by Geri Scarpa (WMGA President 2003-2004) and long-time WMGA member, Gale Brudner. Many of the Foundation's core principles were developed by these two women, who worked tirelessly to see that the Foundation would thrive and fulfill its mission.

Other than scholarships, what else does the Foundation do?

With the Foundation providing scholarships to empower young women and help them pursue their dreams, the WMGA's Board of Directors focused on finding ways to introduce more young girls to the game of golf. That's when "Girls to the Tee" was born.

Girls to the Tee is a free clinic for girls ages 6-18 that provides an introduction to golf through instruction and age appropriate games. In addition to golf instruction, the girls are provided with golf clubs, snacks and refreshments. The WMGA hosted its first Girls to the Tee golf clinic at Westchester County Club in 2009. Girls to the Tee events are now held in all three metro-area districts each summer thanks to the support from our host clubs who donate their facilities and our local golf professionals who provide the expert instruction. To offset the costs of the events, the Foundation worked with the WMGA to obtain a grant from the Hal and Ruth Launders Charitable Trust. These grants provided funds from 2011 to 2014 to help pay for publicizing and running the Girls to the Tee events. The program is now fully funded and run by the Foundation. Approximately, 190 girls participated in GTTT clinics in 2019.

In 2013, the Foundation Board agreed to begin providing modest stipends to WMGA Junior Members who qualify for USGA events to help offset tournament costs and travel expenses.



WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION INC.

A BRIEF HISTORY

(continued)

The Foundation's Board of Trustees was honored to work with Ridgewood Country Club and be the designated charity of the 2016 US Girl's Junior Championship and last year was thrilled to learn it was the designated charity of the 2019 AJGA UHY / Celadon Junior Championship Hosted By Marina Alex at St. Andrews Golf Club.

So how's the Foundation doing now?

As the Foundation enters its 20th year, you should be proud of what you helped the Foundation accomplish. The Foundation has made a positive impact on the lives of 115 young women and has introduced the game of golf to over 700 girls. With your ongoing support, the Foundation will continue to help young women with their college and graduate school expenses and provide junior girls with an opportunity to learn about the wonderful game of golf.

"The mission of the WMGA Foundation is to provide scholarships to deserving young women attending an institution of higher learning who have an interest in golf and golf activities; to foster girls' junior level involvement in golf and competition; and to promote the game of golf to all women."

Our Contact Information

Women's Metropolitan Golf Association
Foundation Inc.
49 Knollwood Rd
Elmsford, NY 10523
914 592 7888
www.wmga.com

The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation, Inc., is a qualified non-profit organization under IRS code 501 (c) 3. All gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. WMGA Foundation Tax ID is 22-3844130.