

Annual Report 2022





First Tee - Western New York serves children ages 5-18 through three year-round programs:

First Tee Program

Hosted at local golf courses and golf facilities, participants attend one session per week. Participants learn important golf skills, and more importantly, life skills, from Lead Coaches and Volunteers.

First Tee School Program

Hosted at local elementary schools during Physical Education classes. Participants learn important golf skills, and more importantly, life skills, from PE Teachers and Volunteers.

First Tee Community Program

Hosted at youth-serving organizations and community centers during after-school and out-of-school time. Participants learn important golf skills, and more importantly, life skills, from Youth Instructors and Volunteers.

Regardless of where participants learn about golf and inherent life values and key commitments to develop their character, they are all encouraged to explore and discover their own unique skills and talents, and apply class materials at home, school, and work. Respect is the cornerstone of our curriculum.



We exist to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf





Dear First Tee Investor,

As a result of your support, First Tee- Western New York continues to create impactful change within our local communities. With support from individuals such as yourself we are able to help every child we work with to learn, grow, and build character through the game of golf. I am amazed at the generosity of our supporters. Thank you for your continued participation and support that has helped First Tee - Western New York reach another record breaking year.

We know that behind every successful participant and coach is someone like you. We appreciate your continued belief in First Tee- Western New York. The generosity displayed helps to inspire others in our community to support the next generation of young people.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Timothy R. Karches
Executive Director
First Tee - Western New York

Through after-school and in-school programs, we help shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by reinforcing values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf

Building Game Changers

We enable kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges

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Andrew Bennett – Board Treasurer
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Gary Hall Jr.
Niagara Community Center

Lisa Scally
Oak Hill Country Club

26 Lead Coaches



7 Junior Coaches



37 Volunteers



Staff

Tim Karches
Executive Director

Kristen Bromley
Assistant Executive Director

Erich Spitz
Program Director

Site Coordinators

Seth Wilson
Buffalo North Towns

Vicky Rothwell
Monroe County

Gia Bolognese
Junior Coach Program Coordinator

Janet Battaglia
Outreach Coordinator & Support

2022 Impact



13

Partnered Golf Locations

Thank you to our partnered golf course facilities who generously donate their resources to ensure that every kid has adequate access to participate in First Tee – Western New York programming



1,634

Registered Participants

Bob O Links Golf Course
Brighton Golf Course
Churchville Golf Course
Deerfield Golf & Country Club
Elma Meadows Golf Course
Genesee Valley Golf Course
Glen Oak Golf Course
Grover Cleveland Golf Course
Harvest Hill Golf & Learning Center
Paddock Chevrolet Golf Dome
Morgan's Crossing Golf Course
Niagara County Golf Course
Terry Hills Golf Course

932

Youth Reached Through Chapter Led Clinics & Events

344

Participants Played in a Playing Opportunity

Program Report

Program Recap

The 2022 First Tee Program – our on-course program – saw tremendous growth. We partnered with 13 golf facilities across Buffalo and Rochester to offer 130 classes to 1,634 participants. We greatly appreciate the support and collaboration of all 13 of our partnered facilities.

We also transitioned to a refreshed First Tee curriculum designed to better meet the learning of today's youth through an increased focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Goal setting, and Positive Self Identity. This curriculum refresh also included a switch to Age-Based programming; allowing kids to spend more time with like aged participants and allows coaches to deliver content in developmentally appropriate ways.

Program & Playing Opportunity Sponsors



Western New York Section



Playing Opportunities Recap

Thanks to fantastic partnerships and support from the organizations listed below we were able to provide affordable, engaging, and supportive on-course playing opportunities for participants of all ages and abilities. We were able to run:

On-Course Learning Experiences

Newer participants and participants wanting more on-course playing time spent time on the golf course playing holes with the support of First Tee coaches and volunteers

Family Nights & Parent/Child Tournaments

Participants spent time playing on the course with a parent, grandparent, or other family member in a supportive, alternate shot format

Donovan Cup Tournament Series

In memory of Jack Donovan, and his contributions and support to junior golf in New York state.

Sgroi Cup

Thanks to support from Pat Sgoi and the Sgroi Foundation, First Tee-WNY held the second annual Sgroi Cup to cap off a wonderful outdoor season.



Community Impact

Outreach Recap

Across the Buffalo, Rochester & Niagara Falls regions, we partnered with several organizations to bring life-skills development to a variety of demographics by hosting golf clinics. Through the 'Access Fore All' strategic initiative we were able to intentionally create positive learning experiences for kids and teens within the following demographics:

- Females
- Racial/Ethnic Minorities
- First Generation Golfers
- Families Facing Financial Hardship

By creating meaningful partnerships throughout the Western New York community, seamless character-development and golf instruction were delivered to more youth. This strategy helped grow the impact of our Chapter by providing equitable and inclusive experiences to groups traditionally underrepresented in the sport of golf. Through outreach efforts we worked with the following amount of students:

Chapter Led Clinics

932 youth reached

Clinics located at a golf course or community center facilitated by First Tee - Western New York Coaches & Volunteers. We hosted a total of 15 clinics with 10 different community partners

First Tee School Program

14,820 students reached

In partnership with 38 elementary and middle schools, students grades K-8 were exposed to the First Tee School Program during the school-year through a physical education unit facilitated by PE teachers.

First Tee Community Program

889 youth reached

In partnership with 4 youth-development community organizations youth were exposed to the First Tee Community program during after-school or out-of-school programming facilitated by youth-instructors



Coaches' Corner

Caring Coaches Create Game Changers

First Tee – Western New York extends an exceptional thank you to all of the Lead Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Junior Coaches and Volunteers.

First Tee Coaches are trained in youth-development. Their focus is to establish positive relationships with participants as they mentor and guide them into becoming a well-rounded person on and off the golf course. By combining the four building-blocks of Activity Based, Mastery Driven, Empower Youth and Continuous Learning Coaches & Volunteers create optimal learning environments for participants to maximize their character-development growth.

Thank you to our

26 Lead Coaches
5 Assistant Coaches
7 Junior Coaches
37 Volunteers

For creating Game Changers across Western New York!



Lead Coaches Attend National Coaching Training

Four (4) First Tee – Western New York Coaches attended a National First Tee Coach Program training in 2022. The National Coach Program is a way for Coaches to continue to progress as Coach Mentors to be able to deliver programming to different age and skill-leveled participants.

Ron Langhorne attended Level II Training in San Francisco, CA

Seth Wilson attended Level II Training in Orlando, FL

Gia Bolognese & Kristen Bromley attended Level III Training in Fort Worth, TX

"Attending Level III training opened my eyes to new teaching styles and teaching priorities to provide the best experience for our participants. I thoroughly believe I not only matured as a coach, but learned new ways to excel to better impact my First Tee – Western New York participants."

*Gia Bolognese
Level III Coach*

Interested in Building Game Changers as a Coach Mentor?

Visit
firstteewesternny.org/get-involved/
to get started today!

Coach Spotlight



Ron Langhorne

First Tee Level II Certified Coach

The First Tee has changed my life. I've learned and grown so much both on and off the course since joining almost a year ago. Between meeting so many amazing golfers, coaches, and students, I think the friendships have been the most impactful on me.

What I like most about being a part of the First Tee are the outreach events. Nothing compares to the feeling of making an impact, changing lives for the better, and creating opportunities.

Executive Director Tim Karches is like a mentor to me. Since day one, he has been nothing short of impressive and being around him makes me want to step my game up. Whenever we work together, I always try to pay attention to the little things that make him such a great coach and leader.

My favorite core value/life skill is Goal Setting. For a time in my life, the only goal was to make it to tomorrow. It wasn't until I set the goal that I wanted to be a better person for my students that I started to change my life around for the better. Goals are necessary to progress both on and off the course.

I could write a book about how much my life has changed in just one year thanks to the First Tee. I'd say that the biggest impact has been the change of environment. Working with the First Tee, I'm always around college educated successful people with a heart for giving back, which is the total opposite of the type of people/environment I previously associated myself with. Like the saying goes "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with" - Jim Rohn

Working with the First Tee has helped and still is helping me form my career. Between the Inner City Youth Golf program, the Jim Horne Golf Foundation, and now the First Tee, I have a resume that's 1 of a kind when it comes to teaching golf.

Nothing compares to the feeling of making an impact, changing lives for the better, and creating opportunities.

Volunteer Spotlight

Kris Johnston First Tee Volunteer



I began volunteering with the First Tee in 2021 and have been involved since then. I always thought it was a program I would like to be a part of but never knew how to go about it. I happened to be at the RDGA office when I first met Kristen and made a connection.

I sometimes feel like I get more out of the First Tee than the students do. Watching the kids have fun and learn a sport they can enjoy for years to come is so satisfying. I am drawn towards the kids that may be struggling with learning or their day. Milestones are different for everyone and sometimes a smile or having them reach out for help is huge! I find it satisfying to spend time volunteering to work with our youth and am proud to say that I am involved with The First Tee.

I enjoy spending time with people who share the love of the sport as much as I do, so much that they want to spend their time sharing that love with others. I have made many new friends through the First Tee. I have been invited to play in member-guests and where I met even more golfing friends.

My favorite First Tee Core Value is Honesty. This value runs so deep and has a bearing on so many other values. To be honest takes strength, courage, and self-confidence in yourself and who you are. In response, it gains you respect and trust from those around you.

Outside of being a First Tee Volunteer, I am also on the Board of Directors at Livingston Country Club where I'm working to expand golf for more local youth to enjoy the game. First Tee has helped me with skills geared towards kids. I have 20+ years of experience in teaching children to snow ski as a PSIA certified instructor. Training to work with kids is much the same, only the equipment and weather is different! Currently LCC Delegate to the RDGA. Past course rating volunteer

Junior Coach Program

The First Tee – Western New York Junior Coach Program was established 4 years ago and provides opportunities for First Tee-WNY participants to take an elevated role in younger age level classes and help enhance the experience of other participants. Junior Coaches serve as both a role model for younger kids in the program that they work with, as well as an embodiment of the life skills we teach. Having Junior Coaches assist with classes allows participants to create connections, and build relationships with role models who have come through the program before them, and demonstrate the life skills that we teach every day in class.

The First Tee-WNY Junior Coach program has also created a work experience opportunity for Junior Coaches and Participant Volunteers as they develop to become Lead Coaches. Over the past few years, 7 Junior Coaches have gone on to become lead coaches in the program, and continued their dedication to youth development in our local community.

7 Junior Coaches in 2022

"Being a Junior Coach has helped me make relationships with people. It gives me a way to help the community."

Ethan Karches

4-Year Junior Coach

"I would encourage others to join the first tee due to the amount of opportunities it has given me and shown me how much of an impact one thing can be on someone."

Grace Arnold

2-Year Junior Coach"



Participants Perspective

Participant Spotlight

Josh Fletcher

I was 11 years old when I first joined the First Tee 5 years ago and it has made a huge impact on my life. First Tee has impacted my golf game a ton. I started off not even knowing how to really swing a club 4 years ago to now starting on my high school golf team, but it also has impacted me off the course.

First Tee has really contributed to my growth as a young adult by teaching me so many valuable lessons. Personally my favorite part about being in First Tee is the opportunities it gives you to grow. My favorite First Tee life skill is choosing a target because in life if you don't have a target or goal in mind you have nowhere to go. The

First Tee taught me ways to pick those goals and adjust to any obstacles in my way. Another lesson the First Tee has taught me is how to communicate with others. Sometimes it's hard to talk to new people for the first time. First Tee teaches you how to overcome that. Every new class you have to talk to new people and by doing this it gets everyone more comfortable talking to people you have never met before.



“ Personally my favorite part about being in First Tee is the opportunities it gives you to grow. ”
–Josh Fletcher

First Tee National Participant Opportunities

Meghan Sainsbury

Was selected to participate in the John Deere Drive Your Future Academy in San Francisco, California, as well as the Game Changers Academy Honoring Joe Louis Barrow, Jr. The John Deere Drive Your Future Academy is a female empowerment event recognizing young women who are motivated to influence positive impact at their chapters, schools and communities. This event focuses on the importance of building a strong network and how to approach mentorship opportunities, navigating post-graduation and career planning, and appreciating the value/impact of volunteerism. The Game Changers Academy is designed to enlighten, inspire, encourage, and position teens to be advocates for justice and social change in their current and future communities, through important conversations around issues of identity, racism, diversity, equity and inclusion.



"I had the opportunity to experience what First Tee is like in different chapters and how our organization impacts other kids around the country. I got to speak with and meet many influential people who changed my perspective and gave me a deeper understanding of what First Tee really is and about."

Angel Bolognese

Was selected as one of 8 participants to represent over 100,000 First Tee participants worldwide on the Participant Advisory Council. The Participant Advisory Council provides a forum for youth to express themselves, voice their ideas, and provide input for projects or programs that impact the experience of all First Tee participants.



Parent's Perspective

The Least Family

We have two children in the program. Our oldest daughter is 9 and has been involved for 4 years, and our middle daughter is 7 and has been involved for 2 years. We look forward to starting our 5 year old this Spring!

One of the most important life skills that we have seen carryover is sportsmanship. The girls encourage others around them and play fairly at school and in other activities.

The relationships the girls have built at the First Tee have allowed them to become more comfortable interacting with a Coach, such as asking for and receiving help.

The girls overall playing skills (driving, putting, etc) have all greatly improved, as well as their understanding of the rules of the game. They have also developed an understanding of what they need to do to help improve their swing and are starting to self-correct their stance and swing.

I would tell other parents that the First Tee program is a great way to introduce your child to the game, learn the basics, and do it in a fun environment.

The girls have participated in several of the additional activities offered. These opportunities are not only fun but have allowed the girls to meet other kids, and transfer a wide variety of skills that they worked on in class. They have been able to work on everything from their swing to where to place a ball marker to sportsmanship, and apply those skills on the course.

“It was a very positive experience for my son, and the environment was very positive, so I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to other parents if their children or child was interested in trying golf or wanting to improve their golfing skills.

– First Tee Parent”



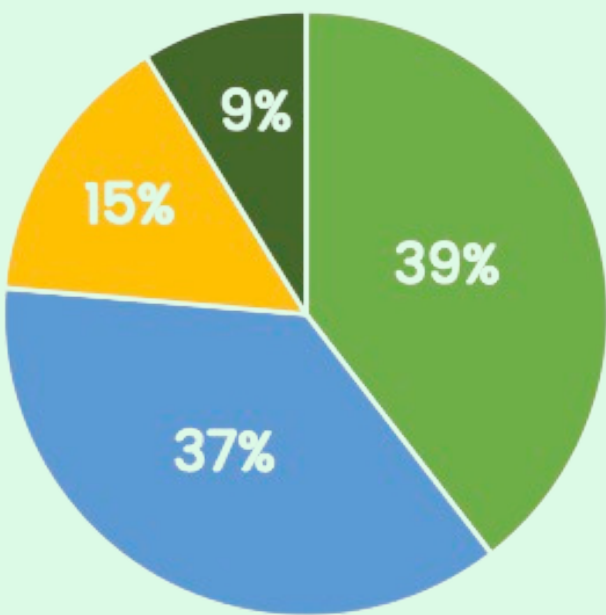
Financials

Revenue

Program Fees
Grant & Corporate Support
Events
Individual Contributions

\$ 157,740
\$ 147,131
\$ 59,023
\$ 35,247

Total **\$399,141**



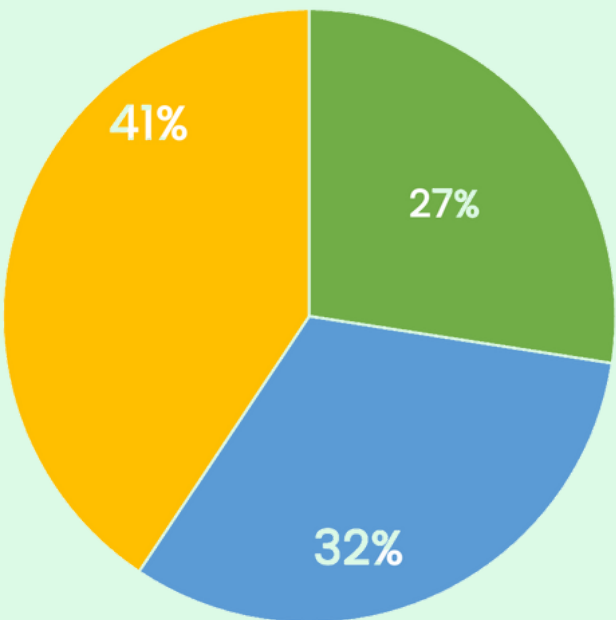
■ Program Fees ■ Grants & Corporate Support
■ Events ■ Individual Contributions

Expenditures

Fundraising
General & Administrative.
Program

\$ 92,988
\$ 108,103
\$ 137,651

Total **\$338,742**



■ Fundraising ■ General & Administrative ■ Program

Thank You Sponsors & Donors

Game Changer Sponsors – \$10,000+

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