



# PGA

South Florida Section

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## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THE SOUTH FLORIDA PGA VISITS ST. MARY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TEACHING THE GAME OF GOLF TO PATIENTS**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL – On Wednesday, February 23rd, the South Florida PGA Foundation kicked off their new relationship with St. Mary's Children's Hospital and their Parent-Child Center's Child Life Program in West Palm Beach, bringing a program called "Smiling Fore Life" into the hospital. "Smiling Fore Life" is a program created in early 2010 bringing PGA Professionals into local Children hospitals weekly to teach patients the game of golf. The purpose of these visits is to encourage patients, have fun playing golf, and provide a welcome distraction from any personal or medical hardships they may face.

South Florida PGA Professional Ryan Alvino was on site Wednesday providing golf lessons and conducting fun golf games with the children. Seven patients were able to participate outside in the golf activities, which will be provided every Wednesday. Alvino is one of three South Florida PGA Professionals who will visit the Children's Hospital once a week for an hour, to teach the patients who are undergoing various health challenges.

St. Mary's is the second hospital located in South Florida to conduct this program, joining the reputable Memorial Hospital and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. The South Florida PGA Foundation is excited to advance this program, and looks forward to working with St. Mary's Hospital.

"It is another way we can help children cope with hospitalization. In addition to being great fun, it can help children see they are healing," Child Life Program Director, David Tkac.

### **About Parent-Child Center's Child Life Program.**

The **Parent-Child Center, Inc.** is a community-based non-profit organization that has been offering services and support to children and families in Palm Beach County since 1979. Our mission is to provide quality services that

promote the social-emotional health and well-being of children and their families. One of the Parent-Child Center's special programs is the **Child Life Program** which is dedicated to providing support services to children who have acute or chronic health conditions and their families. This program serves children who are in the hospital or attend clinics on the St. Mary's Medical Center's campus.

### **About The South Florida PGA Foundation**

The South Florida PGA Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded to support the South Florida community, with a focus on junior golf, education and scholarships, and charitable gifting. The South Florida PGA Foundation falls under the direction of the of the South Florida PGA, a not-for-profit organization comprised of over 1,600 men and women PGA Professionals dedicated to growing participation in the game of golf.