



Inner City Youth Golfers' Incorporated

Press Release

“Girls Golf Day Celebrated In Riviera Beach, Florida”

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Riviera Beach (USA), July 7, 2009: The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) headquartered in Daytona Beach, FL announced that “Girls Golf Day presented by Inbee Park, LPGA” would be celebrated in conjunction with its 20th anniversary at its approved 200 sites across the United States with nearly 6,000 girls during the month of July 2009. The LPGA-USGA Girls Golf program was established in 1989 by Sandy LaBauve. The purpose was to create a national program for young girls to learn the game and strengthen the camaraderie among participants in a fun and supportive environment.

In early 2008, ICYG Executive Director, Esmeralda H. Knowles accepted the challenge from the LPGA to host a site. She named it “LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Royal Palm/Riviera Beach, FL.” Said Mrs. Knowles upon accepting the responsibility as Site Director, “We hope to expand our reach and elevate girls enthusiasm towards the game of golf. It is her prayer that the local sorority members would learn the game of golf along with their girls and not be spectators to a sport which could be ‘their ticket’ to college scholarships, to the LPGA Tour (both inside and outside the golf industry) or corporate America.”

Like the LPGA-USGA, ICYG Director of Education, Gladys E. Harris, Assistant Principal, West Gate Elementary School, “we provide an opportunity for girls, ages 7 to 17, to learn to play golf, build lasting friendships and experience competition in a fun, supportive environment while preparing them for a lifetime of enjoyment with the game. Our girls learn the values and life skills inherent to the game of golf, such as time management, perseverance, dedication, practice, respect, patience, and honesty which specifically prepares them to meet all of the challenges of today's world with confidence.”

The Boards of Directors of ICYG and LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Royal Palm/Riviera Beach, FL decided to host its golf orientation, introduction and fun at St. George's Community Center, Riviera Beach, FL on July 7, 2009. The Centers' Executive Director, Hyacinthia Becton and Program Director, Everett Mitchell were very pleased to have been chosen. A member of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, retired educator and former Riviera Beach Councilmember, Mrs. Becton is well aware of the importance of golf when she accepted an invitation to play in a golf tournament several years ago which was hosted by the National League of Cities, San Antonio, Texas during their annual convention. She said, “I was able to at least putt the ball even if my driver wasn't working that day.”

At the end of our afternoon, each girl was given a pink girls golf bag with plenty of goodies and an ICYG signature initiative “Say No To Drugs – Say Yes To Education, Culture & Golf” bag of treats as well. This



initiative is supported by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric L. Bradshaw (LETF). The little girls showed their appreciation by presenting Mrs. Knowles with a community center t-shirt and an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Mrs. Knowles promised the girls who participated that she would continue the developmental junior golf program with them. She further committed to provide the opportunity to them so that they could make lasting friendships, gain self-confidence, learn to compete in school, college, and/or local, state, and national levels and have fun with friends and family, all while fostering a lifetime of enjoyment for the game of golf.

As stipulated by the LPGA, individual program sites cover the costs for golf course access, fees, snacks, special events, instruction and miscellaneous expenses through fund raising, membership dues and event fees, as well as donations from the community. Your support is needed in order to provide a year round program for our girls. Please visit our web site (www.icyg.org) for more information.

Photo by Malachi Knowles: Cutline: Girl Golfers at St. George's Community Center with Knowles (standing left); standing Center – Becton & Mitchell (end).