

**NEWS**



**Ascension**  
**CHARITY CLASSIC**

presented by **EMERSON**



**CHAMPIONS**

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## **ASCENSION CHARITY CLASSIC PRESENTED BY EMERSON ANNOUNCES 2022 CHARITABLE DONATION**

*Second-year PGA TOUR Champions event generates  
over \$1 million in 2022 for North St. Louis County Charities*

**ST. LOUIS (Nov. 29, 2022)** – Tournament Officials announced today, during a special event at Norwood Hills Country Club honoring their charity partners, that the second playing of the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, concluded September 11, 2022, raised more than \$1 million for charitable organizations in North St. Louis County and beyond. The total includes \$225,000 for each of the tournament’s primary beneficiaries, Marygrove, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL), and Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis (ULMSTL).

Additionally, First Tee of Greater St. Louis and PGA REACH Gateway—the two benefiting charities of the tournament’s Legends Charity Challenge presented by World Wide Technology—were recognized during today’s ceremony. Each was presented with a donation as a result of the exhibition match held on Saturday, Sept. 10. First Tee received \$32,500 thanks to the team of Lee Trevino, Hale Irwin, and Ryan O’Reilly, with PGA REACH Gateway taking home \$30,000 with the help of Nancy Lopez, Craig Berube, and Ozzie Smith.

“Our goal from the beginning has always been to make this the most charitable event on the PGA TOUR Champions schedule and with the help of our amazing corporate partners and the St. Louis fans who’ve come out to support this event from day one, we’re exceeding all expectations,” said Nick Ragone, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Ascension. “The players, volunteers, sponsors and fans are making a real difference in North St. Louis County—bringing critical charitable investment and helping make the game of golf more accessible and inclusive. That’s a win for St. Louis, for our charities and our community.”

The tournament’s newest charity fundraiser, the RSM Putting Challenge, was held on Tuesday of tournament week and raised \$130,000 for charity. The event featured 11 three-person teams—each consisting of one PGA TOUR Champions or Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) Tour professional, one corporate sponsor participant, and a player associated with the charity—competing in a nine-hole putting match on Norwood Hills’s main putting green.

Each charitable organization was selected by a participating sponsor and received an investment of \$10,000 on behalf of their supporting benefactor. In addition, the teams competed for a bonus \$20,000 in prize money for the top three finishers—the Good Shepherd Children & Family Services team took home the first place

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\$10,000 prize, Christian Family Services received \$7,000 for second place, and Little Bit Foundation won third and \$3,000. Other participating charities in the 2022 RSM Putting Challenge were: Marygrove, Hawthorn School, Ranken Jordan, Operation Food Search, Ronald McDonald House of St. Louis, St. Louis Counseling, Make A Wish and Lafayette Industries.

In 2021 the Ascension Charity Classic donated more than \$800,000 in support of North St. Louis County communities, bringing the official PGA TOUR Champions event's total charitable donations since the inception to more than \$2 million—including raising \$225,000 in 2020 despite not hosting a tournament due to the pandemic.

Along with providing substantial philanthropic benefits to the region, Ascension is also helping grow the game of golf through the area's first APGA Tour event, the Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions at Glen Echo Country Club.

Established in 2010, the APGA Tour is a non-profit organization with the mission to prepare African American and other underrepresented golfers to compete and win at the highest level of professional golf, both on tour and in the golf industry.

Helping to remove the financial burden associated with the golf is a top priority of the APGA. Support from Ascension and Daugherty helps to ensure players have access to the tools and support they need to better focus on their career path and development in the game. It also helps make golf more diverse and inclusive by introducing the sport to youth and communities that otherwise would not have access. A prime example is the Ascension Classic Youth Clinic that was hosted at Glen Echo during tournament week and featured APGA Tour professionals and area youth.

Professional golf is having a positive impact in North St. Louis County.

"The Ascension Charity Classic continues to have an impact on Marygrove's ability to provide desperately needed services to the young people in our care," said Michael Meehan, chief executive officer of Marygrove. "For us, it's nothing short of a game changer."

"The Boys and Girls Clubs will use proceeds from the Ascension Charity Classic to address our three national priority outcomes – Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character and Citizenship," said Flint Fowler, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis. "Ultimately, we are developing a healthier generation, 21<sup>st</sup> century leaders, and globally competitive graduates."

"Funds from the Ascension Charity Classic help the Urban League provide jobs, housing, childcare, food, clothing, transportation, and economic stability to residents of North County," said Michael P. McMillan, president & chief executive officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. "We are extremely grateful for our relationship with the tournament and look forward to working together in the future."

The 2023 Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will be held the week of September 5–10, at Norwood Hills Country Club. Tickets are now available for the third edition of the official PGA TOUR Champions event by visiting [ascensioncharityclassic.com/tickets/ticket-information](https://ascensioncharityclassic.com/tickets/ticket-information).

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The Ascension Charity Classic will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2023, which will give way to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs—a season-ending, three-tournament series used to determine the TOUR’s season-long champion.

For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, including ticket, pro-am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at [ascensioncharityclassic.com](https://ascensioncharityclassic.com). For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at @ascensionccg, on Facebook at [facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic](https://facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic) and Instagram at @ascensioncharityclassic.

#### **About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson**

The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is an official event on the PGA TOUR Champions operated by Tournaments for Charity, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. This 54-hole stroke play golf tournament features 81 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2 million purse at historic Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri. The event is designed to showcase the best golf on the PGA TOUR Champions for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit local charities in the North St. Louis County area and beyond. All three official rounds will be internationally televised on the Golf Channel. For more information, visit [ascensioncharityclassic.com](https://ascensioncharityclassic.com).

#### **About Marygrove**

For 170 years, Marygrove has been a place where children, youth and families in need have found hope and healing. Marygrove provides treatment and support to young people struggling with the often debilitating emotional and behavioral issues resulting from abuse, neglect, and other trauma. Through its comprehensive continuum of residential and community-based programs, Marygrove transforms hundreds of lives each year.

#### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis**

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need BGCSTL most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. Every day, BGCSTL provides after-school, teen, sports, and summer programs to youth in the St. Louis area while also providing a safe place for children to learn and grow.

#### **About Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis**

As the leading champion of empowerment and opportunity for African Americans, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis envisions a region where all people are valued members of the community, can adequately support themselves and their families, can live in neighborhoods that are vibrant and thriving, and can share in the region’s prosperity and well-being.

#### **About PGA TOUR Champions**

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers 50 and older, including 33 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour’s mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLFTV. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at [PGATOUR.com](https://PGATOUR.com), at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

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