



For Immediate Release
February 25, 2022

Advocates Professional Golf Association Tour Coming to St. Louis

Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions promotes inclusivity and diversity through new 36-hole professional tournament to take place at Glen Echo Country Club during the Ascension Charity Classic

ST. LOUIS (Feb. 25, 2022) – Ascension and the Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) Tour, in association with the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, have formed a three-year agreement to host a new professional golf tournament in St. Louis. The **APGA Tour St. Louis – Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions** will debut Sept. 8-9, 2022, at Glen Echo Country Club in North St. Louis County.

This announcement comes just six months after the final putt dropped at the inaugural Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, an official PGA TOUR Champions event that has raised more than \$1 million for St. Louis charities since its inception and drew record crowds in its first tournament.

“Based on the overwhelming success of the inaugural Ascension Charity Classic, we knew that St. Louis golf fans and the corporate community would support more professional golf in North St. Louis County,” said Nick Ragone, Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Ascension. “The APGA Tour’s mission is to bring greater diversity and inclusion to the game by helping African American and other underrepresented golfers to prepare for highly competitive careers in golf. We couldn’t be more supportive of that mission and are thrilled this event will complement the action taking place at the second Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson at Norwood Hills Country Club the same week.”

The region’s newest sporting event will include practice rounds on Tuesday, Sept. 6, and Wednesday, Sept. 7, at Glen Echo, as well as a pro-am on Wednesday at the East Course at nearby Norwood Hills. General admission for the 36-hole stroke-play competition (Sept. 8-9) of this stand-alone APGA Tour event is free to the public and will provide area golf fans with another opportunity to enjoy thrilling tee-to-green action in St. Louis.

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“This is another big step for the APGA Tour,” offered co-founder and CEO Ken Bentley. “Successfully aligning with a PGA TOUR-affiliated event in a major market like St. Louis is critical to our continued growth. We salute Ascension, Daugherty Business Solutions and PGA TOUR Champions for welcoming our players as we pursue the mission of bringing greater diversity to the sport of golf.”

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. This is accomplished through professional tournaments, career development and mentoring sessions.

Helping to remove the financial burden associated with golf is a top priority for the APGA. Support from Ascension and Daugherty will help ensure that players have access to the tools and support they need to better focus on their career path and development in the game.

The Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions will be the first tournament in the APGA Tour’s Fall Series, a string of four events in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Los Angeles, that are part of the Tour’s 2022 schedule of 17 events offering over \$700,000 in prize money. The APGA Tour Farmers Insurance Fall Series will feature a \$15,000 bonus pool that pays an additional \$7,500 to the player who is awarded the most points from each of the four events.

The Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions will share the Ascension Charity Classic’s overall philanthropic goals. Both events provide a vehicle for increased support of the local community and a desire to grow the game of golf.

Daugherty Business Solutions began its journey over 35 years ago in St. Louis. The company and its President & CEO Ron Daugherty are dedicated to increasing diversity and inclusion in the IT industry. They are achieving this today, by significantly increasing opportunities for youth of color, specifically from North St. Louis County through their Access Point initiative. Access Point provides access to high quality, career starting, entry level IT jobs by providing education, mentorship, financial support and long-term career development to youth who are underrepresented in our community.

“I am a big fan of St. Louis, and this is the kind of event that will bring positive visibility to our city, and support to North County,” noted Ron Daugherty. “We are proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of this inaugural APGA event in St. Louis. It complements many things Daugherty is doing to support Diversity and Equity across our region.”

St. Louis native and APGA pro golfer Christian Heavens will compete at the event. Heavens also serves as an official ambassador for Ascension.

“Ascension has taken great initiative to lead by action in the area of diversity and inclusion,” said Heavens. “Supporting the APGA Tour and a player like myself shows that they want to be a part of real positive change. I am honored to be an ambassador for a company with such values and excited to compete in my hometown of St. Louis this September.”

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World Wide Technology (WWT) is also committed to the mission of bringing greater diversity to the sport of golf. The technology integrator, whose global headquarters is based in St. Louis, is the title sponsor of the APGA Tour’s Player Development Program and a founding partner of the Ascension Charity Classic. Additionally, WWT is the title sponsor of the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba on the PGA TOUR and WWT ambassadors include TOUR professionals Harold Varner III, Keith Mitchell, Graeme McDowell, and Billy Andrade.

Historic Glen Echo Country Club was completed in 1901 and was the first 18-hole golf course in St. Louis and the first golf course constructed west of the Mississippi River. The club was home to the 1904 Olympic Golf Games and also hosted the LPGA Tour’s St. Louis Women’s Invitational in 1954, 1964 and 1970.

For more information about the Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions, including free tickets, pro-am and hospitality availability, and volunteer opportunities, visit the event’s landing page on the Ascension Charity Classic website at ascensioncharityclassic.com/apga. For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the APGA Tour on Twitter at @APGA_Tour, on Facebook at @APGATour and on Instagram at @apgatour.

Below please find a link that offers video interviews, still images, logos, and supporting documents about the Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions and the APGA Tour available for editorial use.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/khqq3tff67c5o9/AADpjz4KhycXNY7BtXcmfFQ7a?dl=0>

About APGA Tour

The Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) was established in 2010 as a non-profit organization with the mission to bring greater diversity to the game of golf. The APGA Tour Board of Directors works to accomplish this by hosting and operating professional golf tournaments, player development programs and mentoring programs, and by introducing the game to inner city young people. In addition to conducting up to 17 tournaments awarding over \$700,000 in prize money annually, the APGA conducts the Player Development Program to aid young minority golfers.

About Daugherty Business Solutions:

For over 35 years, Daugherty has been committed to driving innovation, growth, and customer satisfaction across the nation while making a positive difference in our communities. With software engineering, data analytics, business advisory services, and technology and delivery leadership, Daugherty delivers significant business results quickly and effectively. Leveraging proprietary tools, techniques, and virtual and regional development centers, Daugherty is a preferred strategic advisor and partner for the Fortune 500, helping customers achieve better and more predictable outcomes for mission-critical initiatives. For more information, visit www.daugherty.com.

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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. 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.

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