



“I ♥ Golf” Program

Sponsored by
Angels for Hearts

By Patrice Wohl

We all love to see young kids on the golf course, sometimes just being with mom or dad on the golf cart or putting on the greens. What you may not know, is that you may be looking at a child with congenital heart disease, and this may be his or her first opportunity to play a sport.

Angels for Hearts, a local nonprofit celebrating its tenth anniversary, was founded to bring normalcy to pediatric heart patients both in the hospital and during their recovery process. That's why we started the “I ♥ Golf” pediatric cardiac golf program, now in its fifth year, in partnership and affiliation with The Northern California Institute of Golf for Kids. The first of its kind, “I ♥ Golf” is a series of five clinics from February to June, teaching golf to pediatric heart patients and their siblings ages 4-18.

“Angels for Hearts is a refreshing program, in which I am humbled to be a part of,” shared Ms. Kelli Corlett, Director of Youth, Family & Adaptive Golf at Haggin Oaks; LPGA Class A Member, “I have been impacted by all who are involved, whether it is a parent of a participant, a board member, a founding member or a child. These families make the most out of every day and the children are extremely gracious. The opportunity they have to play in I ♥ Golf is one that has the potential to forever positively impact their life. The children are introduced to a sport built around life lessons and personal



improvement. I am humbled by the work and generosity of the organization and am excited to see their growth in the future.”

In the words from Ava, a 12-year old heart kid, “Golf is safe for me even though I have a pacemaker. I love making new friends at Haggin Oaks, and the coaches are awesome and so nice. Now when my dad takes me out golfing, I swing better than he does!” Gives you goose bumps, doesn't it? From new clubs and collared shirts, to bonding with other heart families, “I ♥ Golf” benefits the entire heart community.

With the success and support from the golf community, we are excited about the future of our “I ♥ Golf” program and introducing golf to more pediatric cardiac patients and their families outside of the Sacramento region.

Our deep thanks to Ms. Corlett at Haggin Oaks for sharing her healthy heart and providing our golfers a wonderful learning environment; Morton Golf Foundation for their generous support of the program; and Air Force One Golf for special equipment pricing.



For more information, please visit:
AngelsForHearts.org

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