

member spotlight

Golf for Special Needs Kids & Their Families



GIG- Gifts in Golf host a golf clinic at the Ronald McDonald House

PGA Professional **Philip Argianas** and wife **Suely** were always very passionate about junior golf.

In the summer of 2009, Phil began instructing golf clinics for special needs children in South Florida, with three to four students coming out once a week for eight weeks. It was during those classes that Phil and Suely decided to branch out and create a plan to allow many more special needs students to benefit from the game of golf.

GIG- Gifts in Golf was formed as a non-profit organization established to provide golf to special needs kids and their families. "GIG's" program concentrates in bringing out the ABILITIES within any disability, customizing the teaching to each special needs group, making it fun while promoting the benefits of the game of golf.

GIG currently offers programs for Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism and to the many with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. Phil and Suely conducted their programs for the Ronald McDonald House, Easter Seals, and various other charities and associations providing golf instruction for these juniors.

Phil says,

"These kids are amazing. There are lots of smiles, and the families are so appreciative. There's a huge need for golf for special needs children."

Suely adds, "That is one of the reasons why we do this. It's the kids' enthusiasm and enjoyment that rewards us the most!"

These golf programs "Golf for People with Physically dis-Abilities" are designed and instructed by PGA Certified Professional Philip Argianas, five times award winner of the Junior Golf Leader Award presented by the PGA.

Phil and his wife work hard to make these programs successful. Phil states, "My wife Suely P. Argianas, Executive Director of GIG-Gifts in Golf, has done so much to make all these programs happen. We have been running 3 to 6 classes, once a week since February 2010."

Programs are designed to meet the needs of young people with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities, emphasizing their "ABILITIES". The classes are offered at no cost to these families.

Programs are customized for each group. Curriculum includes the following: Golf instruction - putting, chipping, pitching, and full swing, rules of golf, and SNAG golf play.

GIG exists based on grants and donations from corporations, foundations, associations and individual contributions and the many hours we donate. For more information, please call Phil at 305-238-7507 or email him or Suely at giftsingolf@aol.com.

Photos taken and by ©Suely P. Argianas.



Photos: GIG- Gifts in Golf hosts golf programs for children with Down Syndrome and other special needs

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PGA

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