



# GOLF REPORT

## From the President



I'm guessing when Mark Twain quipped that golf is "a good walk spoiled," he had never chipped in from an impossible lie or dropped a match-winning putt from 20 paces.

For more than 30 years, the OGGF has sought to introduce girls to the thrill of the sport, as well as other meaningful aspects—leadership, resilience and confidence—that extend far beyond the 18th hole.

We've evolved to address fostering relationships to the game at every level.

For girls who have never held a club before, we've put one in their hands and shown them how to use it. Our statewide clinics for ages 8-18 have expanded to include winter and spring sessions and demand has surged.

For girls who have experience in the game and choose to compete, we offer financial aid to send them to tournaments.

For girls who are playing for their high school teams, we offer an annual Showcase Event.

For girls heading off to college, our growing scholarship program helps underwrite their journey.

Our grassroots charity has thrived thanks to a loyal community of donors and tireless volunteers. Thanks for keeping our "little charity that could" chugging along full steam ahead!

—Patricia Nugent, OGGF President

## Record number of women taking up golf

Since the pandemic, the growth in women playing golf has grown by 15%. And within that growth segment, the largest proportion of it is junior girls, who account for 38% of all new golfers today.

In short, there are more women playing golf right now than ever before.

The reasons behind the growth vary. Visibility is surely one. More than ever, young girls are able to identify with and be inspired by more female players on a national level. Both the number of LPGA tournaments and the amount of prize money have soared, with 33 events in 2023 accounting for purses of more than \$101.4 million. The events are garnering greater

sponsorship and national television coverage as well.

Access is also a cause for growth. The proliferation of junior golf programs across the country and state has soared over the past decade. And golf played on off-course venues, such as simulator destinations, has accounted for greater access, too.

In Ohio, at the high school level, girls golf was officially recognized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, OHSAA, as a team sport in 1993, just a year before the OGGF was founded.

While there were only a handful of teams in Ohio at that time, today there are more than 200.

Whereas most girls back then had to play on the boys' teams if they wanted to compete, today, the development of girls teams and their schools' support are robust.

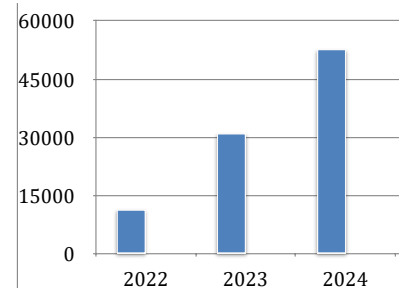
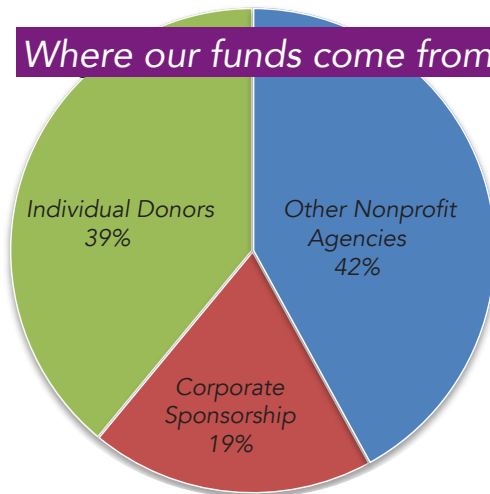
On a practical level, what do these numbers mean? A lot.

With greater participation in the sport, doors of opportunity are being opened to girls and women that were not available in the past.

Whether they choose to play junior golf, high school or college golf, pursue a meaningful career in the industry, or simply engage in a sport that can positively impact their lives and careers—golf can act as the platform to get them there.



### Where our funds come from



Between 2022 and 2024, the OGGF's sponsorship dollars rose from \$11,145 to \$52,704. The growth trajectory continues into 2025. As one of the beneficiary charities of the Firestone Charity Classic, we have been earmarked to receive \$17,000.

### Growth in Sponsorship

## THANKS DONORS

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on individual and corporate donations. Funds are used for college scholarships, instructional golf clinics and financial aid. Donate online at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org).

### 2024 DONORS

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### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

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Mary Ann Bierman Founder's  
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Charlie Wood, PGA—  
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Fairchild Family Foundation—  
in honor of Teen Burke

\*Please forgive us if we left out any names,  
as every donation is most appreciated.

## From the Executive Director



Over the past decade, the game of golf has experienced remarkable growth among young women. More girls than ever before are picking up clubs, participating in tournaments and pursuing scholarships to play in college. According to the National Golf Foundation, the number of girls ages 6-17 playing golf has grown by over 30% in the last five years. Additionally, participation in high school girls' golf programs has increased by nearly 20%, with more than 100,000 girls now competing annually across the United States. This surge in interest is fueled by increased visibility of women's professional golf, a growing emphasis on youth sports and community efforts to make golf more accessible. Girls are now recognizing golf not only as a competitive sport but also as a pathway to personal development and lifelong friendships.

The Ohio Girls Golf Foundation (OGGF) has been at the forefront of this movement for decades, providing opportunities for young women to thrive both on and off the course. Since our founding, we've been dedicated to empowering girls through golf by offering scholarships, clinics and financial assistance to compete in

tournaments. In response to the rising interest in the sport, OGGF has seen unprecedented participation in our programs, signaling the need for continued expansion to meet this demand. To support the next generation of girl golfers, the OGGF is excited to announce enhanced programming for 2025. These include expanding our Spring Clinics taught by PGA professional instructors to sites in southern Ohio, increasing our Girls Golf Clinic Series from one to four regional events to introduce golf to more beginner girl golfers across Ohio, and increasing the amount of college scholarships awarded from 12 in 2024.

We believe golf is a powerful tool for teaching life skills such as resilience, discipline and teamwork. With the continued support of community donors, allied organizations and sponsors, we are committed to creating a lasting impact on girls' lives. As we expand our programming, we invite you to join us in this journey by making a donation at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org), follow us on Facebook, X and Instagram, and encourage the girls in your life to take advantage of OGGF's programs. Together, we can empower the next generation of leaders and athletes through the game of golf.

—Lynne Plaisance, OGGF Executive Director

## Apply for 2025 college scholarships



Join the 160-plus girls who have been awarded OGGF college scholarships over the years.

It is our mission to make an impact on girls' lives and support local girls in their future endeavors. We are about much more than low golf low scores: We award college scholarships to girls who prioritize community involvement and foster good character. Over the past more than 25 years, the Foundation has awarded \$150,000+ in college scholarships.

In 2024—thanks to our generous donors—the OGGF awarded 12 college scholarships. Pictured above are the girls accepting their scholarships at the OGGF Showcase. Congratulations to:

- Brooke Barnes, Nordonia Hills High School
- Gabriella Berlingieri, Stow-Munroe High School
- Maureen Burns, Mount Notre Dame High School
- Kayla Calvey, Lake Catholic High School
- Kaylyn Henson, Grove City High School
- Jessica Herron, Tiffin Columbian High School
- Elizabeth Jackson, Otsego High School
- Madigan O'Leary, Avon High School
- Molly McGreal, Independence High School
- Mallory Meister, Edison High School
- Annelise Stencel, Walsh Jesuit High School
- Morgan Wamer, Sheridan High School

The deadline for Ohio high school seniors to apply for a 2025 scholarship is March 31. To make the application process easier, girls can fill it out and submit the form at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org).

In addition to scholarships, the Foundation also awards girls financial aid throughout the year to travel and play in tournaments, locally, regionally and nationally. These applications are accepted year-round and are available on our website.





# 2025 Showcase

High school girls in Ohio are invited to play in this premier event set for Monday, July 21, headlined by LPGA Professional Barb Mucha. Enjoy instructional clinics in the morning, followed by an 18-hole golf tournament and awards dinner. Note: Incoming high school freshmen and outgoing seniors are eligible to play, too.

Register at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org). For details, call 440-479-9579 or email [lynnneplaisance@gmail.com](mailto:lynnneplaisance@gmail.com).

## Freshmen shine at last year's tourney

Two incoming high school freshmen made headlines at the Ohio Girls Golf Foundation 2024 Showcase in July at Avon Oaks Country Club. Brunswick freshman Ellie Gonzalez-Ribble shot four under par 68, scoring seven birdies along the way, for the win. And also playing in her first high school tournament for Magnificat High School, Kellan Gleason scored her first hole in one on #8.

In a preview of what was to come during the high school season, Magnificat High School won top team honors during this pre-season tournament in July and then went on to win the Division I state title in October. Hudson High School came in second place and Brunswick High School in third place. Four of Magnificat's players finished in the top six. Other teams competing in the event included Aurora, Avon, Chagrin Falls, Edison, Lake Catholic, Olmsted Falls, Rocky River, St. Joseph Academy, Shaker Heights and Southern Local.

Prior to the tournament, OGGF hosted

morning clinics including a rules seminar, bunker shot techniques, and an on-course clinic led by tournament headliners LPGA tour professionals Barb Mucha and Janice Moodie exploring the importance of the mental process to the game.

"This is a game of honor and integrity no matter what level you play at," says Barb, a Parma Heights native who won five LPGA Tournaments during her career and travels back home every year to give back to the local community. "It's exciting to see how far girls golf has grown over the decades."

**TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS:** *Ellie Gonzalez-Ribble, Brunswick, 68; Madolyn Kost, Kent Roosevelt, 69; Cammy Reed, Magnificat, 72; Calli Reed, Magnificat, 73; Julia Gulla, Nordonia, 73; Emily Burling, Hudson, 74; Maureen O'Leary, Magnificat, 74; Kellan Gleason, Magnificat, 74; Mia Ginnetti, Rocky River, 74; Molly McGreal, Independence, 74; Gabriella Berlingieri, Stow-Monroe Falls, 74*



## SHOWCASE SPONSORS

**SHOWCASE SPONSOR (\$5,000)**  
The Aurora Group at Morgan Stanley  
Northern Ohio Golf Association  
Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation

**FOUNDATION VIP (\$1,500-\$3,500)**  
Avon Oaks Women's Golf Association  
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**EAGLE (\$500-\$1,000)**  
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If you would like to be a sponsor for our 2025 Showcase, please donate online at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org).



**Ohio Girls Golf Foundation**  
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 Warrensville Heights, OH 44128  
[www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org)

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*The mission of the OGGF is to encourage, sponsor and support the game of golf for girls by providing college scholarships, golf training programs and financial assistance to attend designated golf tournaments*

## Get a jump start on your game at OGGF clinics

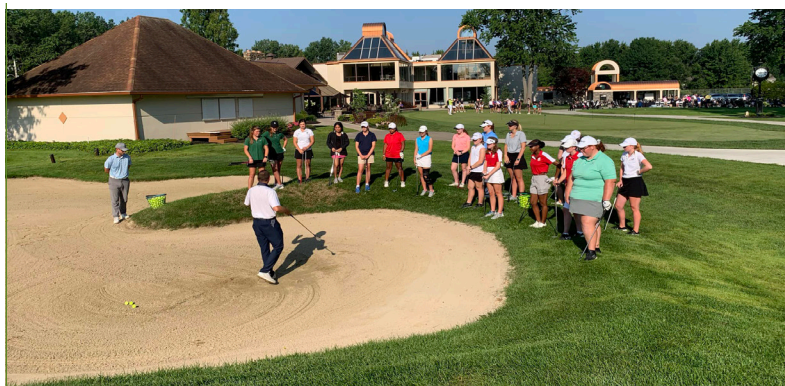
The best way to set up a winning practice routine—whether you are new to the game or competing at a higher level—is under the guidance of a PGA or LPGA golf professional.

To help girls ages 8 to 18 years old gear up for the season ahead, the OGGF offers Winter and Spring Clinics at both indoor and outdoor locations throughout

the state. Cost is \$20 per session. Find out more, and register at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org).

### Winter Clinics

**Judd's Golf Sim**  
 1507 Lear Industrial Pkwy., Avon  
 February 1, 8, 15, 22  
 1 to 2 p.m.



**Conducted by PGA and LPGA instructors, clinics are geared toward beginner to advanced players. Deadline to sign up is one week prior to clinic start date. Cost is \$20 per clinic. Register at [OGGF.org](http://OGGF.org).**



### Spring Clinics

**Avon Oaks Country Club**  
 32300 Detroit Road,  
 Avon  
 May 3, 10, 17, 24  
 10 to 11 a.m.

**Black Brook Golf Course**  
 8900 Lake Shore Blvd.,  
 Mentor  
 May 3, 10, 17, 24  
 10 to 11 a.m.

**Medina Country Club**  
 5588 Wedgewood Road,  
 Medina  
 March 29, April 5, 12, 19  
 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**TannenhauF Golf Club**  
 11411 McCallum Ave NE,  
 Alliance  
 May 3, 10, 17, 31  
 9 to 10 a.m.

**Windmill Golf Center**  
 1511 East Aurora Road,  
 Macedonia  
 May 3, 10, 17, 24  
 9 to 10 a.m.

**Fairlawn Country Club**  
 200 N Wheaton Road,  
 Akron  
 May 10, 17, 24, 31  
 10 to 11 a.m.