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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Tee – Greater Chicago Announces Waveland Capital Project for New Golf Center

The chapter's first dedicated golf center to include a newly renovated portion of the clubhouse, short game area and putting green next to Sydney Marovitz Golf Course

Chicago, Illinois (Sept. 23, 2020) – [First Tee – Greater Chicago](#), a youth development organization empowering kids to build their strength of character through the game of golf, is excited to announce its Waveland Capital Project dedicated to the development of the organization's first home facility in central Chicago.

The new First Tee – Greater Chicago facility will include a renovation of the southern end of the historic Waveland clubhouse as well as a First Tee-designated state-of-the-art short game area and putting green alongside the Sydney Marovitz Golf Course. The organization has partnered with [Lamar Johnson Collective](#) for the redesign of the 1,250-square-foot portion of the clubhouse, and PGA TOUR player and brand ambassador [Luke Donald](#) has signed on to assist in leading the design of the outdoor short game area.

"First Tee – Greater Chicago provides so many kids with the opportunities that I was so lucky to have growing up to develop my talent for this game I love and be where I am today," said Donald. "This is an unbelievable site, and we have an opportunity to create something really amazing for the kids of First Tee."



First presented during its annual Corporate Challenge at North Shore Country Club this past Monday, September 21, First Tee – Greater Chicago has launched its Waveland Capital Campaign to fundraise the \$1.5M to bring the new facility into reality. The new clubhouse is currently scheduled to open in Spring 2021, and the outdoor space is expected to follow in Spring 2022.

"First Tee – Greater Chicago has always been about empowering the youth in our city through our strong community, providing the mentors, life skills and opportunities to grow into strong individuals through the game of golf," said Lea Jesse, CEO. "Investing in our own Chicago home base opens the door to even more opportunities and programming that impacts these incredible kids."

[Video: <https://youtu.be/dVIPgHeizcM>]

First Tee – Greater Chicago has entered a long-term agreement with the [Chicago Park District](#), which owns the space, to invest in and oversee its renovation as well as utilize the facility for its programming. [Paul Hastings](#) helped negotiate the agreement on behalf of First Tee – Greater Chicago.

"The Chicago Park District is thrilled to partner with First Tee – Greater Chicago to bring these incredible new amenities to Sydney R. Marovitz Golf Course," said General Superintendent and CEO Michael Kelly. "Creating opportunities for our city's youth is the cornerstone of our work, and this project reflects that value. Once completed, these improvements will support the expansion of affordable golf opportunities for Chicago youth and further our efforts to make golf accessible for any child who wants to learn and excel at the sport."

For 20 years, First Tee – Greater Chicago has been creating experiences that build character to empower kids through a lifetime of new challenges and continuous personal growth. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, First Tee – Greater Chicago creates active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence and

resilience that kids can carry to everything they do. These character education programs are offered at 24 golf facilities, 100 schools and 90 youth centers in the Chicagoland community. The Waveland facility will be First Tee – Greater Chicago’s first home facility.

For more information on First Tee – Greater Chicago, visit www.firstteegreaterchicago.org.

About First Tee – Greater Chicago

Based out of Chicago, IL, First Tee – Greater Chicago is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to teaching golf and life skills curriculum to young people in a service area that covers: I-355 east to Lake Michigan, north to the Wisconsin border and south to Interstate 80.

First Tee – Greater Chicago offers core Life Skills Experience programming in the city at Chicago Park District facilities and Harborside International Golf Center, Foss Park GC in North Chicago, Glenwoodie GC in Glenwood, Countryside GC in Mundelein, Fountain Hills GC in Alsip, and at a number of other golf facilities throughout the greater Chicagoland area. First Tee – Greater Chicago strives to instill in participants First Tee’s Nine Core Values – honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment. Young people who become members of First Tee – Greater Chicago enjoy a variety of opportunities to learn life skills that can help them grow as individuals and prepare for the future. To learn more, visit www.firstteegreaterchicago.org.

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