

*Welcome to*  
CHAMPAGNE  
CLUBS & CHUKKAS

FEBRUARY 20, 2022  
INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB  
WELLINGTON, FL  
TO BENEFIT ELS FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION



*A Special Thank You to our Sponsors*

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Dear Friends and Supporters of the Els for Autism Foundation,

Welcome to the 2022 Champagne, Clubs and Chukkas event! I want to personally thank you for your participation and support as it directly allows for us to accomplish our goals and achieve our mission as an organization. Without these great efforts, we would not be able to provide programs and services to individuals and families impacted by autism spectrum disorder worldwide.

At Els for Autism, we are focused on one goal with one voice - the acceptance of people with autism spectrum disorder to celebrate and support their successes! In support of this, I would like to share a few updates on the Foundation's activities and happenings on The Els Center of Excellence campus.

In 2020, the Adult Day Training Program (ADT) launched the 'Sea of Possibilities' microbusiness. With the support of program staff, participants create a variety of ocean-themed art projects using materials from the beach. They then partner with local businesses to sell their items, offering participants various vocational training experiences. Please visit them in the Rose Garden today to see their display and shop from their fabulous art pieces.

In March 2021, we conducted our first 'virtual' conference, and the second in the series "Autism Innovations & Global Impact". The first conference was held in 2017 and focused on "The State of the Science". The 2021 conference was created around the theme of "Building a Neurodiverse Workforce". It was attended by global, national, and local businesses learning from renowned leaders in industry, government, and academia, all sharing the same vision - transforming the labor market for individuals with ASD.

During the conference, several themes arose. One dominant theme identified was the critical need for mental health support in the workplace and at home. With global telehealth services already in place, Els for Autism has been able to quickly expand our mental health counseling programs and we have been able to provide low and no-cost services to ensure our clients and their families receive the care they need during challenging times.

To support siblings of individuals with ASD, the Foundation launched the virtual Sibs Stick Together group, and Sam's Sibs Stick Together webinar series, led by Ernie and Liezl's daughter, Samantha Els, in collaboration with the Autism Science Foundation. The Foundation continues to seek funding to support the high demand for mental health assistance and to further expand our mental health counseling programs and services.

Thank you for being present with us today at this special event. We sincerely appreciate your support and are so grateful for the impact we are able to make in the lives of individuals and families affected by ASD. Have a fabulous Sunday!



Dr. Marlene Sotelo  
Executive Director

## About Els For Autism Foundation®

The Foundation was founded in 2009 by four-time Major Champion, Ernie Els, and his wife, Liezl. The Els' son, Ben, was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3. The Foundation provides services and supports for individuals with autism and their families. [www.ElsForAutism.org](http://www.ElsForAutism.org)

### VISION

Els for Autism is a game-changing resource, delivering and facilitating programs that are leading examples of what can be available to people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

### MISSION

We are committed to better understanding the aspirations of people with autism spectrum disorder and helping them to fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive, and rewarding lives, through:

- Understanding the nature of ASD and facilitating the development and delivery of treatment therapies, educational programs, training programs, and recreational programs as well as independent living programs
- Ensuring the development of global outreach that will facilitate the sharing of best practices and programs
- Raising awareness and promoting the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with ASD



# Schedule of Events

**1:30 p.m.**

Registration Opens

**2 p.m.**

Opening Remarks  
Luxe Brunch Buffet Opens

**3 p.m.**

Polo Match Begins

**3:30 p.m.**

Raffle Closes

**4 p.m.**

Raffle Pick-Up Station Opens

**5 p.m.**

Polo Match Concludes



# *Program Highlights*

## **ADULT DAY TRAINING PROGRAM**



The Adult Day Training (ADT) Program provides a safe and engaging learning environment for adults with autism on the Els Center of Excellence campus. The ADT Program also hosts the Sea of Possibilities microbusiness which offers learning opportunities to participants including understanding customer service, exchanging money, packaging and setting up a retail display.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**



Els for Autism offers a work experience training program to prepare adults with autism who are seeking paid employment. The #WERFOODIES Food Service, allows participants to enhance social skills and gain on-the-job skills in the foodservice sector as they sell lunch and snack items at local venues throughout the county.

# PILOT

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One Life at a Time.



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