



For Immediate Release

Els for Autism Foundation® hosts Ernie Els #GameOn Autism® Golf Clinic at The Honda Classic

Jupiter, FL (February 22, 2022) – The Honda Classic sported 18 new golfers Tuesday at PGA National during a special golf clinic for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The clinic was part of Ernie Els #GameOn Autism® golf program was developed by World of Golf Hall of Famer and four-time major champion Ernie Els, specifically to target developmental benefits to individuals with ASD while teaching the fundamentals of the sport. Tuesday's clinic was arranged by Els for Autism Foundation and The First Tee of the Palm Beaches with participants from the Els for Autism® Adult Day Program.

The Ernie Els #GameOn Autism Golf program includes evidence-based practices for teaching golf to people with ASD. Students of the program learn golf skills while practicing specific autism learning concepts, including communication, emotional regulation, motor, and social skills. The goal of the program is for participants to achieve their individual golf successes, build confidence and self-esteem, in a fun, welcoming and supportive environment.

Ernie Els and his wife Liezl set up the Els for Autism Foundation in 2009 after their son, Ben, was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Since then, the Foundation established The Els Center for Excellence® in Jupiter. It is a world-class facility hosting leading-edge programs and services for people on the autism spectrum and their families. The campus contains programs and services to meet the specific needs of individuals with autism—from diagnosis to their school-aged years, and throughout adulthood. The Center hosts two, nonprofit, tuition-free Palm Beach County charter schools that serve students with autism from ages 3 through 21. It is extending its services beyond school age through the development of the Stoops Family Foundation Adult Services Building, a vocational, independent living and social skills training center on its Jupiter campus. Groundbreaking is scheduled for April.

Els for Autism has a global reach with offices in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, and the UK.

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Photography: Can be downloaded for editorial use at:

<https://www.smugmug.com/app/organize/PR/2022-Honda-Classic>