

NEWS



Ascension
CHARITY CLASSIC

presented by **EMERSON**



CHAMPIONS

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ASCENSION CHARITY CLASSIC PRESENTED BY EMERSON ANNOUNCES 2021 CHARITABLE DONATION

*Inaugural PGA TOUR Champions event generates
more than \$800,000 for North St. Louis County Charities*

ST. LOUIS (Oct. 20, 2021) – Tournament Officials announced today, during a special event at Norwood Hills Country Club honoring their charity partners, that last month’s inaugural playing of the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson raised more than \$800,000 for charitable organizations in North St. Louis County and beyond. The total includes \$200,000 for each of the tournament’s primary beneficiaries, Marygrove, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL), and Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis (ULMSTL).

Additionally, First Tee of Greater St. Louis and PGA REACH Gateway—the two benefiting charities of the tournament’s Legends Charity Challenge presented by World Wide Technology—were recognized during today’s ceremony. Each were presented with a donation in the amount of \$30,000 as a result of the exhibition match held on Saturday, Sept. 11, featuring Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Ozzie Smith, Craig Berube, and special guest Hale Irwin.

“The goal of the tournament from day one has always been about economic growth and charitable investment in North St. Louis County, and, to become one of the most charitable tournaments on the PGA TOUR Champions,” said Nick Ragone, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Ascension. “We are thrilled—but not surprised—at how St. Louis fans and the corporate community again showed the rest of the nation why our region is so unique and so special.”

In 2020—despite not hosting a tournament due to the pandemic—the Ascension Charity Classic donated \$225,000 in support of North St. Louis County communities, bringing the official PGA TOUR Champions event’s total charitable donations since the inception to more than \$1 million.

“Emerson takes great pride in our longtime presence in Ferguson, and we are truly grateful to partner with Ascension to bring this premier event to North County,” said Kathy Button Bell, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Emerson. “The generosity of the entire St. Louis area, combined with creating opportunities to see top players in our own backyard, makes this an exceptional win for the region.”

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Along with providing substantial philanthropic benefits to the region, the 2021 tournament also set attendance marks for first-year tournaments on PGA TOUR Champions and has established itself as a premier event on the senior circuit.

“This felt like a PGA TOUR event coming down the stretch on Sunday with the fan attendance and hospitality build-out,” said inaugural Champion David Toms. “I’m thrilled to be the first champion of the event, and even more inspired to know that the real winners of the tournament are its charities and the St. Louis community.”

“Last month, Ascension put community and philanthropy on center stage,” said Joe Bestgen, chief executive officer of Marygrove. “Marygrove, North County, and the entire St. Louis Metropolitan area owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ascension for leading the way in partnership with Emerson and World Wide Technology to host a premier event that really showcases the best of our region and will benefit so many in our community, now and for years to come.”

“The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is grateful to Ascension Health for its generosity and passion for the children we are privileged to serve,” said Flint Fowler, president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis. “The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson raised awareness about the impact our organization has on the lives of children and teens. The tournament’s gift represents hope and opportunity, particularly for those who need us most.”

“The Urban League is extremely grateful to the Ascension team and all of the sponsors and supporters of the Ascension Charity Classic by Emerson,” said Michael P. McMillan, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. “The demand for our services tripled during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the residual impact on our most vulnerable communities continues to be significant. This gift means we will be able to continue meeting the needs of those who are most fragile and assist with their recovery. This is true corporate social responsibility in action, and we cannot be more appreciative.”

The 2022 Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will be held the week of September 5 – 11, at Norwood Hills Country Club.

The Ascension Charity Classic will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2022, which will give way to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs—a season-ending, three-tournament series used to determine the TOUR’s season-long champion.

For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, including ticket, pro-am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at ascensioncharityclassic.com. For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at @ascensionccg, on Facebook at facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic and Instagram at @ascensioncharityclassic.

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About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is an official event on the PGA TOUR Champions operated by Tournaments for Charity, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. This 54-hole stroke play golf tournament features 81 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2 million purse at historic Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri. The event is designed to showcase the best golf on the PGA TOUR Champions for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit local charities in the North St. Louis County area and beyond. All three official rounds will be internationally televised on the Golf Channel. For more information, visit ascensioncharityclassic.com.

About Ascension

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the U.S., Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2020, Ascension provided \$2.4 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes more than 160,000 associates and 40,000 aligned providers. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 146 hospitals and more than 40 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services including clinical and network services, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management, and contracting through Ascension’s own group purchasing organization.

About Emerson

Emerson (NYSE: EMR), headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri (USA), is a global technology and engineering company providing innovative solutions for customers in industrial, commercial and residential markets. Our Automation Solutions business helps process, hybrid and discrete manufacturers maximize production, protect personnel and the environment while optimizing their energy and operating costs. Our Commercial & Residential Solutions business helps ensure human comfort and health, protect food quality and safety, advance energy efficiency and create sustainable infrastructure. For more information visit Emerson.com.

About Marygrove

For 170 years, Marygrove has been a place where children, youth and families in need have found hope and healing. Marygrove provides treatment and support to young people struggling with the often debilitating emotional and behavioral issues resulting from abuse, neglect, and other trauma. Through its comprehensive continuum of residential and community-based programs, Marygrove transforms hundreds of lives each year.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need BGCSTL most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. Every day, BGCSTL provides after-school, teen, sports, and summer programs to youth in the St. Louis area while also providing a safe place for children to learn and grow.

About Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis

As the leading champion of empowerment and opportunity for African Americans, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis envisions a region where all people are valued members of the community, can adequately support themselves and their families, can live in neighborhoods that are vibrant and thriving, and can share in the region’s prosperity and well-being.

About PGA TOUR Champions

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers 50 and older, including 33 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour’s mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLFTV. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

About HNS Sports Group

HNS Sports Group is a Dublin, Ohio-based LLC founded in 2000. The company offers over 125-plus years of collective experience and is committed to providing professional, efficient and effective client representation in the categories of sponsorship consultation, event management, hospitality management, sales representation and tournament operations within the golf market. To learn more about HNS Sports Group, visit hnsports.com.