

# NEWS



## Ascension CHARITY CLASSIC

presented by **EMERSON.**



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## Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson welcomes Hale Irwin, Tom Lehman and Billy Andrade as Tournament Brand Ambassadors

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ST. LOUIS** – The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, the PGA TOUR Champions event that will be hosted at Norwood Hills Country Club, announced today that three players, including World Golf Hall of Fame and all-time PGA TOUR Champions career winner Hale Irwin, have joined the team as brand ambassadors for the inaugural tournament, which will take place this fall during the week of Sept. 6-12.

Irwin, a Missouri native, has 45 PGA TOUR Champions victories, including six major championships, and he has claimed two Charles Schwab Cup titles. Irwin is a 20-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including three U.S. Open victories.

Hale Irwin will be joined on the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson ambassador team by former The Open Champion Tom Lehman and four-time PGA TOUR winner Billy Andrade. Lehman has notched 12 PGA TOUR Champions victories, including three senior major championship wins and two Charles Schwab Cup titles, while Andrade has recorded three victories since turning 50.

“We couldn’t have asked for three more engaging and representative brand ambassadors for the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson,” said Nick Ragone, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for Ascension. “Both Hale Irwin and Tom Lehman have been honored by the PGA TOUR with the Payne Stewart Award in recognition of their character, sportsmanship, and dedication to charitable giving, and Billy Andrade is a recipient of the Charlie Bartlett Award, given to playing professionals by the Golf Writers Association of America for their unselfish contributions to society. This tournament is all about giving back and investing in underserved communities, and all three of these players have spent a career doing that as well.”

“I am proud to be an ambassador for our newest tournament on the PGA TOUR Champions,” said Irwin. “Ascension’s commitment to take the lead in bringing professional golf back to St. Louis and to Norwood Hills Country Club will greatly benefit the region. The opportunity to reconnect with golf fans and many friends during tournament week at the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, while being a part of raising money for North County St. Louis charities, is exciting.”

“There was a genuine sense of excitement when we first learned that the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson would be a regular PGA TOUR Champions stop,” said Lehman. “It means that we’ll be visiting St. Louis every year, which we know is one of the great sports towns and golf regions in the country. Just seeing the buzz and excitement at the 2018 PGA Championship reminded us of how much we appreciate coming back to St. Louis, and I couldn’t be more proud of being a tournament ambassador.”

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“I was honored to be invited to the initial press conference in October 2019 to introduce the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, and was able to take a tour of Marygrove, one of the charitable beneficiaries of the tournament,” said Andrade. “It was a wonderful experience to see first-hand how this tournament will make a difference for the community. Working with both Ascension and World Wide Technology, St. Louis has become something of a second home for me, and I can’t wait to compete at Norwood Hills in September.”

Recent PGA TOUR Champion winners include “rookie” sensations Jim Furyk and Phil Mickelson. Both are members of an exclusive club of only three players to win their first two PGA TOUR Champions starts. Other winners from last season include names like Darren Clarke, Ernie Els, Miguel Angel Jimenez, and Bernhard Langer.

In October 2019, Ascension and the PGA TOUR Champions announced a four-year partnership to host a new professional golf tournament in St. Louis. The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will support North St. Louis County communities and surrounding areas, including the tournament’s three primary beneficiaries: Marygrove, a residential treatment and support facility for children and teens struggling with debilitating emotional and behavioral issues resulting from abuse, neglect and other trauma; the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis; and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.

For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, including ticket, program and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at [ascensioncharityclassic.com](http://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.

#### **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](http://ascensioncharityclassic.com).

#### **About Ascension**

Based in St. Louis, Ascension is the largest non-profit and Catholic health system in the U.S., with more than 160,000 associates and 2,600 sites of care across 19 states and the District of Columbia. In keeping with the organization’s mission to deliver compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable, all proceeds from the Ascension Charity Classic tournament will be donated to local non-profits. Last year, Ascension provided \$2.4 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs across the country.

#### **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.

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