

## 2025 MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER



## THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE FIRST HALF OF 2025!

*Our strategic focus for 2025 is to expand our participant base, broaden programming in underserved communities, and empower youth with life skills through the game of golf.*

As we reflect on the first six months of the year, First Tee – Greater Trenton (FTGT) extends our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated donors, volunteers, and community partners.

Because of your unwavering support, FTGT is experiencing another banner year — delivering impactful programs that build character, instill life skills, and empower young people to face life's challenges and opportunities with confidence.

Your belief in our mission has helped us expand our reach, grow our participant base, and deepen our impact across our service area. The FTGT Board and Staff are grateful for the generous individuals like you who make our work possible.

Please enjoy our latest newsletter, which highlights our 2025 accomplishments and successes.

*Together we are Building Game Changers!*

## We Kicked Off Our 2025 Season at Christina Seix Academy in January!

Our First Tee – Greater Trenton participants kicked off 2025 with determination, sharpening their golf skills and strengthening their character at Seix Academy. We're proud of their dedication and look forward to watching their growth in the months ahead. **During our six week program, we had more than 60 participants.**



## Exciting News: Trenton Central High School Golf Returns!

We're thrilled to share the revival of the Trenton Central High School golf team, featured in an article by Trentonian columnist L.A. Parker. This milestone reflects not only the return of golf but also the opportunities we're creating for young people to learn, grow, and develop life skills that go far beyond the course.

This achievement is the result of a strong partnership between First Tee – Greater Trenton, the Trenton School District, and the resilience of the students themselves.

We invite everyone to read the article and celebrate this inspiring story of perseverance and collaboration.

[L.A. PARKER: Trenton High golf is back and swinging after 14-year hiatus – Trentonian](#)



## Our Spring Session was in Full Swing!

In April, we launched our Spring Session with participants showing incredible resilience, braving chilly, rainy days to work on their swings and continue their personal development. Their dedication is why we do what we do. **We offered 11 classes in five separate locations.**

**#BuildingGameChangers**



## Thank You for a Memorable Day at TPC Jasna Polana in Support of Our Annual Golf Fundraiser!

Our 2025 Annual Golf Fundraiser was a resounding success, thanks to our amazing sponsors, participants, and supporters. Your generosity allows us to continue delivering life-changing programs for our youth. Plus, we were blessed with beautiful weather to match the spirit of the event!

**SAVE-THE-DATE: April 27, 2026, For Next Years Event!**



## During the Golf Fundraiser, We Honored our 2025 Graduating Seniors with College Scholarships

<p><u><b>Nicholas Yagnick:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended West Windsor Plainsboro High School</li> <li>• Will attend Princeton or Cornell</li> <li>• <b>Excerpt from Essay</b> - "First Tee didn't just make me a better golfer—it made me a better leader, a stronger communicator, and a challenge embracer. In the future, whether on or off the course, those values remain at the core of who I am."</li> </ul>	
<p><u><b>Rohan Rao:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Lawrence High School</li> <li>• Will attend Columbia University</li> <li>• <b>Excerpt from Essay</b> - "First Tee has provided me with life-changing opportunities. Attending the Innovators Forum and the Game Changers Academy allowed me to connect with First Tee participants like me and learn more about the unique ways each of us was using golf as a medium for change in our communities".</li> </ul>	
<p><u><b>Khairi Allen:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Ewing High School</li> <li>• Will attend College of New Jersey</li> <li>• Winner of the LPGA ShopRite Classic Scholarship - I want to sincerely thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the LPGA ShopRite Classic Scholarship. I was truly honored and grateful to receive this opportunity, and I deeply appreciated the recognition and support. To everyone who played a role in choosing me, thank you for believing in my potential and for investing in my future. This scholarship will help me continue to pursue my goals and remind me of the importance of hard work and community. Thank you to the entire First Tee organization and everyone involved for everything you've done not just for me, but for so many other young people like me. The experiences, lessons, and values I gained through the program and at the event have made a lasting impact on my life. I'm proud to have been part of such a meaningful experience and to be connected to the First Tee family.</li> </ul>	
<p><u><b>Eli Lehrfield:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Lawrence High School</li> <li>• College is Undecided</li> <li>• <b>Excerpt from Essay</b> - "First Tee helped me learn how to communicate with people how to do things a certain way as it relates to golf. I have even given pointers to many of my friends in high school and can see first-hand how their driving and their game improves by sharing the things I learned at First Tee. Golf has shown me that I can accomplish difficult tasks if they involve things I enjoy and am interested in and passionate about. I hope my college education will help me achieve these goals and my dream of one day becoming a commercial airline pilot."</li> </ul>	

## During the Month of May: Celebrating Our Coaches Week

In May, we honored the incredible coaches who serve as the heartbeat of First Tee – Greater Trenton. These dedicated individuals not only teach golf but also inspire personal growth, build character, and create lasting bonds with our participants and their communities.

Throughout the week of May 19th, we celebrated their passion, leadership, and positive impact. We are grateful for our coaches: **Rob Connelley (Program Director), Rob McGill (Lead Coach), Steve Slaughter, Jacob McGill, Alan Martin, Jeff Hughes (Board Member).**  
**Junior Coaches: Khairi Allen, MacKensia Jacques, Dayana Yalin Mejia Torres and Will Rivera.**





## Christina Seix Academy: Trusted Community Partner

Our First Tee coaches were proud to participate in the Christina Seix Academy 2024–2025 Sports Program Banquet. Congratulations to all student athletes for their dedication and growth this year.

A special congratulations to **Aubrielle Lewis** for her outstanding achievement in our golf program—your commitment and leadership inspire us all!



## First Tee Participants Shine at the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic

Twelve First Tee participants, including our own **Khairi Allen**, were awarded \$5,000 college scholarships and new Acer computers at the 2025 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer.

Khairi proudly represented First Tee – Greater Trenton during a special trophy presentation with LPGA Champion Jennifer Kupcho on the 18th green—an unforgettable moment!

A huge thank you to Wakefern, ShopRite, the LPGA, and First Tee for their investment in these remarkable student-athletes.

[L.A. PARKER: Ewing High senior takes home \\$5,000 scholarship from ShopRite LPGA Classic – Trentonian](#)



## Upcoming Event: Golf 4 Girls – Fourth Annual Fundraiser

Join us for our Fourth Annual Golf 4 Girls Fundraiser benefiting First Tee – Greater Trenton!

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Location: Trenton Country Club, Trenton, NJ

Individual Player Cost: \$275

Register here: [Golf 4 Girls Registration](#)

Your support helps empower young girls through golf, building confidence, leadership, and life skills both on and off the course.



## SUMMER 2025 Classes & Camps – REGISTERING NOW!

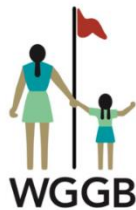
Don't miss our Summer 2025 sessions! Programs are filling fast as we continue to build game changers and shape future leaders through the game of golf.

Register Today to Reserve Your Spot!

[Classes and Registration - First Tee - Greater Trenton](#)



## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## The First Tee – Greater Trenton Board



**Front Row Left to Right:** Mahesh Yadav (Secretary), Jeff Hughes (Past President), Rosalind Williford (President), Paula Taylor (Vice President), Jeanette Vega, Cindy Sussman and Marie Bardzilowski (Treasurer)

**Back Row Left to Right:** John Kostin, Ed Benson (Executive Director), Dwayne Redmond and Beth Golden

**Missing from Photo:** Michael Mitchell and Kyle Peace.

### FTGT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of FTGT is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

### FTGT STRATEGIC VISION

FTGT provides area youth with alternative and accessible forums for positive character development. We recognize that golf is an ideal vehicle to encourage this type of development, offering essential values including courtesy, respect, judgment, responsibility, confidence, honesty, integrity, sportsmanship and perseverance. More importantly, FTGT fulfills this need in an educational environment that is challenging, exciting, enjoyable and continuous throughout the year.

**Donate (AND SPREAD THE WORD):** The expansion and sustainability of the First Tee - Greater Trenton programs are made possible by our generous donors. Please consider making an investment in the lives of young people served by the First Tee - Greater Trenton. As evidenced by the few select highlights of 2025, our high-quality, positive youth development programs continue addressing the needs of our community and further development of our youth.

**Rosalind Williford, *President***

**Paula Taylor, *Vice President***

**Ed Benson, *Executive Director***

**Rob Connelley *Program Director***

**Robert McGill, *Lead Coach***

*Contact:*

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**[www.thefirstteegreatertrenton.org](http://www.thefirstteegreatertrenton.org)**