

EMPOWER



Created in 2020, EMPOWER strengthens the scholarship investment by providing caddies with exceptional benefits and leadership training.



(L to R): Ainslee Helsel, Hollyn Helsel, Bridget Walsh, Lilly Press, Frankie Bria, Molly Gregor and Parker Bria caddied in the inaugural J. Wood Platt EMPOWER Golf Outing.

2021 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT & SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING

The J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust hosted its inaugural EMPOWER Leadership Summit and Scholarship Golf Outing Sept. 26-27 at Saucon Valley Country Club.

This newly-established initiative benefits the Trust's women's endowment fund, which supports female caddies and recognizes their unique and important role in the game. The two-day event raised more than \$100,000, with \$50,000 earmarked in support of a new Scholarship that will be awarded to a female caddie.

"Over and above funds raised, the overarching goal of this event was to also serve as a catalyst to grow the number of female caddies among GAP Member Clubs. We have meaningful work to do on this front, but we recognize this event as an important starting point," Tina Gregor, the Trust's Chairwoman, said.

The EMPOWER Leadership Summit and Scholarship Golf Outing was initiated and presented to the Trust's Board by event co-chair and J. Wood Platt alumnus Billy Reube, '13, as a way to give back to the Trust.

"In addition to engaging our corporate partners as sponsors, they played a critical role in providing the necessary insight needed to make progress with our diversity and inclusion efforts. As we don't have all of the answers here, we wanted to solicit advice from people who are directly involved in these efforts," Reube, 30, of New York, N.Y., said.

To this end, 35 event sponsors, Platt alumni and friends of the Trust gathered at the Hotel Bethlehem on Sept. 26 for dinner and discussion regarding potential barriers to caddying that exist for young women.

"We were deliberate about inviting female thought-leaders, and in particular, new golfers and non-golfers, to provide a wider perspective on the experience. Our hope is that this input will allow us to do a better job of reaching a more diverse audience while allowing us to better anticipate obstacles along the way," Buddy Aiken, the event's co-chair, said.

The Sept. 27 portion of the EMPOWER Leadership Summit and Scholarship Golf Outing opened with a mentoring breakfast where female caddies conversed with leaders in the corporate sector. More than 100 people then gathered on Saucon Valley's Weyhill Course for a day of golf. Concurrently, Bridget McLaughlin, an assistant golf professional at St. Davids Golf Club, hosted a women's clinic for those new to the game on the range. The EMPOWER Leadership Summit and Scholarship Golf Outing concluded with remarks from two female cad-

dies: Parker Bria, a Platt/Evans Scholar attending Penn State University, and Charli Jones from the First Tee of Greater Philadelphia.

Regarding a 2022 event, Gregor is excited about the future.

"We intend to build on the success and momentum of the 2021 event to make this an annual initiative to strengthen the overall EMPOWER Program, to grow corporate partnerships and to learn how we can most effectively reach the widest possible population of Scholarship candidates," Gregor, 52, of North Wales, Pa., said. "We are incredibly grateful to our event committee, sponsors and mentors for their leadership in this inaugural effort."

For more information on the 2nd annual EMPOWER Leadership Summit and Scholarship Golf Outing, or to learn more about the EMPOWER



Program, contact Lindsay Myers, JWP Director of Development, at 610-687-2340, ext. 32 or via email at lm Myers@gapgolf.org.

With Thanks to our Outstanding Sponsors!

