

Randy,

I would like to share my extreme thanks for the First Tee program. Two of my four adopted special needs children participate in First Tee's amazing program. The character development provided by your staff is amazing and exactly the influence I want in my children's life. My son is also challenged by the fact that his National Guard father has been deployed overseas less than 5 months after his adoption became final. My son is seeking reassurance that Dad is a hero and has not abandoned him like so many previous foster placements. First Tee honors his father and provides leadership without seeking to replace dad. My daughter has taken upon herself the need to 'lead' the family rather than be a child during this difficult time. She is experiencing a strong desire to control her situation. The First Tee program is helping her to release some of that control and enjoy the recreation of golf, while at the same time learning to be respectful and not 'bossy'.

I have shared with my husband the amazing progress I have seen the children experience being a part of First Tee. He is so pleased that this opportunity was afforded to children of National Guard members. Deployment is incredibly hard on the soldiers and family alike, but knowing the children are engaged in healthy, character building activities reassures him that they are being instructed while he is away. My children are excited to share with Dad anytime we can telephone about the things they are learning in First Tee. My daughter has even written him a letter telling her dad she will teach him to golf when he returns. My son likewise has said one of the first things he wants to do after dad comes home is take him golfing. You sure have infected my kids with the love of golf.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this amazing program and I pray with the amazing gains children experience more funding can be provided to help families just like ours.

Gratefully Yours,

Emily Beck