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The First Tee program serves 700 kids a year, teaching them sportsmanship (right) and other life lessons.

G. JACOB HAWKINS/ OGLIVY PUBLIC RELATIONS WORLDWIDE

Annual tournament raises money for First Tee

JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM based at John A. White Park aims to teach children life lessons through golf

"Golf is like a microcosm of life. It teaches you how to deal with success and misfortune. That's what The First Tee has latched onto. It uses the game of golf to teach life lessons."

—Talbot Nunnally

SOME 150 GOLFERS will tee it up next Monday in the fourth annual First Tee Classic at TPC Sugarloaf in Duluth. The golf outing is expected to raise about \$140,000 for The First Tee of Atlanta, a junior golf program based at John A. White Park, said board member C. Talbot Nunnally III.

An attorney with Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams, & Martin, Nunnally has served on First Tee of Atlanta's board since 2003. He helps secure teams and sponsors for the charity golf tournament.

"A friend of mine asked me to serve on the board," said Nunnally, 49. "I was very excited to be asked. I love golf. It's an opportunity to give back to the game that has meant so much to me and my family."

Nunnally's grandfather, Charles B. Nunnally, played on the University of Georgia golf team in the late 1920s. The lawyer's father, the late Charles T. Nunnally, was also an avid golfer. Nunnally said he and his father had a special relationship that revolved around three things: Georgia Bulldogs football, fishing and golf.

"Dad loved the game," said Nunnally. "He instilled it in me. I think I was 7 or 8 when I swung my first club, a cut-down 5-iron or 7-iron that he gave me."

An Atlanta native, Nunnally grew up playing junior golf at the Capital City Club in Brookhaven, where he is still a member today. He has fond memories from his youth when he would play golf almost every day in the summer at Capital City.

A 10-handicapper, Nunnally played high



G. JACOB HAWKINS/ OGLIVY PUBLIC RELATIONS WORLDWIDE

Talbot Nunnally says the tournament allows him to give back to the game that means much to his family.

school golf at Woodberry Forest boarding school in Virginia. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1981 and Mercer University School of Law in 1985. Nunnally's law practice primarily serves the commercial real estate industry.

The First Tee of Atlanta was founded in 2000 and serves roughly 700 children a year through after-school programs, weekend clinics and summer camps. The nonprofit organization not only instructs youth on how to play golf, but also teaches them life lessons about honor, rules and etiquette. The First Tee has nine core values that represent the many positive elements of golf. They are honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment. These values are taught to all junior golfers

who participate in The First Tee program.

"It's all about the kids and character development," said Nunnally. "Golf is like a microcosm of life. It teaches you how to deal with success and misfortune. That's what The First Tee has latched onto. It uses the game of golf to teach life lessons."

The First Tee of Atlanta is part of the national First Tee network that was founded in 1997 and is now active in 47 states. The program has awarded 125 college scholarships to student-athletes since its inception. This year, The First Tee of Atlanta members Jennifer Adyorough, Sidney Fields Jr. and Jessi Mitchell were designated as First Tee Scholars, earning the opportunity to apply for scholarships at participating schools. Other lawyers on the board at The First Tee of Atlanta are J. Graves "Gee" Aldridge Jr. of McCalla Raymer and Lewis C. Horne Jr. of Troutman Sanders.

Proceeds raised from The First Tee Classic contribute significantly to the operating budget of the Southwest Atlanta golf program that includes a nine-hole golf course and practice facility.

Nunnally said he is looking forward to the golf outing. His recent time on the golf course has been slowed "to a trickle," he said, since his three children became involved in youth team sports.

"The golf tournament is a lot of fun and it's rewarding," said Nunnally. "It's held later in the year and normally cold, but as they say, a bad day on the golf course is better than a good day at work." 