



ASHEVILLE PGA PROFESSIONALS BRING HOPE TO LOCAL VETERANS

Asheville, NC – Local men and women PGA Professionals met at Broadmoor Golf Links to attend the initial PGA HOPE training session for the all new PGA HOPE Asheville Chapter on February 28. PGA Master Professional and National HOPE Instructor Trainer Judy Alvarez delivered education to eight Carolinas PGA Professionals that included both indoor and outdoor sessions.

The education began with an introduction to the PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) initiative and covered topics such as: Role of the PGA Professional, Defining disability/handicaps, Sensitivity training, Available adaptive equipment, methods of modified swings, and concluded with an outdoor hands-on module. “It’s not your side of the ball that matters, its theirs.” reminded Alvarez during the outdoor portion.



More than 22 men and women veterans commit suicide each day. Of those individuals that served in Iraq/Afghanistan, half a million suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The goal of PGA HOPE is to provide a positive, therapeutic environment that builds self-esteem, confidence and gets our veterans outside.

PGA Director of Golf at Sapphire National, Brian Oliver, is the Lead Instructor of the HOPE Asheville chapter- part of the PGA REACH Carolinas foundation- and will base HOPE Asheville out of Broadmoor Golf Links. “We want to provide our veterans and their families a safe place for them to come out and enjoy the game,”

said Brian Oliver, PGA, “...they have given so much to all of us, it’s time for us to give back to them.”

Area I director of the Carolinas PGA Section, Brett Miller, who helped initiate the creation of the HOPE Asheville Chapter said afterward, “We all look to do something meaningful and of high impact. Well, this is it. High impact for, not only, our veterans, but also for each one of us who has the privilege to be a part of it!”



Each PGA Professional in attendance received a copy of *Broken Tees and Mended Hearts* by Judy Alvarez, PGA and will now be able to instruct at any of the nine PGA REACH Carolinas HOPE chapters across North and South Carolina.



For more information about PGA REACH Carolinas or PGA HOPE, please contact Christopher Gaines, PGA, Manager of Player Development and Foundation Operations for PGA REACH Carolinas at (336) 398-2848 or cgaines@pgahq.com

