



Community Youth Program



2021-2022 SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION



Congratulations to all that contributed to the success of the **Bridges Community Youth Golf Program**! We had some challenges due to the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, but we are happy to say that we were able to conduct **4 half-day clinics** for the youth of the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg**. In addition to the kids of the Boys and Girls Club, it was our privilege to have youth from the **Eagles Nest Indigenous Youth Program** be involved in our 4 clinics as well.

The golf academy for the younger kids (ages 5-11) is taking place this season. Clinics are scheduled for the first 2 Sundays in June from, and usually involve **80-100 children**.

Our Boys and Girls Club Programs and Eagles Nest Indigenous Youth Programs are **free of charge**. The programs are totally funded by: Bridges Men's and Ladies Golf Leagues, the businesses that donated the fantastic prizes for our Junior Program Raffle and a much-appreciated grant from Golf Manitoba. Each of you made this happen! It truly was a wonderful team effort!

Let's keep it going in 2022! Our motto as always is:

All kids deserve the chance to golf.



OUR PROGRAMS



RICHARDSON WEALTH MANAGEMENT JUNIOR PROGRAM

The Richardson Wealth Management Junior Program is a golf camp that runs the first 2 Sundays in June. Kids ages 5-11 participate in an hour long session. The program is open to the public and Bridges is expected to host up to 80 kids this year.

- *Open to public*
- *Boys and Girls Club Kids ages 5-11 join free of charge*
- *All rentals are provided*



80 KIDS AGES 5-11

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB PROGRAM

The Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg selects kids and youths from 3 clubs from Winnipeg to participate in a completely free program at Bridges. The goal of the program is to give all kids a chance to golf and develop interpersonal skills and confidence through our program.

Younger Boys and Girls Club (BGC) kids (ages 5-11) also participate in the Richardson Wealth Management Junior Program free of charge. 10 BGC kids will join the Junior Program this year.

- *FREE for participants, funded by donors & sponsors*
- *4 week program, 1 session per week, 4 hour sessions*
- *Lunch & dinner provided*
- *All rentals are provided*



10 KIDS AGES 5-11

15 YOUTH AGES 12-18

EAGLES NEST INDIGENOUS YOUTH PROGRAM

High risk Indigenous youth participate in our program alongside the Boys and Girls Club youths. Our goal is to provide these youths with a healthy outlet to have fun and develop relationships with other groups of kids.

- *FREE for participants, funded by donors & sponsors*
- *4 week program, 1 session per week, 4 hour sessions*
- *Lunch & dinner provided*
- *All rentals are provided*



4-6 YOUTH AGES 12-18

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Larry Robinson

**PGA of Canada Class A
Head Professional
Director of Golf**

I have been so lucky to be director of the youth golf programs at Bridges. The kids and I have shared countless laughs over the seasons and the staff and I have been able to form coach-mentor bonds with many of the kids.

Over this past season it has been so heart-warming to see the amount of growth in many of these youngsters. We have been running the Richardson Wealth Management Junior Golf Academy for the past 12 years, the Boys and Girls Club Golf Program for past 9 years and we were able to have the youth from the Eagles Nest Facility join in on the fun again this past summer.

Through the years I have seen many of the kids return and improve their golf skills as well as their ability to participate in the group! I have seen the confidence grow in the youth of the Boys and Girls Club members and especially in the high-risk youth that participated in our program this year. I have watched kids develop long-lasting friendships and feel part of a healthy group and community. One of the most rewarding things to see is to watch a young person become an up-and-coming promising golfer who, without the program, would not be either interested in golf, or would not be able to play golf because of financial and social factors.

It makes it all worthwhile to see the excitement on many of the young people's faces when arriving at a golf course for their very first time! The staff, volunteers, and I were taught many lessons ourselves, mostly of how very privileged we all are. Humility is hard to learn in life, but these inspiring children gave us that gift every time they came to Bridges!

With our utmost gratitude,

L Robinson

Larry Robinson

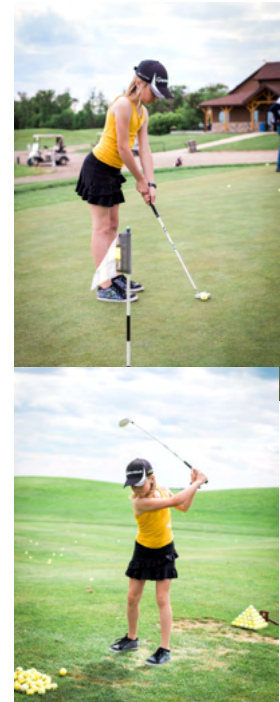
Director of Golf, Bridges Golf Course

RICHARDSON WEALTH MANAGEMENT JUNIOR PROGRAM

THE PROGRAM

The Richardson Wealth Management Junior Golf Academy (started in 2010) and has involved 80 to 120 children ages 5 to 11 each year. We conduct 2 one hour clinics each of the **first 2 Sundays in June** and always have had a fantastic turnout! It's great to see the youngsters, their parents and grandparents enjoying this introduction to this wonderful game.

We also use the Richardson Wealth Management Junior Program as a way to include kids ages 5-11 from the **Boys & Girls Club** who are too young to join the 4 week sessions with the older youth from the Boys & Girls Club and the Eagles Nest Indigenous Youth Program.



2 ONE-HOUR CLINICS

80 KIDS AGES 5-11

10 FUNDED BGC KIDS

OUR GOALS

Our mission for this program is to give any kid a free chance to try golf, without having to commit to a league, buy equipment, or a membership. Kids who get early exposure to golf can access other programs like the **Future Pros program** that award youth a membership and equipment. We would like to continue to grow the program to include more funded kids in order to give the opportunity for every child to try golf.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GOLF PROGRAM



THE PROGRAM

The Boys and Girls Club Golf Program (started in 2014) was a wonderful success story here at Bridges again this past summer. We were able to conduct four weeks of **4-hour clinics** with 15 youth per session, including the **4-6 youth** who joined from the **Eagles Nest Program**. Throughout the program, we instruct the kids on the fundamentals of the golf swing, teach them the etiquette of the sport, play a couple of holes each day, and after golf, we have dinner together.

4 HALF-DAY CLINICS

15 YOUTH AGES 12-18

LUNCH & DINNER

FUNDING & GOALS

Through the generosity of the sponsors, all that participated in the “Boys and Girls Club Golf Program Raffle” and Golf Manitoba we were able to introduce these children to this wonderful game! A special thank you to our Men's and Ladies Leagues who purchased many of the raffle tickets and the wonderful grant from Golf Manitoba! Please know that you have made a difference in these young people's lives, thank you!

In 2022, we would like to **add another 4 weeks** onto the program, making it a **12 week program** for the Boys & Girls clubs. This would allow for a **fourth Boys & Girls club of Winnipeg** to become involved. We are looking for **\$5000** to make this possible.



EAGLES NEST INDIGENOUS YOUTH GOLF PROGRAM

THE PROGRAM

The partnership between Bridges and the Eagles Nest Indigenous Youth Facility started in 2019, and has been one of the most rewarding programs for us. Shelly Loustel, an Eagles Nest staff member, approached us in 2019 and asked if 3 of their youth could come and hit some balls one night. We suggested that they might enjoy **joining in on the Boys & Girls Club Golf Program** at Bridges. The Boys & Girls Club staff and kids were so welcoming of the new boys, it was so tender, so compassionate and a wonderful experience for the 3 boys to be accepted into a new group of kids that year. From there the program has continued.

The Eagles Nest Youths are between the ages of 12-18 and join our Boys & Girls Club 4 week sessions. There are set to be **4-6 youth** from the Eagles Nest Program that will join us this year, and it is our goal to accommodate more Eagles Nest youth into our future programming.

4 HALF-DAY CLINICS

4-6 YOUTH AGES 12-18

LUNCH & DINNER

OUR GOALS

In 2022, we would like to continue and **grow our involvement** with the Eagles Nest facility and continue to support them in providing a healthy outlet and help them develop life skills and lasting friendships.

A special thanks to Richard Rosales (Team Leader, Eagles Nest Facility, Metis Child Family & Community Services) who not only came out with the kids but was instrumental in making it happen!



PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS



Larry Robinson
Bridges Golf Course

August 27, 2021

Dear Mr. Robinson:

In the summer of 2021, our youth at the bgc Winnipeg (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg) were happy to engage in another summer golf experience despite the continued pandemic circumstances.

On behalf of the 3,640 young people bgc Winnipeg serves annually and boys and girls who benefitted from the Bridges golf experience in 2021, I would like to capture the gratitude we have to you, the major sponsors and GOLF MANITOBA for this opportunity!

About the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg 2021 Experience

The bgc Winnipeg Golf Clinics -Bridges Golf Course

The bgc Winnipeg Golf Program was a wonderful success at Bridges this past summer despite the coronavirus. Bridges was still able to schedule 4 clinics for Syed, Ope, Kyra, Evan, Andrew, Teni, Ella and Eliza (ages 13 to 18). Each four-hour day consisted of the boys and girls being instructed on the fundamentals of the golf swing, learning about the etiquette of the sport, putting basics, and had lots of fun playing a few holes of golf followed by a very special dinner of their choice from the menu!

It was so great to see all the BGCW kids again this summer! Of those that were returning to the program for another year it is especially rewarding to hear about the changes in their lives! The boys and girls are so polite and considerate of others. What a gift for us and me to be around them again! Just giving kids a chance can be life changing.

Larry Robinson, Bridges Golf Pro

Future Pros

In 2021 Syed (14) and Opa (16) continued a second year as participants in the Future Pros program thanks to the Bridges Team and coordination with Dana Todd from the PGA of Manitoba Foundation. These two young people were so excited to return to Niakwa Golf Course to hone and fine tune their knowledge and skills from 2020. Once again, the youth received new clubs, shoes, gloves, shirts, caps, and golf balls, not to mention the junior membership.

Through the generosity of the SPONSORS, GOLF MANITOBA and all that participated in the bgc Winnipeg RAFFLE we were able to elevate the golf experience for youth in this wonderful game despite the second season during the pandemic! Please know that you have made a difference in these young people's lives, creating opportunities that would not otherwise be possible!

Sincerely,

Heather Black
Director of Community Engagement

Registered Charitable Organization No.130636962 RR0001



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PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS



A WORD FROM THE EAGLES NEST PROGRAM

To whom it may concern;

This summer a staff member Shelly Loustel recommended an incredible opportunity to the Eagles Nest facility and its youth in care. Shelly said that the youngsters had a chance to learn and enjoy the sport of Golf by highly knowledgeable and seasoned professionals at the Bridges Golf Course.

We thought it would be a great idea to give this opportunity to these boys at Eagles Nest. A chance to learn new skills and educate themselves amongst other kids from the community. We never would have imagined how incredibly impactful this opportunity turned out to be for (George, Darren and Tron), the 3 youth here at Eagles Nest.

Every Tuesday from 2pm-4pm the boys were coached and given the chance to play/practice new skills taught by Golf Course professionals Larry and Tracy, whom the boys formed great relationships and bonds with.

These 3 boys (who were raised in low income housing in the inner city of Winnipeg and surrounding areas) were given a chance of a lifetime to learn and play Golf at a prestigious and beautiful course! Many times, they stated that this was the highlight of their summer! Not only were Larry and Tracy teaching them golf skills, they were teaching them life skills as well such as patience, determination and learning how to take instruction.

We cannot thank Bridges Golf Course and all their staff enough for the opportunity this summer, it was stated in an interview with their social worker that George and Darren both thought the golf program on Tuesdays was their favorite activity during their stay at Eagles Nest. Not only did Larry and Tracy work with these boys they also cared for them and supplied a delicious meal after every golf lesson. A truly remarkable summer for the boys and staff here at Eagles Nest and we will always hold onto the memories made at Bridges.

Richard Rosales

Team Leader

Eagles Nest Facility

Metis Child Family & Community Services

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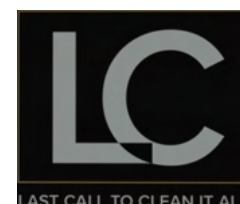


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