



## Big Gains from Golf

KEEN GDC raises funds and profile with major golf outings

### Junior Golf at US Open

Seven KEEN athletes from our Teen Club, plus their volunteers, had a taste of the majors when they attended the U.S. Golf Association's Junior Golf Day, which preceded the U.S. Open. On the links at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, our kids joined KEEN GDC honorary board member Dominique Dawes to watch demos by pro golfers and a trick shot artist. Then they tried their own hand at pitching and putting -- and they loved it!

For most, it was their first experience with golf, other than the miniature kind. "Parents of one of our athletes who attended commented that they felt that it improved their daughter's eye-hand coordination and concentration," says KEEN Greater DC board president Burt Braverman. "Several members of the large crowd commented how thrilled they were to see special needs kids at the event, and how great it was that we provide opportunities like this for them."

Along with introducing KEEN kids to the sport of golf, and creating a chance for some exercise and fun, Junior Golf Day reinforced an important message about inclusion: that people with disabilities can be included in sports and recreational activities of all kinds -- even those that might seem out of reach for them. "The day was a tremendous success for KEEN GDC, for its kids and for the community," says Braverman.

Inspired by the event, KEEN Greater DC is now looking at ways to add golf to its roster of programs. Working with the U.S. Adaptive Golf Association, as well as the U.S. and regional Golf Associations, KEEN GDC hopes to have more golf activities for our teens in Spring 2012. Stay tuned!



## 2011 KEEN Golf Classic

More than 175 golfers enjoyed near perfect weather and great company at Woodmont Country Club for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual KEEN Golf Classic. The competition followed a scramble format with contests throughout the day.

Thanks to our organizing committee co-chaired by Rich Blumenreich and Liam Brown. Our sponsors and generous golfers made it one of the most successful fundraisers ever, support that will keep the children and young adults served by KEEN playing throughout the year!

“There are a lot of nonprofits out there but we just think KEEN Greater DC is a great, worthy endeavor. It’s all volunteers. It’s an organization that does a tremendous amount of good with very few dollars.”

Liam Brown, Marriott International



This year’s tournament featured longtime friends such as those representing major sponsor Marriott, as well as newcomers like Comcast SportsNet anchor Russ Thaler. “It was an easy yes,” says Thaler.

“I have three young sons, 7, 6 and 5. Their lives, much like mine, revolve around sports and I can’t imagine what it must be like for a child who isn’t able to participate in everyday activities. For the children who need the help, KEEN provides an unbelievable service.”