Ramona English Joins Fairway Foundation As Executive Director

Twin Cities at-risk youth will benefit from the help of a new advocate. Ramona English, former resource development director, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center in Minneapolis, joined the Fairway Foundation as executive director effective October 4.

The Fairway Foundation provides Minneapolis and St. Paul urban youth, ages 8 through 16, with opportunities to develop character, honesty, respect, self-esteem, golf and job skills through the game of golf. Scholarships are also offered by the Fairway Foundation program. There are no ethnic, gender or racial boundaries for participants.

English has more than 15 years experience in community outreach and youth advocacy programs. As resource development director for the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, 1998-99, she managed fundraising efforts, secured grants and educated stakeholders and the community about the Center's history, mission and programs. From 1995-98, she provided vision and leadership as a project associate and then as regional director for the

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Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis. She has also served the United Negro College Fund and John Deere Company in various capacities.

"With her strong work history and active involvement in community service and education," says Bart Osborn, Fairway Foundation President, "Ramona will generate community awareness and enhance our fundraising efforts which have struggled to keep up with the dramatic increase in participation, which we have seen with our expanded programs."

A three-year grant from the United States Golf Association Foundation provided the funds for the Fairway Foundation to seek and hire an executive director. The Fairway Foundation currently serves approximately 500 youth in Minneapolis and St. Paul. This season's highlight included a new golf camp, girls only clinics, a junior program with Senior PGA Tour players, the Chi Chi Rodriguez Junior Clinic and meeting Tiger Woods at the Minneapolis Tiger Woods Clinic. Work opportunities for teenage participants continue to grow through a partnership with the Minneapolis Tree Trust summer work program and caddie programs with the Minneapolis and St. Paul parks.

The Fairway Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 by the Minnesota Section of the PGA, the Minnesota Golf Association and the Coldwell Banker Burnet Classic. Offices are in Golden Valley and can be reached at (612) 542-8586.