

Golf's Contribution to Charities Goes A Long Way

It was mentioned in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* on December 19, 1993 that the Burnet Classic golf tournament presented checks to United Hospital and Abbott Northwestern-Sister Kenny Institute in the amount of \$156,000. They also gave the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation \$30,000 for junior golf programs.

I personally was surprised to see this, as I didn't realize the contributions this tournament provided. I think we are all aware of the tremendous amounts of charitable contributions golf makes to these truly needed charities.

There was a time in my life where the Sister Kenny Institute was to become a major player in the rehabilitation of my then-injured wife. It was August 29, 1987, and I was completing the construction phase at Pebble Creek C.C. Little did I know that on this particular Saturday the events that were to transpire that afternoon would change my life forever.

I received a call from Mercy Medical Center at 5:30 p.m. that afternoon, was told my wife was involved in an auto accident, that she sustained severe head injuries and that I should get there as soon as possible. I can't tell you how long that ½-hour drive seemed.

For three days, the hospital wanted me close by in the event Mary would become a donor. Mary regained consciousness on the third day, not knowing who or where she was. She had several broken bones and a severe head injury but not internal injuries. The 10 days she spent in intensive care were the longest our family had endured.

For the next five weeks her function level ranged from a four-year-old to a 10-year-old. We were beginning to realize that Mary had reached a plateau and that recovery had gone as far as it could. All things being considered, I prepared myself for a wheelchair-ridden wife and selling our house or divorcing her and having the Sister Kenny Institute care for her with help from the State. At times this was too much to comprehend.

The day before I was to sit down with all parties and decide our course of action, I arrived at the hospital, and there was Mary—standing up, walking around, talking to the nurses, smiling, just being herself like nothing ever happened. I walked around the corner and she said, "Hi, Cary! Look at me!"

I went pale with shock, and I held her in my arms and cried because she finally came back to us. We were witnessing a miracle. The doctors shook their heads; the nurses were crying.

What so rarely happens in a head injury happened to Mary. Her head cleared and her confusion, frustration and existence in an unknown world all started to mean something to her. She was with us once again, and she had no memory of all the pain she had endured. It was truly a miracle!

The days that followed were filled with joy, sorrow, challenge and frustration as Mary returned to work, but she didn't retain the skill capacity she once had to perform

her job. She had no memory of her schooling, her technical training, her childhood and our own past. Imagine my reaction when she turned to me one day and said, "So we're married!" What an empty feeling she must have felt not knowing her past! Bittersweet is the best description for this whole course of events.

We left the hospital healed and humbled, grateful to all who helped and the agencies that lent their skills to give us resolve when I had nowhere to turn.

I am thankful that I chose the golf course profession because it was my therapy during all this. Let's, as Superintendents and Associates, continue to support these fine tournaments that contribute to charities. I feel that our family was blessed with a miracle to have Mary with us today. We all should feel thankful that these agencies were created. They do help our people when there is nowhere else to turn.

— Cary Femrite
Pebble Creek Golf Club

1994 Legacy Awards

The 1994 Legacy Awards scholarship competition is open annually to the children and grandchildren of most GCSAA members. Applications are evaluated based on academic excellence, outside activities and an essay about their (grand)parent's involvement with the profession.

The deadline for application is April 15, 1994. This means that all materials must be **postmarked** no later than April 15. It's a good idea to request transcripts from schools as early as possible to ensure that they're forwarded in time.

Please feel free to call the GCSAA at 913/841-2240 if you have any additional questions about the Legacy Awards.

UPDATE

Pesticide Applicator Training will take place at the 1994 Annual Conference in December. The Mini-Seminar will not offer re-certification. The Mini-Seminar is worth .5 ceu's for certified superintendents.

**Mini-Seminar
March 14, 1994
Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota**