



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

Fortunately for me, my wife Kim and I are of the

same thrifty mindset. Neither of us go “over the top” when it comes to personal luxury items and gifts to one another tend to be fairly conservative. We have maintained our pledges to each of our children and hope to someday support grandchildren in one form or another.

Some would say that we are rather selfish, for beyond the mandated federal and state tax base we contribute to; our voluntary support doesn't extend very far. Over the years we have participated in church groups, sponsored families during the holidays, gave to local animal shelters and of course tossed in the obligatory \$30 for a niece or nephew selling candy bars or St. Jude's pledges.

We don't tithe, limit our political endorsements and never, ever give anything too large to “not for profit” charitable corporations. Just Google America's worst charities and you will be as disgusted as we are over the lack of true charity going on. We hate being duped into supporting a good cause managed by a greedy corporate beneficent.

However, as passionate as we are about withholding our assistance to conglomerate charities, we are proud to extend help to the Wee One Foundation as the monies generated go directly to the people we care about; our peers and their families in times of medical crisis.

Perhaps it is because we know that very little of our contributions go to administrative duties. More likely it is because we appreciate the challenges of turf management families, without the added burden of a health or an accident issue.

Kim and I have talked about the unimaginable and cannot comprehend the turbulence and pressure brought about by illness or mishap.

Thank goodness for The Wee One Foundation and the support generated through tournaments across the country. Since its inception in 2004, the Wee One has gifted over \$800,000 to families in unpleasant situations. In Minnesota alone, over the last five years the MGCSA has generated over \$75,000 for the foundation and, through the process, helped four families.

Kim and I are also proud of the special club we belong to within the Wee One Foundation. After much discussion we agreed three years ago to join the One Percent Endowment Campaign, beyond our annual \$75 membership fee that immediately goes to help current needs.

The goal of the One Percent

Endowment Campaign is to raise \$10 million in 10 years to help support families in need forever. The One Percent Endowment Fund will provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for Wee One mission and new endeavors to benefit individuals and families in the golf course industry. 100% of funds generated through this campaign will be placed in a permanent endowment fund. We feel strongly that this is our opportunity to really make a difference in an industry that has provided us with our livelihood.

We are so enthusiastic about this organization, that this year we jacked up our contribution through additional support of The Rock contest at Brackett's Crossing Country Club. Thank you to those who forced us to make our match pledge.

However, surprisingly and unfortunately, across our whole country, and the over 17,000 members of the GCSAA, fewer than



Now that's what I'm talking about!

400 individuals participate as annual members for just \$75 and only 57 individuals and 8 companies support the Wee One cause at the One Percent Endowment level.

Please do not interpret my writing as being a braggart or attempting to shame anyone into participating. I guess I'm just startled at the limited individual support this amazing foundation receives. Yet on the flip side of the argument, Kim and I are thrilled to be able to support such a worthwhile cause so I guess it balances out my feelings.

Everybody gets to choose

who they support, how much they support, when they support and if they want to support anything at all. We have done our research and decided that rather than watch our discretionary resources dissolve in a bottomless cause, and as this is our primary philanthropic expenditure, we would rather share a gift with our peers and live comfortably knowing all of our support goes where we want it to go; to our friends in the industry and their families when the going gets tough.

It is our greatest wish however, that none of you will ever need benefit from our support.