

Sheri L. Warren

RevelationGolf- Making Golf Accessable to All

Founded just six years ago, RevelationGolf uses our favorite pastime as an outlet for enhancing and developing golf and life skills for veterans, cancer survivors, at-risk-youth girls, and individuals with physical disabilities. Founders Donna Strum and Kathy Williams come from strong golf backgrounds and have built a specialized curriculum to

many great golf organizations over nearly two decades and RevelationGolf is one of the most impressive initiatives I have encountered. I recently spent an afternoon at one of their clinics held at the White Pines Golf Dome. A group of veterans were bussed in from the Hines VA hospital and it was humbling to watch as Kathy and Donna worked with the

the faces of all our veterans attending these golf classes — you don't see them smiling much at the hospital setting (not that it's a horrible place mind you, because they do great things there, too) but when we're all on the bus heading to our golf classes, everyone just smiles the whole time." Ruiz adds, "I can't tell you how thankful I am for Kathy and Donna and what they've done for

Associate Director Kathy Williams said "I feel honored to use my gifts and talents to help others learn and grow in the game of golf. This is just one way I can give back to the game, which has been so good to me."

If you would like more information about RevelationGolf please visit their Web site at www.revelationgolf.org or call them at 630.253.7703.



U.S. Marine veteran Judi Ruiz

is a certified therapeutic recreation specialist, and has worked in the area of accessible golf since 1993. Williams is a former LPGA Tour player, has been a Class A Teaching Professional since 1996, and has been teaching accessible golf since 2002. She was also the Head Women's Golf Coach at the University of Minnesota and the first female Evans Scholar in Minnesota.

RevelationGolf focuses on four basic principles; teach the game of golf and make it fun; teach golfers how to use modified golf equipment when needed; improve the golfers' overall quality of life; and provide quality instruction from their golf and clinical professionals.

As someone who's been in the golf industry for nearly 18 years, I've been introduced to

with their own special needs but all with one goal, to get better at the game of golf!

U.S. Marine veteran Judi Ruiz arrived in a wheelchair and even though she has braces on both legs, she was able to walk to the hitting bay and has learned to hit the golf ball very consistently with her own unique stance that she learned from the RevelationGolf teaching staff. Judi told me "I never believed in golf — I felt that if you hit a ball someone should bring it back to you like in many other sports. However, now that I've been involved with RevelationGolf I love it. These clinics and trips to the golf course have given me back my self confidence which I lost so long ago. And I know it has not only affected me this way. I can't tell you how great it is to see the smiles on

me through RevelationGolf. I feel stronger, healthier, and so confident that I recently qualified to play in the Golden Age Games being held this May in Hawaii."

Judi's story is just one of over 1,000 experiences that RevelationGolf has had with individuals. In their first year they worked with over 250 golfers and this year they hope to reach even more than the 1,017 individuals from the 2010 season.

Executive Director Donna Strum remarked, "I feel that working in and with RevelationGolf is what I was created to do and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to make a profound difference in the lives of others. Especially, those who would otherwise not be able to play the game due to a physical disability or financial restrictions."

Get Involved

RevelationGolf participants learn golf free-of-charge thanks to support from the USGA, CDGA, LPGA, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, Shriners Hospital for Children, and other organizations. They also raise much of their yearly revenue through the annual golf fundraiser — scheduled for June 20, 2011, at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington. If you would like to participate or make donations for the fundraiser, please visit www.revelationgolf.com for all of the details.

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Hamilton County Golf is home to Crooked Stick Golf Club, site of the 2012 BMW Championship.

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