

# Community VISION

East Lake  
FOUNDATION

Summer 2009

## *As temperature rises, learning soars*

Summer may be time for some to relax – but that’s certainly not the case in East Lake.

Dozens of happy campers are making the most of the season at the “Walking on Sunshine” Summer Camp, designed especially for students who attend Drew Charter School or live in The Villages of East Lake. For the first time, the camp is managed by **Laura McCrodden**, Programs Coordinator in Drew’s Office of Extended Services, pictured at right.

Laura and her team have mapped out an exciting summer, filled with hands-on activities that help children apply lessons learned during the school year. This summer’s theme is science, which students will explore through activities (including swim lessons, arts and crafts, and gardening) and unforgettable field trips (including visits to a glass blower, a beekeeper and the University of Georgia). In fact, students will be among the first to see the Monet Water Lilies exhibit at the High Museum of Art! Laura commented, “We want to expose kids to things they’ve never experienced before.”

The program provides an experience that rivals the quality of the area’s best summer camps, at a cost that East Lake families can afford. Thanks to the support of East Lake Foundation donors, the weekly cost per camper ranges from just \$15 to \$25.



East Lake residents have embraced the concept – with registration nearing 130 campers, the camp is at full capacity, with a growing waiting list. Laura noted, “The need is so great that we could easily serve more than 200 kids, if only we had the funds to do so.”

A camp like this is particularly important right now. Laura said, “Without our camp, parents would struggle to pay higher rates elsewhere. We strive to provide programming that matches or exceeds what even the most expensive camps in town offer.”

With your support, these campers can continue to learn and grow. Your donation will be a ray of sunshine in the lives of eager students!

## East Lake students bank on the future

Every Thursday morning at 7:15 during the school year, dedicated Drew students and SunTrust employees arrive early to operate the SunTrust/Drew Youth Bank. Working as tellers, customer service reps, data entry clerks and managers, these student employees have helped their fellow students save nearly \$2,500! SunTrust saluted them for their hard work by inviting them to visit its downtown Atlanta headquarters. Students learned how to spot a counterfeit bill, saw the actual safe deposit box where the original Coca-Cola formula is kept, met bank President **Gary Peacock** and ate lunch in the Board Room.

Drew’s Youth Bank helps students apply math concepts, explore career options and learn the value of saving. It’s one of the innovative programs managed by Drew’s Office of Extended Services (OES), which is supported by generous East Lake Foundation donors. **Lindsey James**, OES Director, commented, “The SunTrust/Drew Youth Bank creates opportunities for learning and engagement at so many levels. I look forward to next year’s Youth Bank and a record number of deposits!”

## Drew welcomes a new leader

When Drew Charter students return to school, they’ll be greeted by a dynamic new Principal, **Don Doran**. Mr. Doran brings nearly 40 years of educational success to his new role, having served as an instructor, an elementary school and middle school Principal and, most recently, as Executive Director for Outward Bound Atlanta.

In other Drew news, the latest state assessment shows that 92% of Drew 8th graders now meet or exceed Georgia writing standards – compared to 74% for Atlanta Public Schools and the state average of 75%. Drew students continue to make strong progress, and we’ll share updates in our next edition.



## Slashing the drop-out rate: *Rising freshmen poised for success*

Did you know that students who fail to graduate are most likely to drop out in 9th grade? That's why CREW Teens developed the High Prep summer program to help rising freshmen and their families prepare for the move to high school.

A record 71 participants are registered for this year's program, which runs June 9 through July 2. Coursework and field trips foster critical thinking, communication skills and educational goal-setting.

Students rave about the program. **Tavarez Tate** credits High Prep for helping him make the honor roll at Carver Early College, and **Yasmine Giddens**, a student at North Atlanta High, said, "High Prep was very exciting. It taught us that we need to go further than college to compete in the world."

Each participant receives a personal plan that helps them select the right classes, maintain good grades and access tutoring. Participants are positioned for success in high school and beyond. To date, all High Prep participants are on their way to successful completion of high school.



*Creating Responsible,  
Educated, Working Teens*

# College, here we come!



For 73 members of the CREW Teens program, the year 2009 will burn bright in their memories. This spring, they graduated high school, ready to embark on post-secondary education.

On June 6, these dedicated students were saluted by families, friends and supporters during the "Moving Beyond the Bridge" ceremony. (Special thanks to Southern Company and **Lee Birdsong** for use of the Preston S. Arkwright auditorium.)

Parents **Pamela Releford** and **Shebrena Peters** praised CREW Teens for exposing their children to college and career options they would never have thought possible – they explained how the program helped transform college from an "if" to a "when" for their sons, who were among the 11 winners of this year's Ann and Thomas Cousins Scholarships.

CREW Teens helps students successfully bridge the gap from middle school to college by providing academic support, counseling and more. While this year's graduating class has just crossed the bridge, another group of bright young students prepares to begin the journey. Please consider making a gift to the East Lake Foundation today – your generosity will pave the way for a brighter future for these eager young students.

## CREW Teens explore career options

The Friends of the First Tee of East Lake hosted the 2nd Annual Take a CREW Teen To Work Day on May 1, enabling 11 members of the CREW Teens program to get an inside look at some of the area's top employers. **Valerie Hartman Levy**, event chair, told participants, "You can't set goals if you don't really know what's out there, so today is all about exposing yourself to opportunities." Friends Board



member **Chris Millard** encouraged students to be curious; he reminded them, "The only bad question is the one that doesn't get asked." The event provided students with valuable insights and connections, and the Friends Board is eager to expand the event in Spring 2010. At left, members of the CREW Teens program prepare to embark on site visits to local employers.

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Friends Cup: Nov. 1 – 2

## First Tee helps kids succeed in golf –

**and life** The First Tee of East Lake continues to build academic achievement and strong values among East Lake youth. This spring, The First Tee of East Lake served more than 200 students – more than 30 who were new to the program. With the addition of one more Drew physical education class, The First Tee now hosts six classes for Drew students every weekday during the school year. After school and Saturday programs continued to attract strong participation. This summer, classes are offered both weekdays and Saturdays, and Director **Nyre Williams** anticipates yet another season at full capacity.

Our First Tee golfers are attracting attention, locally and nationally. More than three dozen East Lake golfers will play in Atlanta Junior Golf Association tournaments this summer. **Markee Harris** and **Darius Davis** were selected to attend The Tennessee Golf Camp, while **Martavious Adams** will attend the prestigious national First Tee Advanced Academy. **Tyler Lawrence** (pictured at right during THE TOUR Championship Media Day) is one of just 44 golfers in the nation invited to compete in the Bill Dickey Invitational, which showcases the talents of the country's top minority junior golfers. **Eddie Smith** was selected to qualify for The First Tee Wal-Mart Open.

Four local First Tee students will tour and play in tournaments in Scotland this summer. The winners, selected by essay competition,

include two girls (**Tyler Lawrence** and **Kelly Willis**) and two boys (**Martavious Adams** and **Miles Goldman**) – thanks to New Links for sponsoring most of the costs associated with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated support of our donors and volunteers. It's easy to help:

- **Volunteer** – Share your time and golf experience with eager students, supported by professional coaches.
- **Provide equipment** – We welcome donations of golf equipment and refreshments.
- **Contribute** – Your support enables us to provide quality programs at a nominal cost, building brighter futures for hundreds of students.

**To learn more, call us at 404-373-4351 or visit [www.eastlakefoundation.org](http://www.eastlakefoundation.org).**



## Friends celebrate Charlie Yates' legacy

Family and friends of the late Charlie Yates gathered on May 28 to honor his memory at the Second Annual Charlie Yates Memorial Junior-Senior Foursomes Tournament. Mr. Yates often credited the positive influence that adults like Bobby Jones had in his formative years. This tournament was created to impact the lives of East Lake



youth in a similar fashion by pairing 26 adults with 26 children of The

First Tee of East Lake. To pay tribute to Mr. Yates' fond memories of sharing a bottle of Coke with Bobby Jones, the winning team of **Jim Grien** and First Tee participant **Ahmad Williams**, pictured above with **Mrs. Charlie (Dorothy) Yates**, received a commemorative crystal Coke bottle trophy, provided by The Coca-Cola Company. After ice cream, all participants toasted Mr. Yates' memory with a bottle of Coke.



## A sign of true sportsmanship

On April 27, Resident Members of East Lake Golf Club paused during their annual outing with golfers from The First Tee of East Lake to celebrate the newest Tee Sign at Charlie Yates Golf Course. Pictured above (from left to right) are **Kevin Dawson, Ryan Barry, Shacora Thomas** and **Roger Cordes**.

The new sign honors Resident Members' steadfast support through the years, while highlighting The First Tee's core value of Sportsmanship,

A limited number of Tee Sign sponsorships are still available, and they're a distinctive way to honor someone special in your life, while supporting The First Tee of East Lake and educational programs at Drew Charter School. To learn more, please contact Rhonda Davidson at [rdavidson@eastlakefoundation.org](mailto:rdavidson@eastlakefoundation.org) or 404-373-4351.

## High school students compete, learn and volunteer

This spring, Atlanta-area high school students learned more about The First Tee when they competed in the inaugural First Tee of East Lake Invitational, held at the East Lake Golf Club.

Golf teams from Lovett, St. Pius, Westminster, Decatur High and Woodward Academy competed against our own First Tee golfers. We salute Friends of the First Tee of East Lake Board member **Tom Wamsley** for spearheading the inaugural outing of this tournament,

More than just a friendly competition, the tournament encouraged students to give back – each visiting golfer committed to volunteering with The First Tee of East Lake's summer program.

Since the tournament, each school has followed up on its commitment to volunteer, and the East Lake Golf Club will host the tournament again next spring.

See a world-class event at a bargain price – while supporting the East Lake Foundation!



After 33 weeks and three Playoff events, it all comes down to one final tournament – THE TOUR Championship presented by Coca-Cola, held Sept. 23-27 at historic East Lake Golf Club. With a new points system, this year’s event promises to be especially thrilling – each of the top 30 players on the PGA TOUR

has a chance to claim the prized FedExCup.

THE TOUR Championship has just introduced a program – TICKETS Fore CHARITY™ – that allows you to buy a weekly ticket book for just \$150 – that’s a 35% discount off the price of single-day tickets and a \$35 discount from last year’s price! The weekly book includes five daily tickets, allowing you to see all the action, Wednesday through Sunday of Championship Week.

Even better, 100% of the proceeds from your purchase can benefit the East Lake Foundation! To reserve your weekly ticket books, just visit eastlakefoundation.org and click on the “TOUR Championship Tickets” tab at the top of the page.

Expect to hear more buzz about TICKETS Fore CHARITY all over town. Through the program, other local charities (including the Atlanta Braves Foundation, Camp Twin Lakes, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Special Olympics of Georgia) will also sell ticket books; those charities receive half of their sale proceeds, with the remaining half earmarked for the East Lake Foundation.

TICKETS Fore Charity weekly ticket books will also be on sale at local Kroger stores, Aug. 30 – Sept. 19. For more information on TICKETS Fore CHARITY, please call Mary Dugenske at 404-373-4351, x22.

You’re just minutes away from enjoying one of America’s top short courses

Located in East Lake – just four miles from downtown Atlanta – the beautifully manicured Charlie Yates Golf Course offers challenging Par 3 and 4 holes with remarkable views of the Atlanta skyline. In fact, Golf Range magazine named the Yates Course (designed by the famed Rees Jones) one of the top short courses in America!



At the Yates Course, you’ll find a grass practice range, as well as a fully stocked golf shop. PGA pros offer individual and group lessons, plus the opportunity to golf with an instructor.

If you’re looking for an attractive, convenient and cost-effective option for your next special event or corporate outing, look no further than the Yates Course. Staff members can plan your entire event, allowing you to spend more time with your clients and guests.

Great prices, convenient hours and a variety of league play options make the Yates Course a terrific choice for any golfer. Even better, net proceeds from the Yates Course support the East Lake Foundation.

**Treat yourself to a day on a beautiful course – and know that you’re making a difference. Reserve your tee time today by calling 404-373-4655.**



2606 Alston Drive, SE ■ Atlanta, GA 30317  
www.eastlakefoundation.org ■ 404-373-4351

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2550  
Atlanta, GA

2008 Progress Report Available

The latest East Lake Foundation Progress Report provides a detailed look at recent milestones. Please visit [www.eastlakefoundation.org](http://www.eastlakefoundation.org) to download your copy today. If you’d like a hard copy of the report, please call our Development Office at 404-373-4351.