

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2015

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2015 Allstate Sugar Bowl Tommy Moore Memorial Invitational Has Defending Champions Looking to Repeat

New Orleans, La. – The Kelly Gibson Foundation, in partnership with Allstate Sugar Bowl, will host the Tommy Moore Memorial Junior Golf Championship at English Turn Golf & Country Club on December 28-29, 2015. The 36-hole championship was established to invite top-ranked golfers from across country to compete in front of college coaches each holiday season in New Orleans.

The field will comprise of 84 amateur golfers, both boys and girls ages 13-18, who are not enrolled in college. This year, the 11 states of Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia will be represented.

Defending champions Julia Johnson of St. Gabriel, La. and Benjamin Nelson III of Madison, Miss. will return in 2015 with aspirations of repeating. Johnson took some time off last fall from competitive tournaments to work on her swing mechanics in preparation for the event. “The Allstate Sugar Bowl Tommy Moore is one of my favorite tournaments of the year. My coach, Rob Noel, and I are doing great work this post-season. I'm looking forward to competing again and I'm hoping to defend my title,” said Johnson.

For Nelson, the 2014 tournament marked his first junior tournament victory and he was able to do so in the presence of his grandfather and longtime PGA TOUR Rules Official, Ben Nelson. “It's exciting to come back to New Orleans and try to defend my title at the Tommy Moore. I have very fond memories of last year and it will always be special to me.”

Tommy Moore is recognized as the most accomplished junior golfer to ever emerge from the New Orleans area. In 1980, Tommy was ranked No. 1 in the Golf Digest Junior World Rankings and went on to have a decorated collegiate career at Oklahoma State University where he was an All-American, National Champion, and Academic All-American. After playing on the PGA TOUR for three seasons, Tommy Moore's life was cut short at the young age of 35 due to a rare blood disease.

In his memory, the Kelly Gibson Foundation partners with the Allstate Sugar Bowl to host a national tournament that recognizes the impact Tommy made on junior golf. “The Allstate Sugar Bowl is proud to once again serve as title sponsor of the Tommy Moore Memorial Junior Golf Tournament,” said Bowl President Carey Wicker. “This event continues to make great strides every year and stands as one of the most competitive and well-run junior tournaments in the Gulf South. We're excited about the prospects for this year and beyond.”

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About the Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour:

PGA Tour Professional Kelly Gibson founded the Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour in 2009. The Kelly Gibson Foundation operates the tour with a mission of creating a positive learning experience through golf by providing competitive tournaments in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Region throughout the year. Registration is open to both male and female golfers ages 7- 22. Members, who are a junior in high school or older, are eligible to apply for scholarships that are awarded based on community service, grade point average and financial need; not golfing ability. Through various community partnerships, 130 scholarships valued at \$291,000 have been provided to participants of the junior golf tour since 2010.

About the Kelly Gibson Foundation:

Kelly and Elizabeth Gibson founded the Kelly Gibson Foundation as Feed the Relief, Inc. in September of 2005 with the idea of providing necessary support for the front line first responders to Hurricane Katrina. In the days and weeks following the disaster after the storm, Feed the Relief provided support to the Coast Guard, EMS personnel, police and fire departments, community centers, hospitals, and residents as they returned to their homes. In 2010, Feed the Relief, a 501(c) (3) corporation, changed its name to the Kelly Gibson Foundation, and expanded its scope to enrich the lives of children through athletics. For more information, please visit www.kellygibsonfoundation.org.

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