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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KELLY GIBSON FOUNDATION SURPASSES \$1 MILLION IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

*This year, the Kelly Gibson Foundation and its community partners have surpassed the \$1,000,000 mark in scholarship funds awarded. In 15 years, the total scholarships awarded from the Kelly Gibson Foundation Scholarship Program has reached \$839,800 to 363 recipients through the Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour, and \$191,000 in scholarships to 77 recipients through the Swing Hard For Soldiers event held each Veterans Day, bringing the total scholarships awarded by the Kelly Gibson Foundation to \$1,030,800.*

COVINGTON, La., August 2, 2024 – The Kelly Gibson Foundation along with its community partners awarded \$55,500 in college scholarships to 25 members of the Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour that participated in the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust Mentorship Program held June-July 2024. Scholarships were given to deserving participants last night at the 2024 Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour Annual Awards Banquet presented by Alvarez & Marsal. In addition to scholarships, awards were presented to winners of the Raising Cane’s Player of the Year in each KGJGT Age Division, as well as two Charlie Knox Sportsmanship Awards, and the Dr. John and Helen Moore Distinguish Service Award. The event was held at Tchefuncta Country Club and had approximately 135 attendees. Each year, these scholarships are awarded based on community service, sportsmanship, academic achievements, and financial need.

### **Five (5) scholarships totaling \$17,500 were given on behalf of the Fore!Kids Foundation.**

Peyton Flynn - \$5,000 the FKF Board Chairman Scholarship  
Matthew Biehl - \$5,000 FKF Buddy Seeling “Making a Difference” Scholarship  
Elle Lewis - \$2,500 Zurich Classic Tournament Chairman Scholarship  
Laila Badger - \$2,500 Zurich Classic Title Sponsor Scholarship  
Claire Chauvin - \$2,500 The Mackel Scholarship

### **Five (5) scholarships totaling \$12,500 were given on behalf of the BC Cup Foundation in memory of Barry Hogan and Colin Headrick.**

Jackson Heap - \$2,500 BC Cup Gary & Gerry McCool Scholarship  
Nicasia Chase - \$2,500 Jack O’Neill Memorial Charity Scholarship  
Jacques Holloway - \$2,500 Jack O’Neill Memorial Charity Scholarship sponsored by the Silver Slipper Casino Hotel  
Blair McKenzie - \$2,500 BC Cup Lindsey Ladouceur Scholarship  
Justin Ladmirault - \$2,500 BC Cup Foundation Scholarship

### **Four (4) scholarships totaling \$10,000 were given on behalf of the Allstate Sugar Bowl.**

Kaleb Vu - \$2,500 Allstate Sugar Bowl Scholarship  
Katelynn Altese - \$2,500 Allstate Sugar Bowl Scholarship  
Benjamin Chiasson - \$2,500 Allstate Sugar Bowl Scholarship  
Graham Jacobson - \$2,500 Allstate Sugar Bowl Scholarship

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**Six (6) scholarships totaling \$9,000 were given on behalf of the New Orleans Golf Association.**

Malayna Michelle - \$2,000 Clarence Steeg Scholarship  
Maddie Rudolph - \$2,000 Tommy Moore Scholarship  
Ellie LeBoeuf - \$2,000 Tommy Moore Scholarship  
Ava Shepard - \$1,000 Gerald Causin Scholarship  
Kailey Batte - \$1,000 William Smith Scholarship  
Preston Paulk - \$1,000 Herb Price Scholarship

Other scholarships included were The P.I.G. Invitational Charity Scholarships, Susan & Garic Schoen Scholarship, and Kelly Gibson Foundation Scholarships. Recipients of these scholarships were the following:

*Lexie Crappel - \$1,500 P.I.G. Invitational Charity Scholarship*  
*Alison Quirk - \$1,500 P.I.G. Invitational Charity Scholarship*  
*Samantha Schultz - \$1,500 Susan & Garic Schoen Scholarship*  
*Preston Kuehne - \$1,000 Kelly Gibson Foundation Scholarship*  
*Ashlyn Crimmins - \$1,000 Kelly Gibson Foundation Scholarship*

Other awards presented at the 2024 Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour Annual Awards Banquet included the Raising Cane's Player of the Year Award for each KGJGT Age Division, two Charlie Knox Sportsmanship Awards, and the Dr. John & Helen Moore Distinguished Service Award. Recipients of these awards were the following:

*Aidan Caruso – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Boys 7-10 Division)*  
*Owen Lejeune – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Boys 11-13 Division)*  
*Justin Lotz – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Boys (14-15 Division)*  
*Beau Drury – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Boys 16-17 Division)*  
*Evan Favalora – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Boys 18-22 Division)*  
*Emery Kane – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Girls 7-13 Division)*  
*Karstyn Altese – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Girls 14-17 Division)*  
*Katelynn Altese – Raising Cane's Player of the Year (Girls 18-22 Division)*  
*Abigail Cheramie – Charlie Knox Sportsmanship Award*  
*Jack Occhipinti – Charlie Knox Sportsmanship Award*  
*Luke Farabaugh – Dr. John & Helen Moore Distinguished Service Award*

**Kelly Gibson Foundation Community Partners:**

The Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour has many proud partners: Crown Buick GMC, Alvarez & Marsal, Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust, Fore!Kids Foundation, Allstate Sugar Bowl, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Manning Lumber & Marine, The BC Cup Foundation, New Orleans Golf Association, Rob Noel Golf Academy, Guidry Golf & Sport, Ballard Brands, The P.I.G. Invitational Charity, The Mackel, Hancock Whitney Bank, Champagne Beverage, Prime Hydration, Jennifer Abney Photography, Foti Financial Services, and tasc Performance.

**About the Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour:**

The Kelly Gibson Junior Golf Tour was founded in 2009 by PGA Tour Professional Kelly Gibson. The Kelly Gibson Foundation operates the junior golf tour with the mission of creating a positive learning experience through golf by providing competitive golf tournaments throughout the year. The KGJGT is open to both male and female golfers ages 7-22, with members competing in junior golf tournaments throughout New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Region. Regardless of the players' golfing ability, scholarships are awarded based on community service, grade point average and financial need. All active members of the KGJGT and mentors of the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust Mentorship Program who are at least juniors in high school are eligible to receive scholarships.

**About The Kelly Gibson Foundation:**

The Kelly Gibson Foundation was founded as Feed the Relief, Inc. by Kelly and Elizabeth Gibson 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 of Katrina, 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](http://www.kellygibsonfoundation.org).*

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