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**ELS FOR AUTISM GOLF CHALLENGE TEES OFF JULY 18 AT
HOAKALEI COUNTRY CLUB**

Teams play major courses, win major prizes and support a major cause

‘EWA BEACH, HAWAI‘I (July 9, 2013) – The Els for Autism Golf Challenge, the largest charity-driven, national golf series in the United States, will stage one of its 20+ Super Regional events on Thursday, July 18, at the Ernie Els designed golf course at Hoakalei Country Club. Amateur golfers are invited to take up the “Challenge” by registering two-person teams for the event and in doing so raise funds for the Els for Autism Foundation. Entry fees are \$400 per player and team sponsorship packages are from \$5,000; entry includes golf, on-course snacks and beverages, an awards reception, exclusive Els for Autism Gift Bags and the chance to win great prizes. Teams can register online at www.e4aGolf.com.

The Hoakalei Country Club event is one of over 20 events being staged at top-rated courses across the U.S. and Canada from April through September, as part of the largest international charity-driven golf tournament in history. The season-long event series, which is the brainchild of World of Golf Hall of Famer and four-time Major Champion Els, is now in its third year and culminates in a series Finale in Las Vegas in October hosted by Ernie and his wife Liezl; the Founders of the Els for Autism Foundation.

A portion of the funds raised on July 18 will be used to develop the Els GameON Autism Youth Golf Clinics on O‘ahu. Funds will also be used to support the creation of the Els Center of Excellence. The Center will not only be a state-of-the-art school for children on the autism spectrum ages 3-21 but it will also be a hub for Els for Autism’s worldwide operations, enabling the Foundation make a difference to thousands of families with children on the spectrum across the U.S and beyond.

In this event series, a team's fundraising ability is valued as much as their performance on the golf course. The lowest netting team will earn a \$6,500 credit toward a coveted spot in the Golf Challenge Grand Finale in Las Vegas in October, and every team that raises \$13,000 or more will automatically qualify to join Ernie and friends in Las Vegas, where major prizes will be up for grabs including trips to Africa, South America and England courtesy of Mantis and South African Airways.

The Ernie Els design golf course at Hoakalei Country Club was named the Best Golf Course in the United States and Americas, according to The Americas Property Awards in 2010 in association with Bloomberg Television. The par-72, 7,400-yard championship golf course overlooks O'ahu's stunning western coastline. Teams will enjoy 248 acres of open vistas and be challenged by water features on most holes and strategically placed bunkers throughout.

“Please tee it up at a great course for an important cause and help Liezl and I make a difference to the lives of thousands of families affected by autism,” said Ernie Els, whose 10-year old son Ben is severely touched by autism, and who established the Els for Autism Foundation in 2009 with his wife, Liezl. “Teams that get involved in the fundraising competition and qualify for the Finale are in for a real treat in Las Vegas – we really do have a great time there; it’s a couple of days that shouldn’t be missed!”

Since its inaugural 2011 series, the Els for Autism Golf Challenge has raised over \$4 million for autism thanks to 3,300 rounds of golf and over 13,000 donors pledging funds. The series has also helped raise awareness of a disorder that that now affects a staggering 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys. For more information about the event, call (808) 853-4343. To register, visit Hoakalei Golf Club’s pro shop or online at www.e4aGolf.com.

About The Els for Autism Foundation

The Foundation was established in 2009 by Liezl and Ernie Els shortly after their son Ben was diagnosed with autism. The Foundation has since embarked on a catalytic project – the establishment of a state-of-the-art Center of Excellence with local, national and global reach. Els for Autism is a US 501(c)(3) public charity (EIN #26-3520396). For more information, visit www.elsforautism.com.

About Hoakalei Country Club

Hoakalei Country Club offers members an unprecedented private golf experience, combining a beautiful oceanfront resort setting and social activities with a fun, yet challenging layout. The 18-hole, 7,400-yard golf course overlooks O'ahu's stunning southwestern coastline and was named the Best Golf Course in the United States and Americas, according to The Americas Property Awards 2010 in association with Bloomberg Television, and among the Best New Private Courses of 2009 by LINKS magazine. For more information, visit www.hoakaleicountryclub.com.

Photography: Can be downloaded for editorial use at: www.elsforautism.phanfare.com/5948584

Donations

- **To donate by check:** make out checks to Els for Autism and address to: Els for Autism, 3900 Military Trail, Suite 200, Jupiter, FL 33458
- **To donate online** visit: www.elsforautism.com
- **To donate by cell phone*:** text **e4a** to **20222** to donate **\$5 (Message and Data rates may apply)**

*A one-time donation of **\$5.00** will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. All donations must be authorized by the account holder. User must be age 18 or older or have parental permission to participate. By texting YES, the user agrees to the terms and conditions. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. Service is available on most carriers. Donations are collected for the benefit of the **Els for Autism Foundation** by the Mobile Giving Foundation and subject to the terms found at www.hmgf.org/t. Message & Data Rates May Apply. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting **STOP** to short code 20222; text **HELP** to 20222 for help.

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