

NEWS RELEASE

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ConnectAbility to Host 1st Golf Tournament

October 26 fundraiser welcomes golfers of all abilities

Dahlonega, GA – October 1, 2020 Dahlonega resident Jon Crais loves nothing better than early morning on a beautiful golf course. After experiencing a traumatic brain injury, Crais, a board member of the nonprofit ConnectAbility, waited seven years to return to the game. On Monday October 26, he will join golfers of all abilities and all skill levels in the inaugural *ConnectAbility Golf Tournament*.

Known for community events like an annual race and an innovative photography initiative, ConnectAbility will hold its first golf tournament and fundraiser at Achasta Golf Club in Dahlonega, starting at 10 a.m.

“We’re looking forward to a day of celebration and friendly competition,” says ConnectAbility founder and executive director Jacqueline Daniel. “For nearly 20 years ConnectAbility has helped strengthen our community by bringing people together through friendship and shared interests,” adds Daniel. “With the tournament, we’re excited to reach out to the area’s avid golfers, and to those who have always wanted to play.”

The tournament is open to anyone who wishes to participate, but registration will be capped to ensure social distancing. The entry fee of \$150 per player, or \$600 per team, will benefit ConnectAbility programs and expansion plans in the areas of housing, transportation and employment.

Depending on the need, golfers will be able to take advantage of specialized equipment, including Achasta’s solo-rider, a three-wheeled cart with a seat that lifts a golfer into a standing position to swing. The club hosts an adaptive golf program affiliated with the Georgia State Golf Association.

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Passion for the links is something amputee Ken Taylor knows well. A retired aerial photographer and adaptive golf coach, Taylor is volunteering his expertise to help tournament organizers. Says Taylor, "ConnectAbility is a phenomenal organization and I'm happy to be involved. Getting back to golf was life-changing for me. The first day I picked up a club again I didn't yet have a prosthesis, but being able to hit the ball on one leg was incredible."

One of the golfers Taylor has coached is ConnectAbility board member Jon Crais, who has very limited use of his left, dominant side. "I thought golf was not a possibility because of my physical limitations, but thanks to Ken Taylor I reconnected to the sport I love."

Crais encourages all golfers to join him October 26 for the *ConnectAbility Golf Tournament* as they vie for a \$15,000 hole-in-one prize. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities and registration at ConnectAbility.org/golf, or by calling (404) 480-8287.

ConnectAbility is a Dahlonega, Georgia-based nonprofit that builds communities where people of all abilities are valued, included and empowered. The organization serves 6,000 individuals and families each year, connecting them through shared purpose, mutual respect and friendship. Learn more at connectabilityinc.org.

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