



April 28, 2020

David P. Misky
Assistant Director
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

David,

Since 2000, Bringing The Gap Learning Center, Inc (BTG), 501(c)(3) non-profit Organization, has been dedicated to the mission of promoting the game of golf to a diverse population in the Milwaukee community. To satisfy this mission, BTG established numerous programs to present golf and its values to individuals who may otherwise never had a chance to learn the game. BTG programs are designed not only to teach the physical skills of golf, but also to instill honesty, self-discipline, camaraderie, and appreciation for the game.

BTG has established unique partnerships with the public and private sectors, such as the Golf Foundation of Wisconsin, National First Tee program, City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association Commerce, Milwaukee Public Schools, Marquette University National Youth Sports Program, and several community-based organizations. BTG constructed a Learning Center at 1630 W State St on a vacant lot owned by the City of Milwaukee with a lease agreement with the City of Milwaukee. The vacant lot was transformed into the first of its kind golf training facility in the country. The outdoor portion of the facility is comprised of 12 hitting stations with netting, a short game practice area and a putting green and is adjacent to an indoor clubhouse. Over 70% of the construction was built by individuals from the Milwaukee Central City.

Over the years BTG has had to make adjustments in partnerships and programs. Some organizations no longer exist, and others no longer offer golf as alternative sport. However, for the past six years, Milwaukee Bradley Tech Boys and Girls golf team has used BTG as their home practice facility. Several other Milwaukee Public School golf teams have used BTG over the same time period such as Rufus King High School, Riverside High School, Obama High School, Washington High School and Milwaukee School of Language. BTG has hosted back to school supplies giveaways, youth dental screening, access to the facility by Marquette University students and "Doors Open Milwaukee".

Moving forward our program season will start from April through September, Monday through Thursday, approximately 2 to 4 hours (depending on the number of participants). Because the majority of our programming is outdoors, we are limited to what we can offer. BTG's proposal, along with a continued relationship with The First Tee of Southeast Wisconsin is an expansion of the current site. The redevelopment plans for this site would entail an extension of the existing facility to include a conference center, meeting space, and a small kitchen. The indoor facility would open to the public. This expansion will allow us to offer course lessons and events. BTG will also use the expansion as a job training opportunity in construction by

bringing skilled and unskilled labor together as we did with the original construction.

Bridging the Gap Accomplishments:

1. Approximately spent \$750,000 on site improvement.
2. Positive relationships with Marquette University and community organizations.
3. Thousands of individuals introduced to the game of golf for the first time.
4. Recognized by the PGA as the first-of-its-kind golf training facility in the country and highlight by the PGA to national audience.
5. One Evan Scholar Scholarship recipient.
6. One Kansas State golf training scholarship recipient.
7. Four (4) Stevens Point golf training scholarship recipients.
8. Bridging the Gap Golf Academy in partnership with Westmoor Country Club.
9. Caddie Training.
10. Assisted in providing encouragement, confidence and inspiration to the community.

It is our hope, with your continuous support, we can continue to offer golf as an alternative sport to a diverse population. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Byrd, Jr.
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