



# New Honda Classic Cottage Home to Young Men in Extended Foster Care

From: **Place of Hope**



The Honda Classic, a PGA TOUR golf event in Palm Beach Gardens, made its relationship with Place of Hope permanent with the naming of the Honda Classic Cottage.

At a dedication ceremony on Aug. 26, the Honda Classic Cottage became part of the Villages of Hope (VOH) campus, 3551 Burma Circle. The Cottage, which is home to four young men who have aged out of foster care, is the location of VOH's Extended Foster Care (EFC) program.

Similar to the model of care established by VOH, EFC provides a critical bridge of support between the age of 18, when youth are no longer eligible for state care, and their

early 20s, when they have achieved a level of maturity, self-sufficiency and education needed to be successful adults.

The ECF program is an intermediary step that allows VOH's youngest residents to complete, at a minimum, their high school education, while still living in a home supported by an adult caregiver.

"The Honda Classic is a valued friend to Place of Hope, which has demonstrated its dedication to our mission time and time again," said Executive Director Charles Bender. "This is Honda Classic's most significant investment in our plan to help young people on their paths to independence, and we are very grateful for their continued support."

This is the first time a Cottage has been named for The Honda Classic. It is a continuation of the wide level of support that Palm Beach County's largest sporting event provides to the local community.

The Honda awarded a record \$2.55 million to 136 different children's charities in 2014. That exceeded the previous record of \$2.13 million which was given to a wide roster of local causes last year. It is the eighth straight year the event has increased its charitable distribution. When the tournament moved to PGA National Resort & Spa in 2007, it awarded \$430,000. By 2010, it had eclipsed the \$1 million mark (\$1,018,961) and it broke through the \$2 million barrier in 2013.

The continued rise in giving has been made possible by player, sponsor and spectator support. Players such as Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood, Graeme McDowell and recent U.S. Open champ Martin Kaymer have made The Honda part of their regular schedules. The star power has led to increased ticket sales, parking revenues, concessions and sponsorships.

“Initiatives such as this Honda Classic Cottage at Place of Hope are what The Honda Classic is all about, giving back to the community,” Honda Classic Executive Director Kenneth R. Kennerly said. “Through the universal support that our event is receiving, we are doing everything that we can do to change the lives of children and make a difference. We are thrilled that those initiatives led us to Place of Hope and that The Honda Classic Cottage will now be a fixture in its everyday program.”

In western Boca Raton, Place of Hope at the Haven Campus is renovating the Alumni Impact Girls’ Cottage, which will welcome young women who have aged out of foster care. Working together, the Place of Hope network of campuses and programs is building a community of family-style care for hundreds of children at a time.

#### ABOUT PLACE OF HOPE:

With locations in Palm Beach Gardens, West Palm Beach and Boca Raton, Place of Hope is a faith-based, state-licensed child welfare organization that provides family-style foster care (emergency and long-term); family outreach and intervention; maternity care; safety for domestic minor sexually trafficked victims; transitional housing and support services; adoption and foster care recruitment and support; hope and healing opportunities for children and families who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect.

#### ABOUT THE HONDA CLASSIC:

The Honda Classic is a PGA TOUR event played annually at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens featuring top players worldwide in the game of golf. The tournament benefits a variety of local children’s charities, with charitable contributions topping \$10.5 million in the eight years it has been held in Palm Beach County.

Photo Caption: Ed McEnroe, Charles Bender and Ken Kennerly