

Dana Szymkowiak Named as PGA REACH WNY Fairway Future Trustee

Szymkowiak Makes Two Year Commitment to Youth, Military, and Diverse Populations through PGA REACH WNY



EAST AMHERST, NY (April 9, 2024) – Born and raised in Buffalo, NY, Dana has always carried a deep sense of pride for her hometown - so much so that she proudly has three different Buffalo themed tattoos as a testament to her love for the city.

Professionally, Dana worked nearly 10 years at Safetec of America, Inc., a locally-based manufacturer renowned for its USAmade first aid and infection control products. As the Senior Business Development Coordinator, Dana collaborates closely with various teams, leverages her expertise to identify new business opportunities, and devises strategies aimed at bolstering the company's revenue.

Despite growing up surrounded by golf enthusiasts, her dad and two brothers specifically, Dana had hesitated to join in, always feeling intimidated by the male-dominated culture. However, after a few of her girlfriends took up the sport, she decided to give it a try. Dana played in her first ever round of golf back in May 2023 and instantly fell in love with the sport. She found solace in its challenges, the precision of its mechanics, and the joy of spending time outdoors.

“As a recent addition to the PGA REACH WNY Fairway Future Trustees, I am honored to stand alongside esteemed leaders committed to breaking down barriers in golf. The warm welcome I've received from the Western New York golf community reinforces the importance of inclusivity in this sport. Together, we share a vision of promoting golf as an accessible and welcoming pastime, irrespective of gender or background,” said Szymkowiak. “In joining this esteemed organization, I am eager to contribute to our shared mission of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the world of golf. With every swing, we have the opportunity to reshape the narrative of this sport and inspire countless others to take their place on the fairways.”

The mission of PGA REACH WNY is to positively impact the lives of youth, military, and diverse populations through the game of golf. PGA REACH WNY was created with a goal of providing support to various organizations within the boundaries of the Western New York PGA Section. Through the game of golf, the Foundation will work to fund and conduct programs supporting its mission, including the Western New York Section PGA Junior Golf initiatives and various other underprivileged youth golf programs. The Foundation will also conduct and/or support a variety of initiatives that serve the founding pillars: youth (PGA Jr. League), military (PGA HOPE), and diversity in golf (PGA WORKS).

“Our Foundation is so thrilled to have Dana joining our perpetually growing and diversifying group of Foundation Trustees,” said Director of Development, John Osberg. “Dana has caught lightning in a bottle with her [Lady Links of Buffalo](#) group whose mission is to introduce the game of golf to more women around WNY! Her desire to serve and passion and commitment to driving accessibility in the game of golf will ensure that PGA REACH WNY continues to exceed its mission driven expectations. Dana is yet another crucial player in our planning and execution process as PGA REACH WNY continues to grow its commitment to Positively Impacting Lives Through the Game of Golf.”

About Dana Szymkowiak

After experiencing the awkwardness and intimidation often faced by women in golf, as well as having the best time playing with an all-girl foursome, Dana was inspired to create a more inclusive space. Dana founded The Lady Links of Buffalo — a community dedicated to fostering camaraderie, skill-building, and empowerment among female golfers. Through events, workshops, and "link ups," Dana and her team strive to cultivate confidence and friendship while also celebrating the fashion and fun that golf offers.

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