



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI AND ITS FOUR WINDS CASINOS HOST A MEDIA DAY FOR THE 2024 FOUR WINDS INVITATIONAL

Beacon Children's Hospital announced how the tournament proceeds will be used

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – June 27, 2024 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds® Casinos are pleased to announce that they hosted a media day today at South Bend Country Club as part of the build up to the 2024 Four Winds Invitational. During the press conference Beacon Children's Hospital announced its plan to purchase 20 new syringe feeding pumps for its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) using proceeds from the tournament. The syringe feeding pumps used in the NICU are medical devices that deliver nutrition to patients who are unable to take breast milk or formula orally. The media were also invited to play South Bend Country Club's highly-ranked golf course.

“The Pokagon Band and our Four Winds Casinos are very proud of our longtime sponsorship of the Four Winds Invitational, which has generated close to \$1,000,000 in proceeds for Beacon Health System and Beacon Children's Hospital over the last 12 years,” said Rebecca Richards, Tribal Chairwoman for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. “We are looking forward to the 13th edition of the tournament this year and appreciate the continued support from the South Bend community including the City of South Bend, our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, team members, as well as our partners, the LPGA's Epson Tour and South Bend Country Club.”

Mary Smith, Chief Operating Officer of Four Winds Casinos added, “Including this year's purse of \$262,500, we have offered over \$1.7 million in prize money since we began hosting the Four Winds Invitational in 2012. Having the tournament proceeds go to Beacon Children's Hospital, has made the Four Winds Invitational extra special not only for the players, but also everyone involved in supporting the tournament.”

City of South Bend Mayor James Mueller said, “The City of South Bend is grateful for its government-to-government relationship with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi and their long-term support of important community resources like Beacon Children's Hospital,” said Mayor James Mueller. “Ensuring families and children get access to the care they need is a key priority, and we look forward to another great Four Winds Invitational this year.”

Jen Tonkovich, Director of Women and Children's Services for Beacon Health System said, “We would like to thank the Pokagon Band, its Four Winds Casinos, South Bend Country Club and its members, as well as all of the sponsors and donors from the South Bend community for their continued generous

support over the years. Receiving the proceeds from the Four Winds Invitational has not only helped us better serve children and families in the region, but also helped us plan for the future in ways we can continue to improve our quality of care. This year's contribution will enable us to expand our portfolio of life saving and maternal care equipment.”

Greg Helmkamp, General Manager and Head Golf Professional at South Bend Country Club added, “South Bend Country Club is very excited to host the 2024 Four Winds Invitational. The caliber of our golf course and facilities coupled with the enthusiasm from the players and support of our members and volunteers, will help make the 13th edition of the Four Winds Invitational, the best tournament yet.”

The Four Winds Invitational is part of the Epson Tour, which entered its 44th year of structured competition in 2024 and is the most established women's qualifying tour in the world as the one “Road to the LPGA.” The tournament will take place from Friday, August 30 through Sunday, September 1 at South Bend Country Club. Volunteers are needed to fill a variety of roles including assisting with scoring duties and serving as building attendants, caddies, cart drivers, driving range attendants, food and beverage servers, marshals and spotters, parking attendants, standard bearers, shuttle drivers, and more. For more information and to complete the volunteer application, please visit <http://fourwindsinvitational.com/volunteer/>.

For questions regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact Steve Infalt, Four Winds Invitational Volunteer Coordinator at fwivolunteer@southbendcc.com.

About the Four Winds Invitational

The Four Winds® Invitational was established in 2012 as part of the Road to the LPGA®, and is sponsored by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds® Casinos. The tournament features a field of professional women golfers from around the world. More information is available at: <http://fourwindsinvitational.com/>.

About The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi's sovereignty was reaffirmed under legislation signed into law by President Clinton in September of 1994. The Pokagon Band is dedicated to providing community development initiatives such as housing, education, family services, medical care, and cultural preservation for its more than 6,000 citizens. The Pokagon Band's ten-county service area includes four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. Its main administrative offices are located in Dowagiac, Mich., with a satellite office in South Bend, Ind. In 2007, it opened Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., followed by Four Winds Hartford in 2011, Four Winds Dowagiac in 2013 and Four Winds South Bend in January 2018. The Pokagon Band operates a variety of non-gaming businesses through its investment enterprises, Mno-Bmadsen and the Pokagon Development Authority. More information is available at www.pokagonband-nsn.gov, www.fourwindscasino.com and www.mno-bmadsen.com.

About the Epson Tour

The Epson Tour is the official qualifying tour of the LPGA Tour and enters its 44th competitive season in 2024. With the support of entitlement partner [Seiko Epson Corporation](http://www.seikoepson.com), the Tour's mission is to prepare the world's best female professional golfers for a successful career on the LPGA Tour. In the last

decade, the Epson Tour has grown from 15 tournaments and \$1.6 million in prize money to \$5 million awarded across 20 events in 2024. With more than 600 graduates and alumnae moving on to the LPGA Tour, former Epson Tour players have won 480 LPGA titles.

Follow the Epson Tour at www.epsontour.com, as well as on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Media Contact:

David Gutierrez for the Pokagon Band and its Four Winds Casinos, (312) 780-7204,
dgutierrez@dresnerco.com