



North County's MacKinzie Kline, national spokesperson for The Children's Heart Foundation since 2002, has helped raise more than \$1 million for congenital heart defect research on behalf of the foundation.

Local teen golf sensation MacKinzie Kline comes out swinging on April 24 to raise second million to fight heart defects

By Lee Schoenbart

"Fun" is the operative word.

Just ask MacKinzie Kline.

She's the girl who literally had just part of a heart.

Ask her what it's like to tour the country raising awareness and funds for congenital heart defect (CHD) research, the No. 1 birth defect in children, and she'll tell you, in a word.

"After a while it just got really fun. It's ton of fun going to fundraisers from Chicago and New Jersey to San Diego," said MacKinzie, now 16, who underwent her first of two open heart surgeries at 11 weeks old and was told she would never live the life of a "normal" child.

In the United States, nearly one out of every 100 children is born with a congenital heart defect. That's approximately 40,000 children each year, 110 children each day or one child every 15 minutes.

Since MacKinzie became national spokesperson for The Children's Heart Foundation in 2002 at the ripe old age of 10, she has helped raise more than \$1 million for CHD research on behalf of the foundation.

"It's just a lot of fun to see all the people that come out and support and help," said MacKinzie, affectionately known as "Mac," about the legions of people who participate along side her at golfing fundraisers throughout the United States.

Mac, who hails from Encinitas, returns home to North County on April 25 to host The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) 2008 Annual Carlsbad Mac Kline Golf Classic, now in its fourth year. The event will

be at The Crossings at Carlsbad, named by Golf magazine as one of the "Top 10 New Courses You Can Play."

In addition to individual play, the foursome tournament and dinner, the Mac Kline Golf Classic will feature a hole-in-one contest and raffle prizes including vacation getaways, dinner, golf equipment and a new car, plus a live and silent auction with all proceeds benefiting the CHF initiatives.

"At first when I started raising money I did smaller things like I'd be on one hole and I'd just hit shots. It would be a completely different fundraiser," Mac said, "and just that one hole I would say, this is a hole to raise money for charity, the Children's Heart Foundation, and that's kind of how I started raising money.

"I started to get into the Chicago events and then more, bigger fundraisers for the Children's Heart Foundation started to happen," she said, noting the foundation's base outside the Windy City in Lincolnshire.

About her return to North County, Mac said, "That's really fun because, first of all, I'm at home, so all we have to do is drive to the golf course, do the fundraiser and then we get to drive home."

As for The Crossings, she said, "I love it a lot. It's hard, but we're going to play a really cool golf course.

"I love when I hit my driver good," said Mac, who shoots about a 75 or 76. "When I hit it straight and I hit it really good, it's such a fun feeling."

Her longest drive?

"I can hit about 250 yards if I hit it good," she said. "It's fun though, seriously, when you hit it great, the feeling is like "yeah!"

Mac's next goal: to raise a second million in two years.

"In the next two years," she said, "I want to raise \$2 million."

The course is at 5800 The Crossings Drive (formerly Hidden Valley Road) in Carlsbad.

Shotgun start for golfers begins at 12:30 p.m.; dinner is at 7 p.m.

Individuals can participate at \$375 each and \$1,500 per foursome. Individual and foursome tickets include greens fee and cart, a box lunch, post-golf and dinner cocktails, range balls, the dinner and awards banquet, plus prizes in a golf gift packet. Dinner only is \$75 per person.

For online event registration, go to www.mackline.com/registration/registration.aspx.

For information, call (760) 212-1004 or e-mail classicevents2007@yahoo.com.

To learn more, visit www.mackline.com and www.childrensheartfoundation.org.