

pro kids   
 first tee  
san diego

# *Annual* **CELEBRATES GALA**

Saturday, June 14, 2025  
Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines



*Raising the Bar*

**Honoring:  
Pat Swan**



# **FERREIRA**



**CONGRATS TO PAT SWAN FOR HIS  
UNWAVERING DEDICATION IN SHAPING PRO  
KIDS, FIRST TEE!**



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## *Celebrates Gala Committee*

**Thank you to our amazing Celebrates Gala Committee!** We are so grateful for your time, energy, and support in bringing this event to life. Your dedication means so much to our team, our mission, and the Pro Kids community. **We couldn't have done it without you!**

Mark Andrews	Jeff Schmal
Ken Bien	Will Speer
Kristin Cuthbertson	Pat Swan
Lucy Labruzzo	Roberto Rodriguez
Marco Ochoa	Amy Romaker
Vivian Sayward	

## *Tonight's Program*

### **5 p.m. - Reception**

- Pro Kids Scavenger Hunt
- Beat the Scholar Putting Contest - Courtesy of Callaway Golf
- 360° Video Booth - Sponsored by Ferreira Power

### **6:45 p.m. - Program Start**

- Celebrates Welcome Video
- Welcome Remarks Jennifer Pillsbury, CEO
- Special Introductions - Honorable Nita Stormes and Patrick Swan
- Honoree Remarks - Pat Swan
- Pro Kids Scavenger Hunt Announcement
- Live Auction
- Alumni Reflection - Said Shaba, Pro Kids Alumnus
- Raise the Paddle



**Don't miss out on our amazing silent and live auction items!** Scan the QR code or visit your BidPal page to start bidding. If you have any questions, just ask one of our staff members—we're happy to help!



# Welcome!



The Pro Kids, First Tee – San Diego Board of Directors and I are honored to welcome you to the 2025 Celebrates Gala! Tonight, we come together to celebrate the mission of Pro Kids, First Tee to provide underserved youth with the opportunity to excel in life by promoting character development, life skills and values through education and the game of golf.

Throughout the evening, you'll meet our dedicated staff and many of the young people who benefit from our programs. These kids receive mentorship, guidance and scholarship support to help them achieve their goals and ultimately be successful in their life journey.

Thanks to your generosity and the ongoing support of our community, we're able to make this impact possible. Together, we're supporting more than 760 active Pro Kids, First Tee members and reaching over 1,800 youth across San Diego – helping them grow, lead and succeed. Thank you for being here tonight, and for being part of our mission.

**Ken Bien, President, Board of Directors**



Welcome to our 2025 Celebrates Gala—an evening to reflect, uplift, and honor the remarkable people and partnerships that make Pro Kids, First Tee a place where futures take shape and possibilities expand.

Our theme, Raising the Bar, speaks to our collective ambition—to challenge the status quo, to push boundaries, and to reimagine what's possible when young people are empowered with the tools, guidance, and belief they need to thrive.

This past year has been one of meaningful growth and bold steps forward. With the help of our partners and champions, we've expanded academic enrichment, deepened character development, and created more access to golf and life-changing opportunities for youth across our region. This progress doesn't happen alone.

We're proud to recognize transformative partners like Callaway Golf and the Callaway Golf Foundation, whose leadership continues to shape what's possible for our members. We're also grateful to the Century Club and The Legacy Foundation for their long-standing commitment to our mission.

And tonight, we pay special tribute to someone who embodies this spirit of commitment and vision:

**Pat Swan.** Pat's decades-long support has built a foundation of opportunity and belonging that generations of Pro Kids will continue to stand on.

To each of you here tonight—thank you. Your presence and generosity, and your belief in our work not only sustain us—they inspire us. Together, we are raising the bar—for our organization, for our youth, and for the future we are building side by side.

**Jennifer Pillsbury, CEO**



## *Thank you, Pat Swan!*

Edward Patrick Swan Jr., or Pat as his friends call him, is a seasoned trial attorney with over 40 years of experience. Pat serves on the Pro Kids Board of Directors and currently sits on the Executive Committee as Secretary. His support of Pro Kids extends beyond his leadership role—Pat has graciously and generously contributed to the organization, helping to advance our mission and impact in meaningful ways.

**Pat has shown up time and time again for our members—volunteering for the scholarship interviews, supporting the Pro Kids Golf Invitational, and lending his support to our Home & Home Tournaments and Junior Legacy Tournament. Whether in the boardroom or on the course, Pat brings an unwavering dedication that has helped move our mission forward in meaningful ways.**

Pat currently serves as Of Counsel at Jones Day's San Diego office. Throughout his career, Pat has been recognized for his professionalism and his dedication to the San Diego legal community. In 2023, he received the Honorable David H. Bartick Award for Civility and Professionalism from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, which recognized his work mentoring young lawyers and promoting civility in the legal profession.

Beyond his litigation work, Pat has been a steadfast advocate for legal education and community service. He has served as President of both the San Diego Federal Bar Association and the San Diego County Bar Foundation. He has also provided pro bono legal support to some of San Diego's most vulnerable populations. In 2024, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program in recognition of his decades of service and his advocacy on behalf of a domestic violence survivor in a difficult case.

Pat's dedication to excellence, service, and community makes him a most well-deserving Pro Kids 2025 Celebrates honoree.





# Leadership & Legacy

## Executive Committee

Ken Bien  
*President*

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*Vice President*

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*Secretary*

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Jack Farnan  
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## Board Members

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Dr. Michael Clar

Chris Colton

Kristin Cuthbertson

Andee McCoy

Will Speer

Kris Wieckowski

Antrone Williams

George Young

# Past Honorees

2024 - Mary & David Pendarvis

2023 - George & Meryl Young

2022 - Callaway Golf & Chip Brewer

2019 - Phil & Amy Mickelson

2018 - Linda Lang & Debra Reed

2017 - Stacy & Charley Hoffman

2016 - Peter Ueberroth

2014 - 20th Anniversary

2012 - Bill & Karen Fontana

2011 - Jay Rains

2010 - Rolf Benirschke

2008 - Richard C. Helmstetter

2007 - Al & Shari Severson

2006 - Tony Thornley

2005 - John G. Davies

2004 - Robert Horsman & San Diego National Bank

2003 - Phil Ward & The Century Club of San Diego

2002 - Supervisor Ron Roberts

2001 - San Diego Chapter Building Industry Association

2000 - John & Becky Moores

1999 - Ernie Wright Sr.



# Congratulations...



To the Swan's for their dedicated support of Pro Kids for so many years. We all share in our admiration of Ernie Wright who was the driving force behind the founding and early growth of Pro Kids.

Thank you also to all of the staff who work so hard each day to enable the kids to enjoy the best opportunities possible.

Tony & Gillian Thornley





# Said Shaba

## *Alumni Bio*

Said Shaba has been part of the Pro Kids, First Tee – San Diego community since 2008, first as a dedicated member and later as a staff member leading college prep programs. A proud UC Berkeley graduate, Said was inspired by the guidance and mentorship he received at Pro Kids to give back and support the next generation.



His passion for advocacy and education led him to pursue a Juris Doctor degree at the University of San Diego School of Law, where he clerked for federal judges, competed in Moot Court, and interned with the San Diego Public Defender's Office. Now a licensed attorney, Said serves as a Deputy Public Defender, committed to uplifting his community and ensuring every voice is heard.

**Thank you to our incredible Pro Kids, First Tee scholars and members who are volunteering tonight. Your smiles, spirit, and helping hands are what make this evening so special.**

**We're proud of you—tonight and always.**

—Pat Swan & Nita Stormes

Anabella Van Cotthem  
Ariadna Estrada  
Bella Villarin  
Camilla Sanchez  
Christiana Keibally  
Isabella Videla  
Janae Leovao  
Jasmine Leovao  
Juniper Le  
Max Le  
Luis Sanchez  
Zachary Sayasane  
Zoe Sayasane



# Thank you!





## The Engineering Partners, Inc.

*At Engineering Partners, my commitment goes beyond my professional role; I'm also deeply invested in Pro-Kids. Pro-Kids has created lasting impact in our community, empowering young people through three core programs: Golf & Life Skills, The Learning Center, and Scholarships. These programs combine golf fundamentals with essential life skills such as leadership, resilience, and teamwork, helping participants build both confidence and competence for success on and off the course.*

*This mission is close to my heart. Growing up as a child of immigrant parents, I experienced firsthand the challenges of limited educational and economic opportunities. My parents, despite working multiple jobs, navigated an unfamiliar system to support my education. Programs like Pro-Kids could have provided invaluable guidance and support during those formative years, and it's deeply rewarding to see how this organization bridges gaps for families today—offering scholarships, educational pathways, and a supportive community.*

—Lucy Labruzzo, President/CEO  
Board Member, Pro-Kids  
lucy@engineeringpartners.com



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Incorporated in 1985, The Engineering Partners, Inc. (EPI) is an electrical engineering and design firm specializing in utility infrastructure projects and industrial power system projects. With a workforce of over 150 employees, our team provides owner's engineer services and engineering and design services with a demonstrated track record in ensuring the success of our client's programs.



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## With Gratitude to Our Sponsors, Donors, and Auction Contributors!

Thank you for showing up for our members, not just tonight, but every day through your generosity. Whether you gave, sponsored, or donated an auction item, your support creates real opportunities for the youth in our programs.

Tonight's celebration helps fund the everyday essentials at our City Heights and Oceanside campuses, from summer camps and field trips to golf tournaments, tutoring, and the caring staff who make Pro Kids feel like home.

We are deeply grateful. Thank you for believing in our mission and making this work possible.



# *Thank you to our sponsors!*

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 Will Speer  
 Sunday Golf Bag  
 Sushi Lounge  
 TaylorMade  
 The University Club  
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 Kris Wieckowski



# Pivotal Milestones

1994



Pro Kids Golf Academy takes over operations of Colina Park Golf Course in partnership with City of San Diego and SD Unified School District.

2001



PGA Tour's The First Tee program established, using Pro Kids as model; now an international youth development organization with more than 150 chapters.

2012



Flagship City Heights facility expanded to accommodate growing demand; the Ely Callaway Golf and Learning Center opens in Oceanside.

2023



In 2023, our Pro Kids Oceanside campus celebrated its ten year anniversary!

2022



In 2022, Callaway Golf renewed their \$1M pledge over the course of five years.

2024



Pro Kids City Heights campus celebrated its 30 year anniversary!

**Thank you to the Pro Kids, First Tee coaches,  
staff, and volunteers for all that you do!**

**-Ken & Susan Bien**



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# *What's Happening at Pro Kids, First Tee*

## **A Mid-Year Check-In**

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through 2025! So much has happened at Pro Kids in just a few months, and we are excited to share some of the highlights.

We started strong this spring with our Women's Golf Tournament, where a passionate group came together to play for a purpose: raising funds to support our girls' mentorship programs. It was such a fun and inspiring day, and we're grateful for the incredible community behind it.

Shortly after, we held our annual Scholarship Interviews. Over 50 of our members—high school and college-bound—met with panels of staff, board members, and volunteers to share their stories and dreams for the future. These conversations were powerful and moving, and thanks to our supporters, we were able to award scholarships to help them keep reaching for those dreams.

Now, we're gearing up for summer, which is always one of the most exciting times of the year. Our summer camps are in full swing at both our City Heights and Oceanside campuses, offering members a mix of golf, learning, creativity, and connection.

In July, we will take a special group of members on our annual Monterey Trip—a long-standing tradition filled with new experiences, new friendships, and lots of golf. We'll also be hitting the road for our College Road Trip, where members will visit campuses from San Diego to San Francisco to help them explore their options and get inspired for what comes next.

We're also loving the return of our Home & Home Tournaments, which give our members a chance to play alongside country club members—hosting them at Colina Park Golf Course and then playing at their home courses, like San Diego Country Club and The Bridges. It's a great way for our members to build confidence, meet new people, and experience something totally different.

And we can't forget about July 19, when we'll host our Scholar Lunch to celebrate all 50 of our 2024 scholarship recipients. It's one of our favorite days of the year—a chance to pause, reflect, and recognize the hard work and dedication of our members.





**Proud Supporter of  
Pro Kids, First Tee - San Diego  
&  
Sponsor of the 2025 Trip to Monterey**





## *What's Next?*

**June -  
August**

**Summer Camp**  
City Heights &  
Oceanside Campus

**July  
14-17**

**Annual Monterey Trip**  
Monterey, CA

**Sat.,  
July 19**

**Scholar Lunch**  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Colina Park Golf Course

**July  
21-25**

**College Road Trip**  
San Diego to San Francisco

**Mon.,  
Aug. 18**

**Back to School Program**  
City Heights &  
Oceanside Campus

**Mon.,  
Sept. 8**

**Pro Kids Golf Invitational**  
10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
San Diego Country Club

**Sat.,  
Oct. 18**

**Women's Golf Tournament**  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Colina Park Golf Course

**Dec-  
ember**

**Member Holiday Party**  
City Heights &  
Oceanside Campus

If you are looking for ways to get involved—whether by sponsoring an event, volunteering your time, or simply visiting to see our impact firsthand—we would love to connect. We are always working to create meaningful moments where supporters like you can meet our amazing members, hear their stories, and experience the everyday difference Pro Kids makes.

To learn more or get involved with any of our events, please reach out to **Christine Barbara** at **[cbarbara@prokidsonline.org](mailto:cbarbara@prokidsonline.org)**.

Thank you for being part of the Pro Kids family. Your support truly helps shape futures—on and off the course.



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The mission of **Pro Kids, First Tee - San Diego** is to challenge underserved youth to excel in life by promoting character development, life skills, and values through education and the game of golf.

## WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

At Pro Kids, we believe every child deserves access to transformative opportunities. With support from donors like you, we offer golf instruction, academic enrichment, and scholarships. Empowering youth from all backgrounds to learn, grow, and thrive.

## YOUR IMPACT AS A DONOR

- \$1,000—Sponsors one youth’s annual membership
- \$5,000—Brings learning to life through STEM activities, art supplies, and tech access
- \$10,000—Invests in consistent, caring youth mentorship.

## WAYS TO GIVE & GET INVOLVED



- **Donate:** Provide financial support and ensure access to golf, academic support, and leadership programs.
- **Volunteer:** Share your time and skills by mentoring youth, assisting with academic support, or helping at community events.
- **Corporate Partnerships:** Engage your company through event sponsorships, employee volunteer programs, and matching gift opportunities.
- **Attend Events:** Experience the impact firsthand by joining exclusive donor receptions, golf outings, and our annual gala.
- **Planned Giving:** Ensure a lasting legacy by joining Pro Kids Heritage Club.

For more information, please contact:  
Lindsay Langford at [llangford@prokidsonline.org](mailto:llangford@prokidsonline.org)



FOUNDATION

## THE CALLAWAY FOUNDATION CONGRATULATES THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**ABDIRAHMAN MOHAMED** - GROSSMONT COLLEGE

**ABDULLAHI MOHAMED** - SDSU

**ANDRE TORRES** - CSU FULLERTON

**ARIADNA ESTRADA** - NYU

**ARSHDEEP SINGH** - AMHERST UNIVERSITY

**AZARIYAH TATUM** - CSU FULLERTON

**BRANDON KOY** - CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

**BRAYANT ESTRADA CEDILL** - SD MESA COLLEGE

**CAMILA SANCHEZ** - USD

**CHRISTIANA KEIBALLY** - CSU LOS ANGELES

**DARREN HO** - UCSD

**DAVID ZHANG** - UNIVERSITY OF WI., MADISON

**DESTINY GREEN** - CSU SAN MARCOS

**ELTON HURD** - CSU FULLERTON

**ETHAN HIRSCHORN** - SDSU

**ETHAN LEE** - CSU SAN MARCOS

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**MINH PHAMCSU** - CHICO

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**PABLO O'BRIEN** - CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

**ROMELO LIBERATO SANCHEZ** - SD MESA COLLEGE

**ROWAN LAW** - UC SANTA BARBARA

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**SHEYLA FERNANDEZ** - SD MESA COLLEGE

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**TAM VO** - UCLA

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**TYLER THAI** - SDSU

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**YASINDU GOONATILAKA** - SDSU

**ZUBEYR MOHMED** - GROSSMONT COLLEGE



# *Thank you for celebrating with us!*

Your presence tonight helps make Pro Kids, First Tee stronger and our mission more impactful. We are so grateful for your support.

As we continue to *Raise the Bar*, your feedback helps us grow. Please take a moment to share your thoughts on this evening's event by scanning the QR code or visiting the link below.

We'd love to hear what you enjoyed, what we can improve, and any ideas you have for future events.

Thank you for being part of the Pro Kids, First Tee family!



Scan the QR code to take the survey or visit the link below.

**[thefirstteesandiego.org/celebrates-feedback](https://thefirstteesandiego.org/celebrates-feedback)**

**This evening—and every day—would not be possible without the dedication of our team.**

**We proudly recognize the Pro Kids, First Tee staff:**

Jennifer Pillsbury	Carlos Dueñas	JR Quemado
Karla Gomez	John Gadzala	Daniel Saldana
Evelyn Aguilar	Breann Horn	Cameron Scott
Esabella Barba	Stephen Im	Kevin Sheriff
Twannia Baker-Hall	Fernanda Lara	Cammin Sykeo
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