



#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **Teen Golfer Competes to Support Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients**

MARIETTA, Ga. (September 9, 2019) – 14-year-old Ethan Smith, who is currently ranked second in the class of 2024 in Georgia and 48<sup>th</sup> in the country, has dedicated his summer to raising funds for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. Throughout this year's golf season, several donors have pledged to make a donation for every birdie Ethan hits.

"I am so proud of Ethan for utilizing his talents to help others," said Ethan's father Casey Smith. "In watching our friends care for a loved one with dementia, we have seen the toll it takes on entire families."

Casey Smith serves on the board of [The Laona M. Kitchen \(LMK\) Foundation](#), which was founded to honor Laona Kitchen, who battled Alzheimer's disease. The LMK Foundation partners with the WellStar Foundation to assist families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias. As the philanthropic arm of WellStar Health System, one of Georgia's largest and most integrated healthcare systems, donations to the WellStar Foundation enhance WellStar's ability to link caregivers with the resources and funds offered through the LMK Foundation.

Lisa Mello, director of strategic giving for the WellStar Foundation, said, "The WellStar Foundation prides itself on funding equipment, services, programs, and more for the patients and communities we serve. Caring for a loved one is often a thankless job. We are grateful to the LMK Foundation and the Smith family for allowing us to further support these individuals during challenging times."

In addition to fundraising for the WellStar Foundation's LMK fund, a portion of Ethan's donation will also go toward the Achieving Competitive Excellence Grant program, which provides financial assistance to junior golfers.

Ethan will continue to accept donations through September 15. For more information on Ethan's birdie challenge, visit <https://legacy.ajga.org/ll/Member/Default.aspx?uid=234892>.

To make a tax-deductible donation directly to the WellStar Foundation, visit [wellstar.org/give](https://wellstar.org/give) or call 770-956-GIVE (4483).

#### **About the WellStar Foundation**

For nearly 35 years, the WellStar Foundation has been at the forefront of securing life-saving resources for the WellStar Health System, the largest health system in Georgia. As a not-for profit, donations from individuals, businesses and community organizations are critical for WellStar to achieve world-class healthcare. The WellStar Foundation reinvests every dollar donated toward initiatives that advance the level of healthcare provided to WellStar communities through improved patient services and assistance for those in need. To learn more, visit [wellstar.org/foundation](https://wellstar.org/foundation) or call 770-956-GIVE (4483).