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CHARITABLE
GOLF TOURNAMENT
November 1, 2021
RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

As Chair of **Good Samaritan Foundation's 53rd Charitable Golf Tournament** I would be honored if you would join me in supporting an exceptional event which supports nursing excellence in our great city and region.

Since its inception in 1951, the Good Samaritan Foundation has provided financial support to a single cause: nursing excellence. The unsung heroes of healthcare, nurses work tirelessly to improve quality, efficiency, and safety. As Covid-19 has continued to upend economies and social norms, unprecedented strain on hospitals, long-term living facilities, and staff has deepened pre-existing fissures in Texas healthcare systems--especially nursing shortages.

Through the generosity of its donors, Good Samaritan Foundation has become one of the largest private grantors of scholarships to Texas nursing students. Good Samaritan programs which promote excellence in nursing from education to practice include:

- ▶ 1. Scholarships to nursing students.
- ▶ 2. Grants to nursing schools for faculty development and special programs (e.g., outreach, recruiting, continuing nurse education).
- ▶ 3. Support of preceptor and mentor programs new nurses for the challenges of patient care.
- ▶ 4. Recognition and reward of those nurses who exemplify the finest qualities of the nursing profession.

Please join me at one of Houston's oldest charitable golfing events. This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your guests to play golf and support a vital cause. Keeping with 53 years of tradition, our net proceeds from this event will assist Texas nursing students; together we can help nurses and change lives. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship, I look forward to seeing you on the course.

Mark Barr, BSN, RN, CCRN, 53rd Charitable Golf Tournament Chairman

QUICK INFORMATION

Course	River Oaks Country Club 1600 River Oaks Blvd Houston, TX 77019
7:30am	Registration Open Locker Room Open Breakfast Open Driving Range Open
9:00am	Shotgun Start
Post Play	Player reception Awards presentation with lunch

About our Chair, Mark Barr

As a child growing up in Davis, California, Mark Barr learned the importance of exercise and nutrition in maintaining health. "My mom was a PE teacher and encouraged us to participate in sports," says Mark, who excelled at swimming, baseball, and soccer. "My passion for athletics continued to grow until I was 14, when I developed a large bone mass on my tibia. The pain was excruciating."

Diagnosed with osteosarcoma, Mark underwent a year of chemotherapy, lung surgery, and the amputation of his leg above the knee. "That year was filled with a lot of emotional and physical ups and downs," he recalls. "I was in the hospital for weeks on end and became very familiar with the roles of nurses and other healthcare providers. As a family, we especially appreciated the selfless efforts of the nurses. I never forgot that and as I grew older, it occurred to me that I might want to play a similar role in the lives of others."

While undergoing chemotherapy, Mark got his first introduction to the Paralympic Games, an international multi-sport event for athletes with a range of physical disabilities. "A nurse reached out and told me she was an amputee and had been a Paralympic swimmer," he says. "That was a turning point for me and changed my mindset about disability. I'm forever grateful to her."

After finishing treatment, Mark went straight back to athletics, competing as a swimmer in college and later, in the Paralympic Games. "I was extremely blessed to have those experiences," he says. "After I received my first running prosthesis and bike – eight years after my amputation – I continued on to train for paratriathlon."

Mark completed his bachelor's degree in nutrition at California Polytechnic State University in 2009. After deciding he wanted to pursue a career in nursing, he earned his BSN at Drexel University.

"I'm extremely happy about that decision," he says. "I got a great education and came to Houston to do my internship at Harris Health System. I was offered a job as a staff nurse in the Trauma Surgical ICU at Ben Taub."

Many of the patients who come through the Trauma Surgical ICU have suffered serious injuries at a very young age. To them, Mark is a positive, inspirational nurse whose energy and vitality is contagious. When he's at the bedside, patients are comforted and inspired by someone who has overcome many obstacles and goes beyond delivering excellent nursing care to help motivate his patients. This kind of hope is life changing for patients, many of whom feel there is no hope after a traumatic loss.

Mark says he's extremely honored to serve as a nurse and takes his role very seriously. "Many of my patients suffer amputations, which gives me the opportunity to share that bond with them. When I pull up my pant leg and show them that I'm also an amputee, many tell me later that they knew instantly they would be okay. Most have never seen a prosthesis. They don't know what to expect, so I offer support and answer questions as much as possible. I stay in touch with many patients after their discharge and go with them to their prosthesis fitting appointments to serve as a guide and mentor. You go through a lot of physical and emotional pain with an amputation. It helps them to know that the emotions they're feeling are normal."

Mark is a four-time national paratriathlon champion and was a silver medalist at the Paralympic World Championships. He competed as a Paratriathlete in the 15th Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. He was the 2018 World Champion Paratriathlete in PTS2 category. He also was the 2018 USAT Male Paratriathlete of the year. In 2019 he was an ESPY winner for Best Male Athlete with a Disability.

"Throughout my experience as a cancer patient and survivor, I've been extremely blessed to have amazing health care, particularly from nurses," he says. "It's always been my goal to give back and to pay it forward to patients who are going through hard times."

He's an athlete ambassador for Challenged Athletes and a member of the Challenged Athletes Elite Triathlon Team, serving as a mentor for the amputee community to showcase the possibilities available in sport and triathlon as an above-the-knee amputee. He also volunteers with his prosthetist's office as a peer mentor, visiting limb-loss patients at the bedside and serving as a resource for people with leg amputation.

Mark is currently enrolled in UTHealth's nurse anesthesia program and will graduate in May 2022.

Although Mark has stood with presidents and world leaders and traveled to numerous countries, he considers the work he does with patients his greatest accomplishment. He exemplifies the idea that it's not what happens to us that defines us, but what we do with it that makes the difference.

