

June, 2019

Hi my name is Jon Robbie. I am twelve years old and I would like to tell you why I want to join the Hearn Foundation tournament for dementia. I started playing golf seriously when I was about 6 years of age. I loved the game of golf. It made me feel at home and happy when I made putts or hit the ball a long way. No matter what being out in nature and talking with others always puts a smile on my face. I hear their stories and we share in life. It's as simple as that. Golf can get you down and sometimes I have found out about others during a game who have family members that have challenges with their health and my family is no different. I often see this older man at the clubhouse feeding his wife who obviously has dementia for a while. It is pretty touching and I think of my Nanna.

I also like to go out to play a round of golf with family and unwind. We talk how golf has been for us if we haven't seen each other in a while and just have normal conversations and laughs. The golf environment can be pretty relaxing and I enjoy that too. It's nice to play after school in the evening and look out in the sunset and think back to memories with my Nanna watching me hit balls off the bank at the cottage in Cape Tormentine, NB. She always hoped to see me graduate and perhaps succeed at a career in golf. Sadly, she did not make it past 78 and I lost her when I was only 7. She had a huge impact on my life. She was a warm and caring person and I hope to also carry that with me through life helping others. Sometimes it's just a shake of hands on the golf course or a hug to an older person to say great game even if you didn't hit that well. It doesn't matter. It's the fun. Don't get me wrong, we do talk about some of the good golf scores.

Sadly, my grandma had Alzheimer's dementia and she was getting worse and worse every time I saw her but she always had a good mindset and would support me with golf saying good job or beautiful golf swing. Eventually she questioned, "who is that young man over there"? I knew, however that she still knew me by our hugs and she was a joy to be around and everyone loved her. She cared about her family so much and she always kept the family positive. Sadly, she died and left a hole in our hearts, but a whole lot of warmth in our being. When I'm on the course I visualize in my head she is still with me and cheering me on. Her death did not stop me from playing golf, but it made me want to play more for her to make her proud. Nanna was an RN and helped so many people and who she was is why I want to play in this tournament—to help others. It is a great cause and perhaps someday many grandpas and grandmothers can still be around to enjoy and see their grandchildren grow up. Life is too short and we need to be there for each other. Thanks Hearn Foundation for recognizing such a kool cause.

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