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**GARY PLAYER CELEBRATES GRAND SLAM GIVING WITH DEPAUL UK**  
*BERENBERG GARY PLAYER INVITATIONAL AT WENTWORTH ON 20 JULY*

The year 2015 has much cause for celebration for legendary golfer Gary Player, as he celebrates both his 80th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his career Grand Slam victory. Today (Wednesday, 6th May 2015) Player arrived in London to embrace this amazing year and to continue his union of golf and giving by visiting DePaul UK, a charity that works tirelessly to prevent youth homelessness.

Gary Player visited DePaul UK's London-based Willesden Hostel, a long-stay hostel providing accommodation and specialist support for young homeless people between the ages of 16 and 25. At the hostel, young residents are provided with secure accommodations and assistance that helps them effectively develop life skills and establish a routine in their lives.

The Black Knight met current residents of the hostel, took a tour of the fantastic accommodations and learned more about the services offered with DePaul CEO Martin Houghton-Brown and Berenberg Head of Equities, David Mortlock, before joining in a number of fun activities such as a hole in one putting challenge.

It's fair to say Player was given quite a reception, as he described, "It's been fantastic to come and see how the money we raise through the Berenberg Gary Player Invitational is put to such amazing use by DePaul UK. I could not have asked for a more special reception by these miraculous young people at Willesden Hostel and I'm honoured to be able to help such an amazing charity."

CEO Depaul, Martin Houghton – Brown further added, "I am delighted that the golf legend, Gary Player visited Depaul's Willesden House today to meet with young people at risk of homelessness. His commitment through the Berenberg Gary Player Invitational to supporting young people in the UK is exceptional. Every young person Depaul supports has a dream, and I hope that meeting a Grand Slam Champion will inspire each of them to achieve their dreams, for family, friends and a great job. Who knows, maybe after today some of them will even go on to become sporting legends themselves."

The 2015 Berenberg Gary Player Invitational will take place at its now regular UK home of Wentworth on July 20, 2015. An all-star cast of PGA Tour professionals from around the globe will participate in the event along with Player himself to celebrate the union of golf and giving.

David Mortlock, Berenberg Head of Equities commented, "It's wonderful for Berenberg to continue our partnership in a year which is so significant for the golfing legend that is Gary Player. And it is also very special for us as Berenberg celebrates



its 425th anniversary. This year's event looks set to be a very special one and we look forward to raising yet more money for The Player Foundation and Berenberg Kids whose principal UK beneficiary is once again DePaul and who I had the pleasure of visiting today alongside Mr Player."

**-ENDS-**

**ABOUT DEPAUL UK**

DePaul UK helps young people who are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

- We [protect](#) young people by finding them a place to call home.
- We [prevent](#) young people becoming homeless by rebuilding family relationships and offering through the gate support to young offenders.
- We provide young people with opportunities through skills development and support to help them [progress](#) beyond homelessness and fulfil their potential

DePaul is based around the UK working with young people to tackle homelessness at every level. Our Nightstop UK service also offers emergency short term accommodation in the homes of local volunteers on a night by night basis.

DePaul UK has helped over 50,000 people since we were founded in 1989 and continue to work with over 3,000 young people a year providing over 120,000 bed nights to those who are vulnerable and in need.

**ABOUT BLACK KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL**

Established in 1983 by Marc Player, Black Knight International is a global holding company for The Player Group and the constantly expanding family of Gary Player® brands. With a powerful presence in North and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, Black Knight is a multicultural and multilingual company offering branded services for the leisure and real estate industries. This rapidly growing firm is diverse and infused with the same tenaciousness and drive as Gary Player, world renowned iconic golfer. The holding company divisions include: Gary Player Design, Player Real Estate, Black Knight Enterprises, Black Knight Solutions, Black Knight Capital, Gary Player Academies, and The Player Foundation.

**ABOUT THE PLAYER FOUNDATION**

The Player Foundation was established in 1983 by Marc Player. What began as an effort to provide education, nutrition, medical care and athletic activities, for a small community of disadvantaged children living on the outskirts of Johannesburg, South Africa has now blossomed into an organization that circles the globe bringing aid to underprivileged children and impoverished communities.

The Foundation is funded primarily by four Gary Player Invitational events presented through Black Knight International. Pairing celebrities and professional golfers from the PGA and Champions Tours with businessmen and international sports figures, the annual tournaments are staged in the United States, China, Europe and South Africa.

## PRESS RELEASE



The proceeds of these tournaments and other special events provide funding for an ever-expanding number of institutions around the world, including the Blair Atholl Schools in South Africa, the Pleasant City Elementary School in Palm Beach, the Masizame in Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, and AIDS infected children in Baoshan, a drug-infested city located on the China-Burma border. Since its establishment, The Player Foundation has donated over \$50 million dollars to the support of children's charities, the betterment of impoverished communities and the expansion of educational opportunities throughout the world.

Gary Player, acknowledged as a world-class humanitarian, believes that the strength of our future depends upon the abilities of our children. "I have found that the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others does not thrust itself upon us," Player says, "But we do not need to look hard for it either. When you spot the chance to give back to the world, act on it. You will have made life better, for others, and for yourself."

The Gary Player Foundation is a non-profit 501 C (3) organization managed by Black Knight International in Palm Beach, Florida.

### **ABOUT BERENBERG**

Berenberg was established in 1590 and today we are one of Europe's leading privately owned banks. With our headquarters in Hamburg and strong presences in Frankfurt, London, New York and Zurich we work from 19 offices across Europe, America and Asia. We deliver our expertise through four divisions – Private Banking, Investment Banking, Asset Management and Corporate Banking. Our Managing Partners lead Berenberg's 1,250 professionals in their commitment to delivering a modern and efficient service, while maintaining a firm connection with our heritage and traditions.

"We are proud to call Gary Player our Brand Ambassador, as he is truly a great Ambassador for the game of golf," says Dr. Hans-Walter Peters, Managing Partner of Berenberg. "This must be measured not just in terms of his career achievements as a Grand Slam Champion, but also in driving such outstanding philanthropic initiatives as the Gary Player Invitational series. The event's great virtues and its ability to give so much back to charity is one of the many reasons we have chosen this sponsorship as an important business platform for years to come."

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