

# Tiffany's 'epiphany' spreads the gospel

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Home is where the heart is.

That is a somewhat difficult concept when you're travelling constantly and golf has become your greatest passion.

Tiffany Chaisson may only have been playing golf since 2014, but she has already played over 100 courses in 10 countries, set up a charity for young golfers and played barefoot on the Isle of Arran. Golf is in her DNA and her enthusiasm for the game is infectious. She has spent several weeks in Ireland, and it was at Ballyliffin Golf Club, in 2016, where she had her 'Eureka' moment – at least as far as her charity is concerned. Following a conversation with the club's president, Frank Harkin, about how some juniors cannot afford to continue playing golf, Chaisson decided that all young-

sters who want to play golf should be able to play regardless of their family's finances. The Fairways charity was born and it is currently raising funds by auctioning off fourball green fees for golf clubs around the world. Ten of these courses are in Ireland, and it is no surprise that Ballyliffin is one of the clubs in the Awesome 4somes auction.

"I like to think of it as 'Tiffany had an epiphany'," Chaisson says of her Ballyliffin experience, with the sort of enthusiasm and laughter that has opened doors for her all around the world. She has reported from the Australian Open, walked the fairways at the Sony Open in Hawaii, and attended both the men's and women's Canadian Open. It is her charity, however, where she is now focus-

ing all of her efforts. To date, Fairways has funded and supported 20 juniors in four countries (Nepal, Bolivia, India and Canada) helping underprivileged youngsters gain access to golf equipment, membership, driving ranges, courses and even competitions.

The charity also supports golf professionals and businesses in areas where such assistance is lacking. In places such as Bolivia and Nepal, having access to decent golf balls is a luxury for most Pros. With the world's second highest per capita participation for golf, we in Ireland tend to forget how difficult it can be to get into the game.

"It is very easy for some and almost impossible for others," Chaisson says.

At the CP Canadian Women's Open she connected with Edwin Fernandez in Bolivia. Fernandez was teaching a few children golf at a local park with his own clubs and a dozen balls. Chaisson saw the ideal opportunity to kickstart the charity's work: she sent hundreds of used range balls to Fernandez and then sent herself for nine weeks (at her own expense) to help him develop a junior programme.

Chaisson also had land donated to her in Bolivia, should she be able to raise the funds to build a driving range. She is determined this will happen and is raising funds to do just that.

The auction of green fees from seven countries has already begun and will run until Friday (30th June). Ireland's 11 clubs are Ballyliffin, Bray, Carne, Castlerock Druids Glen, Enniscrone, Esker Hills, Fota Island, Galway Bay, Portstewart, and Strandhill.

"We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of golf clubs," says Chaisson, "and Ireland is to the fore. We are so grateful to the 11 clubs who have donated a four-

ball. All funds raised will make a huge difference to underprivileged young golfers around the world."

Get involved in the bidding now at [www.fairways.golf/pages/awesome-4somes](http://www.fairways.golf/pages/awesome-4somes)

If you know a little of golfers such as Vijay Singh, Seve Ballesteros and Arnold Palmer, you'll know that they put their heart into golf even though their humble means meant the game appeared beyond their reach. Fairways wants to inspire a new generation of golfers by creating the opportunities that these golfing greats never had as kids.

