



**Fabian Rivera**

## **Kids Showing Kids the way to play golf in Carson, California**

**By Fabian Rivera**

I was lucky enough to witness a beautiful example of young adults giving back to youth in our community and wanted to share, especially for those who think youth today are “not like what they used to be.”

Last Saturday, at the Links at Victoria in Carson, we had a total of 24 young kids come out for their free monthly golf lessons being taught by the Los Angeles County Junior Program instructor’s Brian Gonzales, Billy Sutt, and Clark Corbett, as per agreement to assist the LBG L C Junior Golf Program. The remarkable aspect is that four young golfers (mentors) volunteered to help mentor the youth -- and all were formerly standing in these kids’ shoes in years past. Every one of these mentors started very young, enrolling in the same free summer and after-school lessons held by the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, and those same juniors are still competing in golf tournaments being conducted by the Los Angeles County Junior Golf Program, under the strong leadership of Mike McMonegal.

Some of our programs’ kids Joshlyn Ayala, 6; Johan Ayala, 8; and Nicolas Moreno, 13, were very excited that they were given the opportunity to put on the golf clinic and show the newest members how to hit golf balls. The newest programs’ kids were enjoying watching the golf clinics, put on by our more matured and more experienced kids that they admire.

The LBG L C Junior Golf Program, was introduced in the Long Beach area and started at the Long Beach Golf Learning Center approximately three years ago, but has since moved to the beautiful Links at Victoria golf course and training facilities. The Junior Golf Program is a non-profit golf program for children ages 05 – 18, which exists to provide youth in our community with an opportunity to experience the game of golf and enjoy a competitive experience, while playing in tournaments at an affordable price. The program even hosts a nine-hole putting contest for the kids in each of their age categories and gives out trophies to the winners.

In addition to the game of golf, the Junior Golf Program teaches the kids honesty, integrity, responsibility, perseverance and confidence, which will carry on with them into their adult lives. Our junior golfers have been learning the important rules and etiquette associated with the game of golf and have also been learning life lessons and making great friends in the process.

Youth mentors Darion Stewart, 13; Marni Murez, 12; Rachel Santi, 13; and Sachi Hamada,15 are enjoying giving back to their community's youth and plan to continue throughout the summer to help. Dario Hamada, Sachi's brother, has been inspired to join the group of mentors as he witnessed the enjoyment of his sister in helping guide the young kids how to play golf.

These young participants are an admirable example to the community that anyone can learn and enjoy this great game of golf, if they have the desire to learn and the commitment to continue to try. I can only hope that this program inspires others to share their skills, whatever they may be, with our youth, to continue this chain of giving back and give our youth something to be proud of within themselves.

For more information, view mentors golf pictures or to enroll your child into our Junior Golf Program, go to <http://lbgic.net> or call Fabian Rivera, Program Director at 310/618-1344.