



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

April 21, 2026

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Elizabeth Teagarden



Daniel Fogarty
CEO, First Tee of Greater Charlotte



Isabella Mebane
Volunteer Assistant Coach, First Tee

Daniel Fogarty *CEO, First Tee of Greater Charlotte*

by **Paul Bartholomy**

This week's Rotary program featured an inspiring and impactful presentation from Daniel Fogarty, CEO of First Tee - Greater Charlotte, alongside student leader and volunteer assistant coach Isabella Mebane. Together, they shared how First Tee is transforming lives across our region - not simply through the game of golf, but by developing character, leadership, and meaningful life skills in young people. With more than 2,500 youth served annually and a presence in over 200 schools, the Charlotte chapter has grown into the largest in the global First Tee network.

Isabella opened the program with poise and purpose, offering a glimpse into the next generation of leadership. A standout student-athlete and aspiring medical professional, she spoke about the role faith, discipline, and mentorship have played in her journey. Through her involvement with First Tee, Girl Scouts, and her upcoming Gold Award project focused on medical career pathways, Isabella exemplifies the confidence, service mindset, and drive that the program seeks to instill.

Daniel followed with a powerful and authentic message centered on purpose,

perspective, and people. Sharing his own journey from private equity to nonprofit leadership, he emphasized that First Tee is not about creating more golfers - it's about creating better people. Using golf as a vehicle, the organization teaches core values such as integrity, respect, and perseverance in a way that resonates with young participants. His stories highlighted the real, lasting impact of simple human connection, mentorship, and showing up for others.

The overarching takeaway was both simple and profound: meaningful impact doesn't require grand gestures - it starts with intentional relationships and small, consistent actions. Daniel challenged Rotarians to reflect on who they are impacting and how, reminding us that even a phone call or conversation can make a lasting difference. It was a motivating and heartwarming program that aligned closely with Rotary's mission of service above self and left attendees energized about the role we each play in shaping our community's future.

A recording of the meeting can be found here

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1186521798?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1186521379?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program introduction begins at approximately 22 minutes.