



Hello,

"Duffers for Davin" is a golf tournament started nine years ago to benefit Davin Hester. Davin is a 17-year-old young man with cerebral palsy. He is a resident of Lumberton and attends Burlington County Special Services School in Mt. Holly.

Davin was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He is totally dependent on his parents and siblings for his care. However, while Davin is limited physically, he is very aware of all that goes on around him and is anxious to interact and participate in all activities. He loves to be around people and enjoys when he can actively participate. Several years ago, Davin traveled to Poland to receive intensive physical therapy that was not available in the United States. Intensive physical therapy, (which encourages new skills, as opposed to maintaining current skills), is not accepted by most insurance companies and "Duffers for Davin" was begun to enable Davin to participate in this therapy that his parents could not afford to give him. This therapy utilized the Adeli Suit which was designed to help train Russian Cosmonauts. This suit was later adapted for children with cerebral palsy. The suit helps to retrain the nervous system and has a positive effect on other body systems such as the cardiovascular system and the pulmonary system. A similar suit (Therasuit) is now available in the US and Davin has been able to attend therapy in Howell, NJ which is a relatively short drive from his home in Lumberton.

Davin's family has seen many improvements since beginning this therapy. Davin's hands, which were once unable to function practically, have begun to do amazing things. He is able to pick things up and is better able to control where he puts things. Davin now has a pincer grasp. Perhaps, the biggest improvement has been Davin's ability to now sit alone for short periods of time. He was in awe the first time he realized he was doing it all by himself. He is now able to sit alone for periods of time and play or do other tasks with his hands without losing his balance. Therapy also helps to keep his muscles from becoming permanently tight. This becomes more and more of an issue as Davin grows and we take care of his needs.

This year the golf tournament will be held on June 21st at Valleybrook Country Club and we are looking forward to it! As many of you know if you have attended Duffers for Davin in previous years, Davin loves the tournament!! He looks forward to meeting you for the first time or seeing you again if you are a repeat attendee. We appreciate the many golfers and businesses that have made this tournament part of their summer schedule. Your support of Davin has made such a difference and we are so thankful for your participation in his life. You come out for one day to support Davin, but we see the effects of your involvement all year long. We hope to see you all on June 21<sup>st</sup>!

*"Duffers for Davin"*