



Our 2024 Summer Golf Scramble recipient – Stephen and Taylor Smith

A little about us: I, Stephen, was born and raised in Mt. Juliet and graduated from MJHS in 2008. My wife, Taylor, was born in Du Bois, Pennsylvania. She and I met in 2020 and had our wedding in 2021. In April of 2022, Taylor gave birth to our first daughter, Avery Jo. She just turned 2 and is a handful.

December of 2023 is when we found out Taylor was pregnant with our second baby girl.

April 16th of this year is when we received the news that our unborn daughter, Sutton, had a heart defect known as TGA (Transposition of the Great Arteries). During the forming and development of her heart, her aorta and pulmonary artery switched places. Once out of the womb, this defect does not allow for oxygen-rich blood to be distributed to the rest of the body. As awful as it was to receive this news, the greatest blessing is that this condition was detected before birth. We later found out that only 50% of these conditions are diagnosed pre-birth. Since the diagnosis, we have been visiting Vanderbilt's Monroe Carrol Jr. Children's Hospital to receive specialized care. If all goes as planned, my wife will give birth as normal but once Sutton is out of the womb her oxygen levels will immediately be monitored. The doctors want her to stabilize and she will have surgery 3-7 days after birth. The surgery consists of opening her chest, snipping the two arteries, and stitching them back where they should be. It has a very high success rate but it's still open heart surgery on a 5-day-old. We're being told it is a one-time surgery and Sutton should go on to live a perfectly normal life. The induction date is scheduled for July 31st. At this time, we are seeing the specialists at Vanderbilt weekly and praying for continued growth and health for both Taylor and Sutton.

Thank you, again! We are honored and forever grateful to be chosen.