

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2007

Mr. Dennis J. Smith
662 Justin Court
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Dear Denny:

I want to congratulate you on the successful launch of the Dennis J. Smith Legacy Foundation's inaugural golf classic. With more than 144 golfers and 300 dinner guests the event promises to set the standard for charity outings in Kankakee County. As you know, I'm a big fan of the entire Smith clan, so I regret that I can't be there to join all of you in celebrating this important milestone.

I'm told that the proceeds from this event will be used to provide scholarships to deserving high school and college students. I can think of no worthier cause to support, and I applaud the Foundation's commitment to ensuring that a quality education is available for all. I am also impressed by the Foundation's support of ALS researchers in order to continue your determined fight against this disease.

Your friends and family spent countless hours planning this event. But I know they couldn't have done it without you – and the example you've set through a life-long commitment to community service and public action, and the inspiration you provide to others through your quiet dignity and courage. The Foundation is a true testament to your achievements and your spirit, and I offer you and your family my best wishes for its continued success.

Congratulations again, and I look forward to seeing you the next time I'm in Kankakee County.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator