

FSU's Bond Finds A Way To Give Back

By Corey Clark
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It's the thought that counts. Truly.

Amy Bond knows she's not going to change anyone's life with her donation. She knows it's not even remotely close to what Houston Texans' star J.J. Watt did in September. But the Florida State Women's Golf coach is doing her part, trying to give back, trying to help out hurricane victims in both Texas and Florida in her own way.

"I just really wanted to come up with a way to help people," Bond Said. "Just because we're so blessed at Florida State. I get to live my dream and coach at my alma mater. And our kids are very well taken care of, while other people clearly lost their houses, some people lost their loves. So I just wanted to come up with a way to give back and also at the same time kind of motivate our team a little bit."

When Harvey decimated Houston in early September, Bond saw what Watt was doing with his fundraising mission. Using mainly social media, the former NFL Defensive MVP wound up raising over \$37 million for his city, which was a terrific example of the underlying good this country has to offer.

Yes, we are divided politically. Yes, we have some serious issues. But there are reminders, every day if you look, that we still really care for each other.

Amy Bond certainly does.

After seeing what Watt did, the FSU golf coach pledged \$10 to hurricane relief for every birdie her team collected during the fall season. She also pledged \$20 for every eagle and \$25 for a hole-in-one.

"Only \$25 for a hole-in-one?" I asked jokingly. "We've got to bump that up to \$50 or \$100?"

"Yeah," she said with a laugh. "I probably should actually. Because, how often are you going to have a hole-in-one?"

The Seminoles actually do have one so far this fall. They also have 122 birdies and five eagles. Depending on if she adjusts the hole-in-one or not, that comes out to \$1,435 dollars Bond has pledged to hurricane relief so far, with one tournament to go.

If her team gets really hot next week at the Stanford Intercollegiate tournament, the head coach could be writing a check for around \$2,000 when it's all over.

Again, that's not anywhere close to Watt money, but that's not really the point, is it?

It's somebody – who is not wealthy – writing a check for people in need.

"There is so much negative in the world these days," Bond said. "When there are tragedies people come out of nowhere and are helping and trying to do their best. And I wanted to find a way that we as a group could. And to me, \$50 is a lot of money, let alone a couple thousand dollars. But I thought, if they make 200 birdies I'm happy to write a check for \$2,000.

"It gives me pride in my girls and our team, knowing the money is going to someone less fortunate than us."

As for where the money goes, Bond hasn't quite figured that out yet. She wants half of it to go to Houston and half of it to go to Florida hurricane relief. And like most of us when we donate to a charity, Bond wants to make sure the

money actually goes to the people in need instead of into the salary of some ranking staffer at the charity. So, she's still doing research on who exactly she will be writing checks to.

But she knows that after the tournament next week, after her players hopefully light up Stanford with birdie after birdie, she'll be taking money out of her own account to give to victims of Harvey and Irma.

It's not life-changing money. No.

But that doesn't mean it doesn't matter. That doesn't mean it's not a wonderful example of who we can be.

"I know that (the players) are looking at the birdie total, and they get these big grins on their face," Bond said. "Because no matter what it's a sense of accomplishment to give back ... And that's what I'm trying to do. Just trying to help people that need it."

Amen to that.