



Leon Fooksman



## Sports

# 'Not Letting Autism Slow Me Down': Coral Springs 10-Year-Old With Autism Starts Apparel Company To Take Charge Of His Future



Carter Bonas playing golf at Country Club of Coral Springs.  
TAPinto Coral Springs

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CORAL SPRINGS, FL – A Coral Springs fifth-grader knows all too well the reality of living with autism.

"I'm different and people have bullied me," Carter Bonas said.

And so, Carter and his family have taken his love of playing golf and created a business selling a clothing line.

The reason: the 10-year-old wants to have his own company and not depend on anyone to make a living as he grows older.

Since launching [Spectrum Golf](#) in March from his Coral Springs home, he's already earned close to \$7,000 from the sale of shirts, hats, pants, cups, and other accessories, said his mother, Dr. Thelma Tennie.

"I'm not letting autism slow me down," Carter said.

Carter said he enjoys playing piano, chess, and video games, and likes being homeschooled and studying history and science.

But his true interest, he said, is being outdoors on the golf course.

While taking part in golf tournaments, he developed the idea of selling golf apparel.

Carter sketched a logo and designs, and his mother and step-father turned them into a brand.

They built a website and contacted clothing distributors, went to golf events to showcase the products, and promoted everything on social media.

They also became members of Coral Springs Coconut Creek Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The response was swift, Tennie said, as dozens of orders came through from across the nation.

A few months ago, golf bag manufacturer, Orca Golf, teamed up with Carter's company to create a bag, his mother said.

Carter will be at a PGA Show event next month to promote his company and the bag, she said.

"This is huge for him," said Tennie, who works as a mental health trauma therapist. "I'm so excited for him. There's a lot of hard work in getting this going."

For Carter, a major part of his company's mission is to raise awareness about autism and, more specifically, show that people with autism can work and be productive.

Next year, he'll give away a portion of his sales to an autism foundation.

Carter is also going to sponsor a [golf tournament fundraiser](#) on Feb. 12 for a nonprofit his mother works for, Healing Arts Institute of South Florida.

"I want to help other kids like me," he said.

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