



Special Olympics athlete's learn Global Messaging at annual Leadership Conference

On November 14-15, 10 Special Olympics athletes attended the Global Messenger training at the annual SOND Leadership Conference to learn how to prepare and present a speech about their experiences with Special Olympics. The weekend of training, led by the NDSU Lincoln Speech and Debate team, concluded with each athlete presenting their new speech to a group of athletes, coaches, and volunteers. In addition to the Global Messenger training, more than 50 people comprised of coaches, volunteers, and SO College club members from Minot State Univ., NDSU, and UND attended the two day training, with topics of instruction in First Aid, Nutrition, Coaching Basketball Skills, Volunteer Recruitment & Management, Fundraising, and a general orientation on the rules and mission of Special Olympics North Dakota!

Sports Transform!

Help us make a difference.



Help Us Reach Out to One More Athlete – Make Your Year-End Donation

Help Special Olympics North Dakota with a year-end gift and join us in changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. With your generous support, we are able to provide sports training, competitions, and other programs that benefit athletes, their families, and our community. **Make your tax-deductible gift by December 31st, and it will be matched dollar for dollar by our partner Finish Line, up to a campaign total of \$200,000.**

[Donate today](#)



North Dakota State Award Winners

The Special Olympics North Dakota Annual Awards Banquet was held on November 14th at the Ramada Plaza & Suites in Fargo. Nineteen awards were presented including two Hall of Fame inductions.

The award winners include: Bailey Bjorge, Grand Forks, Female Athlete; Adam Maresh, Valley City, Male Athlete; Josh Parrill, Grand Forks, Coach; Will Archinal, Minot, Youth Service; Petra Hulm, Bismarck, Area Volunteer; Will Ressler, Minot, State Volunteer; Stan and Deb Thompson Family, Bismarck, Family of the Year; Town and Country Credit Union, State Organization; Concordia College SAAC, Area Organization; Bishop Ryan High School, School of the Year; Continuous Service-Joan Beyer, Wahpeton; Matt Fowler, Fargo; Alex Nagel, Grand Forks; Dave Reuter;

West Fargo; Daniel Bower, Minot, LETR "Flame of Hope"; Julie Blehm, Fargo, Daryl Bjelde Memorial Award; and Erin Baumann, Grand Forks, Roger Kerns Character Award. Hall of Fame inductees: Jennifer Hummel, Fargo and Kevin Austin, Grand Forks. Erv Inniger, NDSU Retired Sr. Associate Athletic Director was the keynote speaker.

Dancing for Special Stars Comes to Minot

The widely successful Dancing for Special Stars held each year in Grand Forks made its debut in Minot! The inaugural event was held on November 17th at the Grand Hotel in Minot which paired up ten couples consisting of one dance instructor and one local celebrity! The event, which was patterned after the popular "Dancing with the Stars" television program raised more than \$15,000 for some very "Special Stars" – the 1500 individuals with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics programs statewide. The night featured specialty acts from local performing groups around the community as well. The winners of the mirror ball trophy were J'Kobe Wallace and Nicole Gebeck. J'Kobe is a student at Minot State University and Nicole is the General Manager at the Grand Hotel! Thank you for the generous donation from our sponsors: **Gold Sponsor:** Grand Hotel. **Silver Sponsor:** IRET Properties. **Bronze Sponsor:** Town and Country Credit Union.



Finish Line and Special Olympics Team Up

Since 2011, Finish Line and Special Olympics have come together to raise money and awareness towards the development of athlete training and fitness tools. The campaign takes place in over 600 Finish Line stores nationwide, from November 6 - December 31. North Dakota two stores, one in Fargo and Grand Forks. Stop in and show your support

Be a Giving Heart

Special Olympics North Dakota (SOND) will take part in its fourth Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation Giving Hearts Day on February 11, 2016. This year SOND's goal is to raise \$25,000! Last year after receiving a \$4,000 match from the Dakota Medical Foundation and \$18,400 in donations, SOND's total for the event was \$22,400!



Giving Hearts Day

impactgiveback.org

February 11, 2016

To give your gift, on February 11, 2016 go to the Impact Foundation Website, <http://www.impactgiveback.org>. SOND has been chosen again to receive a match by the Dakota Medical Foundation for the first \$2,000 raised. On February 11th, The Impact Foundation website will be tailored just to Giving Hearts Day making the donating process easy and quick!

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 16 Polar Plunge– Minot
District II Basketball Tournament– Dickinson
- 22-23 State Winter Games– Bottineau
- 30 Polar Plunge– Fargo

FEBRUARY

- 1-3 Hugo's Promotion
District III Basketball Tournament – Mandan
- 9 District IV Basketball Tournament – Dickinson
- 27 Polar Plunge– Grand Forks

MARCH

- 2 Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign
- 4-6 State Basketball Tournament– Minot
- 19 Polar Plunge– Dickinson

APRIL

- 2 Polar Plunge– Bismarck
- 12 Dancing For Special Stars– Grand Forks

JUNE

- 7 Golf Tournament- Oxbow
- 16 Golf Tournament– Grand Forks
- 20 Golf Tournament-Minot

SEPTEMBER

- 17-18 State Soccer Bocce Tournament– Grand Forks
- 24 Worlds Largest Truck Convoy– Fargo

OCTOBER

- 29 Polar Plunge– Jamestown

NOVEMBER

- 5-6 State Bowling

2015 Memorials

Special Olympics North Dakota deeply appreciates receiving donations in memory of friends and loved ones. Memorial gifts have been received in remembrance of:



Al Bortke

Katrinka Griffin

Evelyn Holt

Robert L Jennings,
MD

LaVonne Narlock

Jeremy Orn

Ilene Schlader

Lee Stalker

Elizabeth Steckler

Jamestown Polar Plunge Returns to Natural Body of Water with a Roar!

The original Polar Plunge in North Dakota returned to its roots on Sunday, November 15th, as the Jamestown Polar Plunge made it's triumphant return to the Jamestown Reservoir. For the 1st time since 2010, the Polar Plunge was held in open



water, and 34 brave souls took the plunge, raising more than \$5,300 in support of SOND. The event was highlighted by the Student Senate team from Valley City State University, which raised nearly \$3,000 to participate in the plunge! Additional plunge awards included the Best Costume, which was won by Chris Carpenter who dressed up as Elvis Presley, and the Youngest Plunger, which was won by Ryder Pringle of Jamestown. The success of the Jamestown Polar Plunge would not have been possible without the support of the volunteer organizing committee, largely made up of employees from the James River Corrections Center. Special thanks to the many cash and in-kind sponsors of the 2015 Jamestown Polar Plunge, including: **Premier Partner: AE2S Snowflake Sponsors:** *Dakota Central Telecommunications, Schumacher Construction*



Special Olympics North Dakota and the North Dakota Law Enforcement Torch Run present the 2016 Polar Plunge!

January 16 - Minot

January 30 - Fargo

February 27 - Grand Forks

March 19 - Dickinson

April 2 - Bismarck

Visit specialolympicsnorthdakota.org or call (701)746-0331 to register for the plunge today!

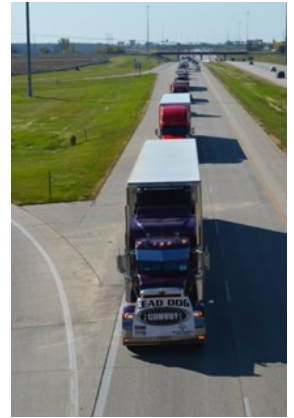
2015 State Soccer & Bocce Tournament

Special Olympics North Dakota welcomed 399 participants to the State Soccer & Bocce Tournament in Grand Forks September 12-13. The largest of Special Olympics' annual events held in Grand Forks, the event brought athletes, partners and volunteers to Bringewatt Park from 12 communities throughout the state. Communities represented for competition were: Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo (with team members from Casselton, Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo), Grafton, Harvey, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot and Wahpeton. More than 425 volunteers were involved for set up Friday through conclusion of activities on Sunday. Thank you to all our sponsors who made this event such a huge success! **Gold Sponsors:** City of Grand Forks Special Events, Grant, Myra Foundation. **Silver Sponsor:** Little Miracles, Inc. **Bronze Sponsors:** AE2S, Dakota Dental Associates, EAPC Architects Engineers, Grand Forks Park District Foundation, Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitor's Bureau, IRET Properties, Kohl's Cares, Retrax Holdings, LLC.



Truck Convoy raises funds for Special Olympics

75 trucks, everything from 18 wheelers, to tow trucks, to moving vans, all on one mission, joined together for the World's Largest Truck Convoy to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics North Dakota on September 26th. Companies from across North Dakota and local law enforcement agencies joined together to raise more than \$19,000, convoying for 14 miles through the city streets of Fargo and West Fargo, making the 2015 Truck Convoy the biggest ever held in North Dakota. The "Lead Dog" Auction (the first position of the convoy), was won by Kylo Trucking from Larimore, ND and the "Tail End" was won by Jim's Towing. In addition to the Convoy, a celebration was held at the Supervalu Distribution Center, with events including a silent auction, Special Olympics sports exhibition, and live music provided by Raw Sugar. The annual World's Largest Truck Convoy would not be successful without the support of the volunteer organizing committee, and the following sponsors, **Silver Sponsors:** Britton Transport, F&M Transport, Jim's Towing, TDS Trucking, Inc., Wanzek Construction; **Bronze Sponsors:** Goldmark Properties, RDO Equipment & RD Offut Co., Supervalu Inc., **Medallion Sponsor:** VisionBank



Applebee's teams up with local Law Enforcement to serve SOND

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics and Applebee's Grill and Bars across North Dakota team up for the 9th annual Applebee's Tip-a-Cop on September 22-23. Law Enforcement agencies in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, and Williston volunteered to help serve tables and receive "tips" to raise funds for Special Olympics. The 2015 Tip-a-Cop campaign proved to again break the record for most successful in history, raising more than \$24,000 to support athletic programs

2015 State Bowling Tournament

The largest state tournament for Special Olympics North Dakota was held October 31 and November 1 at Midway Lanes in Mandan. A record 593 athletes competed during the event from fifteen different cities: Belcourt, Bismarck, Cass County, Dickinson, Grafton, Grand Forks, Harvey, Jamestown & Jamestown Anne Carlsen, Lisbon, Mandan, Minot, Valley City, Wahpeton and Williston. No event can be successful without volunteers who give of their time and talent to bring an event to life. Thanks to all 344 people who helped throughout the event, and the following volunteer groups for serving as lane coordinators: University of Mary Athletics: (Baseball, Football, Softball, Track & Field, Tennis, Wrestling, Women's Basketball, Men's Basketball, Women's Soccer), Mandan Leo's Club, Serve YES!, AETNA, Young Professionals, Kirkwood Bank, EMC Insurance. Thank you to our sponsors who made this event possible: **Silver Sponsor,** Bartlett & West. **Bronze Sponsor:** AMVETS Club Post #9, Basin Electric, Bismarck/Mandan Convention & Visitor's Bureau, EMC Insurance Companies, MDU Resources Group, Starion Financial, Walmart Foundation.



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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics Inc.
for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities