



Tis the Season of Giving

As 2017 comes to a close, please consider Special Olympics as a recipient of your year-end generosity. A gift from the heart, in any amount, is greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Gifts of cash, stock, real estate, and life insurance policies make a huge difference in the lives of our athletes, their families, volunteers, and our staff. Special Olympics North Dakota has had an amazing year and you can help make it even better. With your generous support, we are able to provide sports training, competitions, health opportunities, and other programs that benefit athletes, their families, and our community. <https://give.specialolympics.org/page/contribute/north-dakota>

Step into Our Circle

We are planning for the future of our athletes while honoring our beginning with the Circle of Champions Endowment. We invite you to step into our circle.

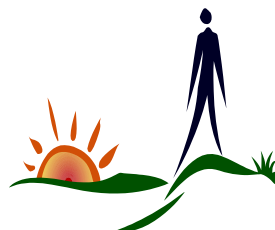
In the summer of 1972, Dr. Roger Kerns organized and founded the first Special Olympics games in North Dakota. From that point on, North Dakota joined a worldwide movement dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities. Generations of people have become productive, respected and physically fit through their sports training, while families and communities have celebrated their achievements. The Circle of Champions Endowment is a capital campaign to honor the legacy of Dr. Kerns by making a permanent, positive impact on people with intellectual disabilities.

In 2011, North Dakota passed a law allowing a generous tax credit for individuals and businesses who give specific types of gifts to North Dakota charities. This endowment is eligible for this tax credit. Please consider becoming a co-founder to the Circle of Champions Endowment and give a gift that will impact thousands of people in our state and receive the gift of a tax credit. For more information click on <http://sondchampions.com/>

Memorials

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jim Berg | Elsie Ganthner | Harold Lentz |
| Dr. Jovoa Brkic | Paul Gusten | Janelle Mulroy |
| Eric J Butcher | Mark Johannes | Alan Noss |
| John Faleide | Richard Kovar | Chris Seavert |



Upcoming Events

January

26, 27 State Winter Games, Bottineau, ND

February

8 Giving Hearts Day

17 SO Rivalry Basketball Game, NDSU. Fargo, ND

17 Polar Plunge, Delta Hotel by Marriott. Fargo, ND

24 Polar Plunge, Choice Health and Fitness, Grand Forks, ND

25 Polar Plunge, Elks Lodge. Bismarck, ND.

March

9,10 State Basketball Tournament, Minot, ND

24 Polar Plunge, Dan Porter Motors. Dickinson, ND.

April

10 Dancing for the Special Stars, Empire Arts Center, Grand Forks ND

June

7-9 SOND Summer Games, Fargo ND.

21 SOND Golf Tournament, GF Country Club, Grand Forks, ND.

26 SOND Golf Tournament, Oxbow Country Club. Fargo ND.

July

1-7 Special Olympics USA Games, Seattle WA.

17-21 Special Olympics 50th Celebration, Chicago, IL

September

8 LETR Truck Convoy, Fargo ND

15,16 State Soccer/Bocce Tournament, Grand Forks, ND

17,18 Statewide Applebee's Tip-a-Cop

Finish Line Partners with Special Olympics



For the 6th year in a row, Finish Line is holding its annual holiday fundraising campaign benefitting Special Olympics from November 15 - December 31 at over 560 Finish Line stores across the United States. Customers will be asked to make donations at check-out to benefit Special Olympics. In addition to in-store donations, customers will also be able to make online donations as well as round up their online purchases. North Dakota has two stores, one in Fargo and Grand Forks. Stop in, say "thanks" and show your support!

Spicy Pie Partnership

We are excited to announce our partnership with Spicy Pie! Partner with the Pie is a fun opportunity to enjoy great-tasting pizza and support Special Olympics North Dakota! Use the code SPECIALO to receive 10% off your order of \$25 or more, and Spicy Pie will contribute 10% of your bill to us! And purchase a \$25 gift or \$50 gift card, at 10% off, and receive a \$5 or \$10 voucher, AND 10% goes back to us! **Stock up on stocking stuffers and order dinner at the same time!** <https://specialolympicsnd.org/events/fundraising-events/spicy-pie-promotion.html>



Dancing for Special Stars Lit Up the Stage in Minot

Some may be known as bankers, attorneys, teachers, or business owners, but for one night, they hip hop, swing and disco to raise money for Special Olympics. For the 3rd year, local community members participated in the annual Dancing for Special Stars event held at Anne Nicole Nelson Hall, Minot on October 11.

Dance celebrities and their dance partners participating in this year's event were:

Chuck Barney and Jazmine Schultz
Tom Schrader and Angela Schniabe
Pamela Hopkins and Bob Belisle
Jamaal Mays and Brittany Knickerbaecker
Devera Bowles and Bob Schwartz
Tom Foisy and Sarah McCarthy
Terri Aldrich and Cole Anderson
Stephanie Ness and Tom Barry
Mike Pankow and Tonya Stuart Melland
Brandyn Hendrickson and Elizabeth Colby

Stephanie Ness and Tom Barry were presented the "Mirror Ball Trophy". Congratulations!





Special Olympics North America Softball Championship

A first for this state and for Special Olympics North Dakota – hosting the 2017 Special Olympics North America Softball Championships sponsored by Moose International. This four day event held in Bismarck, was supported by Moose International and members in 1,500 lodges throughout North America. More than 400 athletes representing 25 softball teams were provided the opportunity to compete on first class facilities with an Opening Ceremonies with guest singers, Tigerlily, and a Walk of Champions supported by hundreds of Fans in the Stands. Great North Dakota sponsorship was provided by the Bismarck Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, The Dakota Moose Association and USA Softball. The softball players, family members and volunteer coaches experienced a first class event at some of the best facilities in the United States. Our pride continued as the North Dakota Roughriders who represented SOND placed 3rd in their division receiving the Bronze medal. An immeasurable level of passion came with generosity of time, creativity and enthusiasm that was supported by more than 400 volunteers.

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2017 State Soccer & Bocce Tournament

Special Olympics North Dakota experienced more growth at the 2017 State Soccer/Bocce Tournament held in Grand Forks. Soccer teams grew by three to push our numbers to 31 teams including 7 youth teams. The tournament also saw total numbers grow to 460 participants to represent 10 cities throughout North Dakota. The delegations came from Bismarck, Cass County, Dickinson, Grafton, Grand Forks, Harvey, Jamestown, Mandan, Valley City, and Wahpeton. This year, Grand Forks Central High School hosted the evening meal and dance. Everything went smoothly thanks to their awesome student council. Greater Grand Forks area businesses and organizations that helped make this event a success include Target, Grand Forks Air Force base, Amazon, the Knights of Columbus and countless students from the University of Minnesota-Crookston, the University of North Dakota as well as area high schools.



Thank you to all our sponsors who made this event such a huge success!

Gold Sponsors: United Commercial Travelers, Myra Foundation, Grand Forks Air Force Base/Sports Car Club of America-Badlands Region, Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitors Bureau

Silver Sponsor: Little Miracles, Inc., Retrax Holdings, LLC.

Bronze Sponsors: Priority Title, Ulland Grant—Grand Forks Park District, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Bremer Bank.

Medallion Sponsors: American Legion Post 157, Altru Health System



Special Olympics North Dakota Award Winners

The Special Olympics North Dakota Annual Awards Banquet was held in Fargo on November 18th. Supreme Honorable Ralph Erickson, US Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit was the keynote. Eighteen awards were presented including two Hall of Fame inductions.

Award winners include:

Female Athlete– Jackie Krei, Fargo

Outstanding Coach– Curt Duppong, Dickinson

Area Volunteer– Rachel Meske, West Fargo

Outstanding Family– Wayne and Marcia Schneider Family,

State Organization–Knights of Columbus District 18, Fargo

LETR® Flame of Hope– Amy Kingzett, Fargo

Continuous Service– Matt Melberg, Grand Forks;

Jim’s Towing, West Fargo;

Choice Financial, Fargo

Area Organization– Red River Human Services Foundation, Wahpeton

Hall of Fame– Cliff Brunmeier, Dickinson (posthumously), Dave Schmidt, Fargo

Male Athlete– Jecky Oulare, Grand Forks

Youth Service–Korie Floe, Fargo

State Volunteer–Alex Sumner, Fargo

Outstanding School–Valley City State University

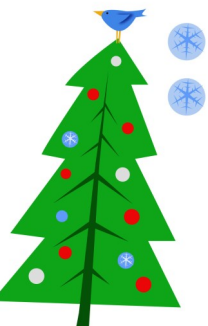
Roger Kerns Character Award– Brianna Foy, Grand Forks

LETR® Flame of Hope– Amy Kingzett, Fargo

Daryl Bjelde Award– Joan Schultheis, Grand Forks



2017 State Award Winners



Follow us today!

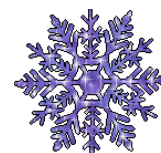


3rd Annual SO College Flag Football Tournament

The Special Olympics College Flag Football Tournament 2017 marked the third annual Flag Football event hosted by SO College UND. The tournament was held on October 14th at Memorial Stadium on the University of North Dakota campus. A field of four teams from SO College Clubs UND, NDSU and Minot St, competed all day Saturday for the title. After 3 rounds of grueling and highly competitive games, undefeated UND Team 1 was declared the winner! Special thanks are owed to UND Football for the use of their field and equipment, US Naval Cadet Corp - Lake Agassiz Division for support on



the field, Valley Officials Association and PKE - UND for providing highly qualified officials and field coordinators. As always, a big thanks to all the Fans-in-the-Stands who came out to support their teams!



Truck Convoy Raises Funds for Special Olympics North Dakota

With everything from 18 wheelers to tow trucks, 67 Big Rigs came together with one mission. To be a part of the World's Largest Truck Convoy to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. Companies from across North Dakota and local law enforcement agencies raised more than \$18,000, convoying for 18 miles through the city streets of Fargo and West Fargo. 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 FTC Transport



from Fargo. In addition to the Convoy, a celebration was held at Jim's Towing on Friday evening, which included a driver's social. Saturday events included a silent auction and live music provided by Raw Sugar. The Truck Convoy would not be successful without the support of the volunteer organizing committee, and the following sponsors, **Silver Sponsors:** Goldmark Property Management, Jim's Towing, Stamart, TDS Trucking, and Wanzek Construction; **Bronze Sponsors:** Killoran Trucking & Brokerage, Lee's Oil Service, LLC, Premier Transportation & Premier Service Center, RDO Equipment & RDO Trucking Center, S&S Transport, Inc., Schwartz Trucking, and Valley Express Inc.; **Medal- lion Sponsor:** Dixon Insurance, Inland Truck Parts & Service, Rizzencio Logistics, LLC., SUPERVALU, Valley Tire, and Vision-Bank



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 10th annual Applebee's Tip-a-Cop on September 19-20. Law Enforcement agencies in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, and Williston, along with athletes, volunteered to greet, serve tables and receive "tips" to raise funds for Special Olympics North Dakota. This year, Applebee's restaurants statewide raised nearly \$19,000 to support athletic programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities! Thank you Applebee's and Law Enforcement for your continued support!



2017 State Bowling Tournament

Midway Lanes in Mandan ND stepped up and delivered another strike for our athletes as it hosted the 2017 state bowling tournament. Every inch of that wonderful facility was needed as a record number of registrations were received. Sixteen delegations including Belcourt, Bottineau, Bismarck, Cass County, Dickinson, Grafton, Grand Forks, Harvey, Jamestown, Jamestown Anne Carlson, Lisbon, Mandan, Minot, Stanley, Valley City, and Wahpeton provided close to 700 athletes. The University of Mary student athletes, Bismarck Bobcats and many other community organizations provided volunteers. Shiloh Christian School was the site for the evening meal and dance. Thank you to all who helped make this year another success!



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