



**Tis the Season of Giving**

As 2016 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. Gifts made to the SOND Endowment may be eligible for the ND Tax Credit for Charitable Giving.

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, and other programs that benefit athletes, their families, and our community. Please visit our website [www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org](http://www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org).

**Procter & Gamble**

Procter & Gamble, now in its thirty-seventh year of partnership with Special Olympics, is holding a month-long promotion of Special Olympics . The promotion will run **January 2-29, 2017**.



**Finish Line**

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 17 - December 25. North Dakota has two stores, one in Fargo and Grand Forks. Stop in and show your support.

**Memorials**

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

**Allen Almer**

**DJ Guerrero**

**Geraldine A. Lattaise**

**Bernice Leier**

**Joe Mayer**

**Lorraine Moos**

**Jose Sauvageau**

**Mikal Simonson**



**Upcoming Events**

**November**

25 Cool Cash Raffle begins

**December**

12-15 Special Olympics USA World Winter Games Training Camp

**January**

8 Snowshoe and Cross Country Invitational-Valley City

20-21 State Winter Games- Bottineau Winter Park

29 District IV Basketball Tournament-Mandan

**February**

4 District II Basketball Tournament-Grand Forks

25 Polar Plunge- Grand Forks Choice Health and Fitness

**March**

3-4 State Basketball Tournament-Minot

14-25 World Games in Austria

**April**

11 Dancing for Special Stars-Grand Forks Empire Theater

**June**

8-10 State Summer Games- Fargo

19 Golf Classic- Grand Forks Country Club

27 Golf Classic- Fargo Oxbow Country Club

**September**

16-17 State Soccer/Bocce- Grand Forks

23 World's Largest Truck Convoy-Fargo SuperValu

**November**

4-5 State Bowling Tournament-Bismarck/Mandan

18-19 SOND Leadership Conference/ Banquet- Fargo Ramada Plaza

## Special Olympics North Dakota to be Represented at 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WORLD WINTER GAMES  
AUSTRIA 2017  
Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria

Heartbeat for the world

The Special Olympics World Winter Games will return to Austria, host of the 1993 Special Olympics World Winter Games. The Games will be held from March 18-24, 2017. Three thousand athletes representing 100 nations will compete in nine sports during the week-long event with the Opening Ceremony in Schladming on March 18.

Four athletes from North Dakota have been selected to represent the U.S. after they complete the USA training camp in December. Athletes include Christy Coughlin, Minot-Alpine; Wade Wintermeyer, Jamestown-snowshoeing; Dave Johs, Bismarck-Cross-Country Skiing; and Katielynn Ovitt, Bottineau-Alpine Skiing. Cindy Schopper of Valley City is an assistant snowshoe coach, Dr. Julie Blehm is on the Special Olympics USA medical team and Kathleen Meagher, SOND President and CEO is the Family Coordinator for Special Olympics USA.



## State Bowling Puts a Strike on Final Sporting Event of 2016

More than 570 athletes competed at Midway Lanes for the State Bowling Tournament. Competition was at it's finest as delegations competed through a mild fall weekend. The weather may have been the cause of the heat outside, but the lanes were on fire with scores that reached the seven hundreds this year!

Competition would not have been possible without the volunteer activity from the University of Mary Athletics; (Baseball, Football, Softball, Track & Field, Tennis, Wrestling, Men's Basketball, and Women's Soccer). Other key volunteer groups included the Mandan Lions Club, Serve YES! AETNA, EMC Insurance, and the University of Mary Kinesiology Department.



Change was evident at this year's event as well as the athletes were given the opportunity to dance the night away at a magnificent new facility. Legacy High School, which was built in the summer of 2015, was also host of the Opening Ceremony.

Thanks to our sponsors who made this event possible: Silver Sponsor: Walmart Foundation Bronze Sponsors: Bismarck/Mandan Convention & Visitor's Bureau, EMC Insurance Companies, MDU Resources Group, Starion Financial.

Seasons Greetings

## Special Olympics North Dakota Award Winners

The Special Olympics North Dakota Annual Awards Banquet was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with Supreme Court Chief Justice, Gerald VandeWalle as the Keynote Speaker at the Holiday Inn, Fargo. Eighteen awards were presented including two Hall of Fame inductions.

Award winners include:

**Female Athlete-** Stephanie Hasse, Fargo

**Male Athlete-** Dante Agnes, Grand Forks

**Outstanding Coach-** Kurt Weinberg, Bismarck

**Youth Service-**Michael Storandt, Grand Forks

**Area Volunteer-** John Schonert, Valley CityS

**State Volunteer-**Jake Thrailkill, Minot

**Outstanding School-**Mandan Pubic School

**Roger Kerns Character Award-** Heather Martell, Jamestown

**LETR® Flame of Hope-** Minot Police Department

**State Organization-**Whiting Oil and Gas Co., New Town

**Daryl Bjelde Award-** Philip Henry, Oxbow

**Hall of Fame-** Christy Coughlin, Minot; Gary Grove, Grand Forks

**Outstanding Family-** Lynn & Yvonne Hummel Family, Fargo

**Roger Kerns Character Award-** Heather Martell, Jamestown

**Area Organization-** Knights of Columbus, Jamestown

**Continuous Service-** Kylo Trucking, Larimore; Paul Spielman, Twin Valley; Ryan Kilwein, Dickinson



2016 State Award Winners



Follow us today!



## SpartanNash Healthy Athlete Award Coming to North Dakota

SpartanNash supported Special Olympics in several states through a scan promotion this year in their stores. In North Dakota these are Dan's SuperMarket and Family Fare. Plans are in place to continue this fundraiser and public education program.

Additionally, Special Olympics North Dakota has received the honor of being selected to have an athlete that exemplifies healthy living in and out of Special Olympics featured on water bottles sold in the state. Make sure to visit a SpartanNash store in following locations: Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo or Mandan in April and May to see the athlete featured on water bottles. This is a once in a lifetime experience for the athlete and they will be featured in stores throughout not only North Dakota but the Midwest. The sale of the water bottles will coincide with SpartanNash's scan promotion that they hold for Special Olympics in 46 states.

## Knowledge Gained at 2016 State Leadership Conference

On October 22-23, more than 40 Special Olympics athletes, coaches, volunteers, and SO College club members attended two days of training focusing on the theme United through Sport. Topics covered included: instruction in Nutrition, Coaching Skills, Volunteer Recruitment & Management, Fundraising, and a general orientation on the rules and mission of Special Olympics North Dakota! Special keynote speakers included Patrick Kasper of Positive Motion, Ella Dorner, Dr. Paul Rudd, Mariah Prussia and Lois Ustanko.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> year, local community members participated in the annual Dancing for Special Stars event held at Anne Nicole Nelson Hall, Minot on October 5. The event was a great success, raising more than \$12,000 for Special Olympics. The event which started in 2010 in Grand Forks and 2015 in Minot, teams up local community members (celebrities) and dance instructors who perform a dance routine for audience and judge votes. Nine couples wowed a full house with their performances.

Thanks to our sponsors who made this event possible: **Bronze Sponsors:** Magic City Lions Club and Town and Country Credit Union, as well as the 11 Medallion Sponsors and in-kind sponsors.

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

Carisa Opperude & Jaryn Homiston  
Becky Bertsch & Cole Anderson  
Joe Skurzewski & Macy Christianson  
Jerry Gooch & Paula Simonson  
Sara Dufner & Nate Christianson  
Will Archinal & Lexi Wyman  
Jessica Ackerman & Sam Buchholz  
Laura Kottsick & Jacob Thrailkill  
Carlos Vieira & Leticia Correa



The winning dance team was Laura Kottsick and Jacob Thrailkill

## Flag Football Unites Students through Sport

The second annual State Flag Football Tournament was held on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 at University of North Dakota. SO College Unified Teams represented were the University of North Dakota (2 teams), North Dakota State University and Minot State University.



The first round of games saw UND Green take on NDSU and UND White face-off against MSU. UND Green and UND White both took first round wins. In the second round, UND Green topped MSU while UND White bested NDSU. The third and final round featured two tie-breakers with UND Green vs UND White, and NDSU vs MSU. UND Green won-out for the gold, with UND White taking home silver. NDSU was able to hang-on for bronze, topping MSU in a last second thriller.

Many thanks to volunteer support from the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, the UND PT/OT Program, Altru Health Systems, and the many dedicated and motivated Fans-in-the-Stands.

## Support us on Black Friday & Cyber Monday

#StartWithASmile at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for all your holiday gifts, decorations, and more. You shop. Amazon gives.

amazon smile



## Truck Convoy Raises Funds for Special Olympics



82 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 24<sup>th</sup>. Companies from across North Dakota and local law enforcement agencies joined together to raise more than \$18,000, convoying for 18 miles through the city streets of Fargo and West Fargo, making the 2016 Truck Convoy the biggest ever held in North Dakota. The "Lead Dog" Auction (the first position of the convoy), was won by Kyllø Trucking from Larimore, ND and the "Tail End" was won by Jim's Towing. In addition to the Convoy, a celebration was held at Jim's Towing on Friday evening, with events including a driver social and a truck light show at dusk. On

Saturday events included a silent auction 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, Wanzek Construction ; **Bronze Sponsors:** Goldmark Properties, RDO Equipment & R. D. Outfit Company, SuperValu Inc; **Medallion Sponsor:** Bellerud Transport Inc, Magnum LTD, 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 9<sup>th</sup> annual Applebee's Tip-a-Cop on September 20-21. 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. This year, Applebee's restaurants statewide raised close to \$19,000 to support athletic programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities! Thank you Applebee's and Law Enforcement for your continued support!



Bismarck Tip-a-Cop Volunteers

## 2016 State Soccer & Bocce Tournament

Special Olympics North Dakota saw plenty of change when it came to this year's event. The venue of the event changed to South Middle School. The amount of soccer teams changed with an increase from 21 teams to 28, which included a growth of 3 youth teams. Field size was also a change as the fields were made shorter, but within Special Olympics North America guidelines, to accommodate for more scoring in this year's tournament. This year, 418 athletes competed at the State Tournament at South Middle School in Grand Forks. Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo (with team members from Casselton, Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo), Grafton, Harvey, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot, Valley City and Wahpeton made up the delegations that competed. Red River High School again played host to the evening meal and dance. 2016 NCAA Division I Men's Hockey champions from the University of North Dakota took the stage as escorts during the Opening Ceremony. Several businesses and companies from the Greater Grand Forks area took the time to volunteer at this event including Target, HuHot, Fish Addictions, Kohl's, Choice Financial and the Knights of Columbus. Not to mention, the countless student athletes from University of Minnesota-Crookston and the University of North Dakota as well as many local high school and college students.

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., Retrax Holdings, LLC. **Bronze Sponsors:** AE2S, Dakota Dental Associates, Kohl's Cares, Grand Forks Park District Foundation, Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitor's Bureau.



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