

The Special Report

The official newsletter of Special Olympics North Dakota



Special Olympics
North Dakota

December 2011

State Award Winners



The annual State Awards Banquet was held on November 5 at the Doublewood Inn, Fargo. Award winners include, *Female Athlete of the Year*: Erin Baumann, Grand Forks; *Male Athlete of the Year*: Billy Whitecotton, Jamestown; *Coach of the Year*: Travis Hanson, Jamestown; *Youth Service*: Heidi Lake, Fargo; *Outstanding Area Volunteer*: Erica Shively, Bismarck; *Outstanding State Volunteer*: Kaia Watkins, Fargo; *Family of the Year*: Ken and Connie Stockert Family, Dickinson; *Outstanding School*: Grand Forks Public Schools; *Outstanding Area Organization*: UND Athletics; *Outstanding State Organization*: Ramada Plaza Suites & Conference Center, Fargo; *Continuous Service*: Applebee's; Al Jaeger, Bismarck; Mitch Parker, Fargo; Mary Simonson, Valley City; *"Flame of Hope"*: Aaron Hummel, Grand Forks; *Daryl Bjelde*: ND Knights of Columbus; *Hall of Fame*: Rita Grant, Valley City; Ken Stockert, Dickinson



Special Olympics is proud to be one of five charitable partners in the Subaru "Share the Love" event. Subaru knows their owners care. That's why they created the "Share the Love" event. You get a great deal on a new Subaru and they'll donate \$250 to your choice of five charities, one of which is Special Olympics. Over the last three years, they've donated nearly \$15 million dollars to charity. They hope to donate another five million by sharing the love again this year.

Whether you are in the market for a new Subaru, or you know someone who is, be sure to pick Special Olympics as your "Share the Love" charity and help support our athletes. Learn more by visiting Subaru.com/share. Each of the participating charities will receive a minimum donation of \$250,000, up to a maximum total donation among all five charities of \$5,000,000.

In addition to the \$250 donation per car, Subaru will also be inviting the Facebook community to allocate up to \$250,000 in additional support to the five charities participating in the 2011 "Share the Love" event. For each Facebook user vote, Subaru will donate \$1 to the user's charity of choice. You can help by sharing Facebook messages yourself and by "liking" Subaru's Facebook page and voting for Special Olympics. http://www.facebook.com/subaruofamerica?sk=app_257448760939476

Volunteer Receives Wells Fargo Award

Yvonne Hummel, a long time volunteer for the Fargo program was the recipient of the Wells Fargo 2011 Volunteer Service Award and received a \$10,000 donation from Wells Fargo for Special Olympics.

2011 Memorials

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

Andrew Bakke	Ardell Hanson	Mike Rydland
Bruce Baumann	Stephen Held	Colleen Settingsgard
Carol Bjelde	Joan Kuske	Walter Taylor
David Blehm	Delores Kvasager	

State Fundraisers

Golf Tournaments

Grand Forks Golf Classic-August 25
Title Sponsor: Lunseth Plumbing and Heating
68 Participants
Fargo Golf Classic-September 13
36 Participants

Applebee's Tip-A-Cop

September 20-21
11 Applebee's Restaurants
Close to \$10,000 raised

LETR World's Largest Truck Convoy

September 24—West Fargo Fairgrounds
Major Sponsor: Wanzek
30 Trucks participated

Help us to Reach Out to One More Athlete by Making Your Year-End Donation

Help Special Olympics North Dakota with a year-end gift and join us in changing lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Sports provide a gateway to empowerment, competence, acceptance and joy. Make your tax-deductible gift and help us give the power of sport to one more person who wants to participate. Thank you for supporting Special Olympics North Dakota!

Los Angeles To Host 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games

The world's largest sports and humanitarian event is coming to the world's capital for media and entertainment. The Special Olympics International Board of Directors have announced that Los Angeles, California will be the host site for the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Los Angeles will welcome more than 7000 Special Olympics athletes from 170 nations to compete in 21 Olympic-type sports. The Special Olympics World Summer Games will return to the United States after 16 years, having last been held in the United States in 1999 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games are expected to bring more than a half-million people to the greater Los Angeles area and will be held in the summer of 2015 (specific dates still to be announced).

Upcoming Events

Holiday Favorites Cook Off

Grand Forks
December 12

State Winter Games

January 13-14

LETR Polar Plunge

Jamestown
February 4
Grand Forks
March 3

State Basketball Tournament

Minot
March 9-10

Dancing for Special Stars

Grand Forks
April 10

State Summer Games

Fargo
June 1-2

Golf Classics

Fargo
TBA
Grand Forks
June 28

State Soccer & Bocce Tournament

Grand Forks
September 15-16

Applebee's Tip-A-Cop

Statewide
September

World's Largest Truck Convoy

West Fargo
September 22

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day

September 22

State Bowling Tournament

Mandan
November 3 & 4



The Young Athletes Program also known as YAP was piloted this past summer with the support of the Grand Forks School District. Seventeen preschool students with special needs participated. The research and implementation of this pilot project was a result of a student lead group from UND. YAP is an innovative developmentally appropriate sports play program designed and conducted by Special Olympics. YAP introduces children with intellectual disabilities and their families to the world of sport prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age eight.

State Sports Events

State Summer Games— Fargo— June 3 & 4

513 Athletes 400 Volunteers

Sponsors: Gold-Sanford Health; Silver: Ramada Plaza Suites, ND Athletic Trainer's Assoc, Xcel Energy, NDSU SAAC; Bronze: Alerus Financial, RDO Offutt Co./RDO Equipment Co., Ottertail Power Co, State Bank & Trust

State Soccer Bocce Tournament—Grand Forks— September 9 & 10

355 Athletes 385 Volunteers

Sponsors: Gold-City of Grand Forks- Special Events, Myra Foundation; Bronze-Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services Inc., GGF CVB FASA, Grand Forks Park District-Ulland Foundation; Medallion-Alerus Financial, Altru Health Systems, Bremer Bank, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Nissan Honda of Grand Forks

State Bowling Tournament—Mandan—October 29 & 30

588 Athletes 388 Volunteers

Sponsors: Silver-AMVETS Club Post #9; Bronze- Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Starion Financial, EMC Insurance Companies; Medallion Sponsors-Bismarck/Mandan CVB, Denny's, Prairie Knights Casino & Resort, St Alexis Medical Center, Investment Centers of America, Inc.

Special Olympics Receives Top Honors

Special Olympics Named #1 Non-Profit!

Special Olympics earned the number one spot on a national list, released this fall, of high-impact non-profit organizations serving people with disabilities. Philanthropedia, a subsidiary of industry non-profit data leader Guidestar, evaluates nonprofit effectiveness by surveying industry experts to identify high-impact non-profits.



Ranked first of 11 leading non-profit organizations serving people with disabilities, Special Olympics was awarded this top distinction by a Philanthropedia group of 79 experts, including foundation professionals, non-profit senior staff, academics, and researchers. These experts, with an average of 20 years of work experience in the field, recommended organizations based on their impact in the field of disability and included organizations that support people with intellectual, physical and mental disabilities. Experts evaluated organizations' strengths in leadership and organizational reach, which resulted in Special Olympics' ranking as the organization with the greatest impact on the intellectual disability community.

Special Olympics receives Charity Navigator 4 Star Rating!

Charity Navigator, the largest and most influential charity rater in the U.S., aims to "help people give to charity with confidence" by evaluating organizations' financial health and their commitment to accountability and transparency. According to Ken Berger, President & CEO of Charity Navigator, "Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that Special Olympics adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way."

Rethink Possible



Support Special Olympics! AT&T will make a donation to Special Olympics in the amount of \$40 for each online purchase made on eligible AT&T products and services. Visit www.att.com/specialolympics for more information.



Pyeongchang, Korea will be the host site for the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games. The Games will be held January 26-February 6. The Games will attract more than 2,500 athletes from 105 nations to compete in seven Olympic-type sports.

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