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As we put a bow on another amazing year at SOSD, I would like to thank every single person who volunteered your valuable time to make sure our events were well run and fun for our athletes. You are the heart of Special Olympics. And to our coaches, you are the soul of our program. Your work is never finished and is always done with passion, humor and compassion. Thank you for your dedication!

To our sponsors and contributors, your gifts and kindness allow our athletes to experience the joy of quality competitions. We are eternally grateful for your generosity.

Parents, you more then anyone can appreciate the contributions of those aforementioned, yet you yourselves contribute more to our program then anyone else. God bless you for loving your sons and daughters and for trusting us with the task of spreading joy, inclusion and acceptance. We hope we can do you proud.

Happy Holidays. It was an amazing 2013 and we look forward with great anticipation to an even better 2014!

Darryl Nordquist, President/CEO

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**Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day**

The fourth annual Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day, was held on Saturday, September 28, 2013, celebrating the theme "Play Unified to Live Unified." Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day is an annual celebration of her life and an invitation for everyone to "Play Unified to Live Unified!" This global call to action stems from Mrs. Shriver’s teaching that on the playing field, we forget about our differences and recognize our mutual humanity. On EKS Day, we invite you to join us in playing unified and teaching the world to live unified. We are demonstrating Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s enduring vision by calling upon athletes, families and friends to come together in a day of inclusive sport and play.

SOSD celebrated by hosting a picnic for our neighbors and friends.

**The Weather Outside is Frightful**

Kelsey Messerschmidt, Assistant Torch Run Liaison and Elizabeth Effling, State Penitentiary Unit Coordinator, model winter hats and mittens made by inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary. These items were donated to approximately 15 non-profits in the Sioux Falls area.

SOSD was fortunate to receive 100 hats and 100 mittens which will be distributed to athletes during our State Basketball Tournament.

Thank you inmates for your generous gift!

**Board of Directors**

**Thank You For Your Service**

SOSD will be saying farewell to Denelle Wilson. We greatly appreciate the contributions you have made over the years.

**Welcome to the Board!**

We are most grateful for the commitment these outstanding individuals have made to Special Olympics South Dakota!

Ashley Clark (Sioux Falls)
Mike Whipple (Rapid City)
Nick Kortan (Sioux Falls)

Myles Kennedy - Spearfish (Chair)
Thomas Brude - Sioux Falls (Vice Chair)
Abby O’Hara - Sioux Falls (Sec)
Bob Arnold - Sioux Falls (Treas)
Jim Boadwine - Sioux Falls
Sam Engbreton - Watertown
Dr. Mark Harlow - Rapid City
Kevin Johnson - Aberdeen
Maynard Koneche - Kimball
Jack Lynass - Rapid City
Wolf Migge - Watertown
Jeff Miller - Brookings
Judy Miller - Beresford
Carl Rapp - Sioux Falls
Marilyn Ruhlman - Brookings
Steve Schacht - Rapid City
Ron Stewart - Rapid City
Julie Williams - Gettysburg
Denelle Wilson - Sioux Falls

**TORCH Editor**

Johna Thum - Special Events Director

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

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Fax: 1.605.331.4328
www.sosd.org

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Johna Thum
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Todd Bradwisch
Torch Run Liaison
Katie O’Brien
Volunteer Coordinator
Twila Hansen
Office Manager
John McHale
Sports Assistant
Kelsey Messerschmidt
Assistant Torch Run Liaison

**Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day**

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SOSD celebrated by hosting a picnic for our neighbors and friends.
The Village Bowl in Aberdeen was once again our hosts for our 26th annual State Traditional Bowling Tournament. A record number of bowlers (546) participated in singles, doubles and team over this three day event held on November 1 - 3, 2013.

In addition to our competitive events, athlete’s enjoyed the Opening Ceremony, karaoke, SOSD Outstanding Awards presentations, banquet and dance.

Another highlight was the awarding of the 9th Annual Gert Lutz Memorial Spirit and Sportmanship winner. For many years, Gert Lutz was an unheralded, behind the scenes supporter of the State Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. Gert spearheaded numerous fundraising efforts and volunteered countless hours supervising the lanes. With Gert’s passing in the spring of 2004, Special Olympics South Dakota lost a true friend. Heads of Delegations nominated one athlete from their team who consistently demonstrates courtesy, sportsmanship and love for the sport of bowling.

Congratulations to Sisseton athlete Juan Kostboth (right), our 2013 award winner! Juan is receiving his award from long time SOSD Board of Directors member Ron Stewart from Rapid City.

Our Sponsors...

May someone be as kind to you as you have been to us.

Plains Commerce Bank ** Tom and Danielle Aman Foundation
Padgett Auto Sales ** Wyndham Hotel Group - In honor of Jessica Kingery
South Dakota High School Football Coaches Association

Thank You Sponsors!
The State Unified Bowling Tournament was held at the Eastway Bowl in Sioux Falls on November 16 & 17, 2013. Doubles were contested on Saturday and team events on Sunday. We have seen a 50% growth in participation in this tournament over the past five years, with a record 290 athletes and unified partners rolling their way through competition this year.

A huge thank you to Lisa Claus, Kendra Duetsch, Brandy Louwagie, Lisa Hardison and family and the staff at Eastway Bowl for being amazing volunteers and host.

Our Sponsors

...May someone be as kind to you as you have been to us.

The Larry Ayres Family

Thank You Sponsors!
The 20th annual State Equestrian Competition was held on the State Fair Grounds in Huron on July 15 - 16, 2013. Close to 100 athletes competed in Barrels, Showmanship at the Halter, Showmanship at the Bridle, English Equitation, Western Equitation, and Working Trails.

Participating Communities: SPURS (Aberdeen), Dakota Horse Stars (Ft. Pierre), HOPE (Huron), Larchwood, Mitchell, Sun-Catcher TRA (Black Hills), HorsePower (Sioux Falls) and Saddle Up (Watertown).

We had the great pleasure of hosting Cessna pilot Brian Dirks during our competition this year. Brian was one of six aviation students who participated in the Cessna Aircraft Company’s Discover Flying Challenge. This program was designed to bring awareness to five charitable organizations: American Red Cross, Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles, Special Olympics, United Way and Veterans Airlift Command.

Brian spent two days with us presenting awards and hanging out with athletes. As if that wasn’t enough fun, Brian flew Sports Director Melanie Frosch, Special Events Director Johna Thum and athlete Nick Lund around the greater Huron area in his Cessna 172 Skyhawk aircraft.

To engage aviation enthusiasts and community partners’ supporters alike, the six pilot interns used social media to share their experiences with flight and philanthropy throughout the summer. A $25,000 donation from Cessna was at stake for the charity with the most social engagement.

With the help of SOSD fans using their social media outlets, Special Olympics won the contest!

Thank You Sponsors!

State Winter Games

On February 4 and 5, 2014, Terry Peak Ski Area will again host this event. Approximately 50 athletes are expected to compete in Glide, Super Glide, Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super G events.

For more information contact the state office.
On September 21 and 22, 2013, over 440 athletes and 35 teams gathered for our 31st annual State Softball Tournament. After three tremendously successful years, we say farewell to our host city of Brookings. Our Games Organizing Committee, volunteers and facilities were second to none. Thank you one and all for being such tremendous hosts and friends.

See you in Rapid City on September 20 & 21, 2014

Our Sponsors

May someone be as kind to you as you have been to us.

Thank You Sponsors!
This 19th Annual event is a friendly holiday blood drive pitting the Sioux Falls Police Department against the Sioux Falls Fire Department to see who can recruit the most blood donors.

The contest kicks off December 26, 2013 and runs through January 4, 2014. The public is encouraged to visit either Sanford Medical Center (333-6444) or Avera McKennan Hospital (322-7111) donor rooms and designate their blood donation to the department of their choice.

Donors will receive a specially designed “Police” or “Fire” t-shirt (while supplies last) and a $5 certificate compliments of Texas Roadhouse.

As the charity of choice for the Sioux Falls Police Department, Special Olympics South Dakota will receive a donation of $350.00 if they should win.

Last year it was the SF Police department coming away with another close victory over the Fire Department 519 – 495 pints.

Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 years with a signed parent consent form), weigh 110 lbs. or more and be in good general health. It is recommended that a person eat and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating blood.

Please bring an ID with you at the time of donation. For more information call 605-331-3222 or visit www.cbblifeblood.org.

Donations can also be made by visiting a bloodmobile at one of the following sites:

- **Pancake House**
  Thursday, December 26, 2013
  7:00 am-1:00 pm
  Free pancakes & Fire Dept. shirt

- **Camille’s**
  Thursday, December 26, 2013
  9:00 am-2:00 pm
  Coupon for a free meal & Police Dept. shirt

- **Scheels**
  Friday, December 27, 2013
  11:00 am-3:00 pm
  Free movie ticket & Police or Fire Dept. shirt

- **HyVee (E. 10th St.)**
  Saturday, December 28, 2013
  9:00 am-2:00 pm
  Free breakfast & Police Dept. shirt

- **Firehouse Subs (3504 W. 41st St.)**
  Saturday, December 28, 2013
  11:00 am-1:00 pm
  Free Fire Dept. shirt

- **Avera**
  Tuesday, December 31, 2013
  9:00 am-11:00 am
  Free Police or Fire Dept. shirt

- **MetaBank (Western Ave & 57th St)**
  Tuesday, December 31, 2013
  8:00 am-11:00 am
  Free Police or Fire Dept. shirt

- **Children’s Home Society**
  Thursday, January 2, 2014
  7:30 am-11:00 am
  Free Fire Dept. shirt

- **SF Fire Rescue (2820 Minn. Ave)**
  Friday, January 3, 2014
  10:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
  Free Fire Dept. shirt

- **SF Police Dept (320 W. 4th St.)**
  Friday, January 3, 2014
  8:00 am-10:30 am; 12:00 pm-4:00 pm
  Free Police Dept. shirt

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**2014 Torch Run Contacts**

South Dakota LETR has elected new executive officers for 2014. These folks will be leading the LETR as we work to continue our success in raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics South Dakota!

- Joel Perry-Director
  Brookings Police Department
  jperry@brookingsleo.org

- Dave Stratton-Assistant Director
  Rapid City Police Department (Retired)
  ltdstrattn@hotmail.com

- Jon Cole-Assistant Director
  Vermillion Police Department
  jcole@vermillionpolice.org

- Todd Bradwisch-Torch Run Liaison
  tbradwisch@sosd.org

- Kelsey Messerschmidt-Assist Torch Run Liaison
  kmesserschmidt@sosd.org

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**Special Olympics South Dakota** was one of the top four non-profit organizations receiving the most votes for the “Hashtag Holiday” promotion held by First National Bank in Sioux Falls.

Their generous donation of $2,500 brightened our holidays and is a wonderful gift to help support our athletes and sports programs across the state of South Dakota.

Pictured left to right: Sara Zacharias (First National Bank) and SOSD staff Kelsey Messerschmidt, John McHale and Darryl Nordquist

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Polar Plunge season is back and will be sweeping across South Dakota with an icy boom! From January to April, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will be hosting 15 Polar Plunges across the state, including two new locations, Chamberlain and Mitchell!

Polar Plunges raised over $420,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota in 2013 and had over 1,400 brave participants take the Plunge into the icy waters. We want 2014 to be our biggest and best year ever – and we need your help to do just that!

In the offseason, we have been working really hard to bring you a brand new website, www.plungesd.org. This website has the information, materials and resources you need in order to start and aid you on your fundraising quest. This site also links you the registration and fundraising pages and gives tips and tricks to help you have a great time “Freezin’ for a Reason!” Please check out www.plungesd.org for more information on all 15 Plunges. You can also contact Todd or Kelsey at 605-331-4117 for any further questions or information.

2013 brought the 2nd Annual Pigskin Madness Raffle and it was a booming success! Over 2,500 tickets were sold and over $50,000 was raised for Special Olympics South Dakota! We are excited to bring this fundraiser back in 2014 and hope to sell even more tickets and give away more big prizes to the lucky winners each week!

Pigskin Madness raffle tickets can be purchased beginning in April and will be sold through the end of August. Raffle tickets can be purchased for $20. Each ticket is randomly assigned three teams for each week of the regular professional football season. Your final score for each week is determined by adding the point totals for your three teams from that week.

The six highest point totals and the lowest point total will be paid out each week.

Prizes for 2013 included:
- Highest Team Total - $200
- 2nd Highest - $100
- 3rd Highest - $80
- 4th Highest - $60
- 5th Highest - $40
- 6th Highest - $20
- Lowest - $20

In November, seven law enforcement officers and two SOSD staff traveled to Orlando, Florida to attend the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference. The South Dakota Law Enforcement Torch Run program raised $561,091 in 2012 and was awarded at the International Conference with the Emerald Level of Excellence, as well as the Fourth Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program ($67) throughout the world for 2012!

We want to give a huge THANK YOU to all the law enforcement who have helped the South Dakota LETR program continually increase awareness and funds for Special Olympics South Dakota from year to year! The success and achievements of the program are all in thanks to you!

PLUNGE SCHEDULE 2014

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<td>Yankton</td>
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It's Madness!

2013 International LETR Conference
It was another record year for the World’s Largest Truck Convoy held at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls on September 20 & 21, 2013. This annual event unites Law Enforcement personnel and truck drivers in an effort to raise funds for Special Olympics Athletes.

Along with the actual convoy, multiple activities were held during this two day celebration, including a Texas Hold’em tournament, lead truck bidding, truck show, live auction, raffles and award presentations.

There were a record 122 registered truckers paying a minimum of $100 to participate in the 15 mile trek through the heart of Sioux Falls, helping raise over $39,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota. This was our largest Convoy ever in South Dakota and hope next year’s event will be even larger.

New in 2014, we will be starting a second “Truck Convoy” in Rapid City. More information on the location and times coming soon!

Thank you to the participants and their families, our sponsors, Law Enforcement Torch Run officers, athletes and their families, the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds and our wonderful volunteers who helped make the 2013 World’s Largest Truck Convoy a huge success.

Tip-A-Cop

In 2013, the LETR hosted two Tip-A-Cop fundraisers. In September, Texas Roadhouse in Sioux Falls held a two night event and raised over $1,800. Applebee’s in Spearfish will be hosting a Tip a Cop on Wednesday, January 22 from 5 - 9 pm. Tip a Cop allows law enforcement officers to put down their handcuffs for the night and volunteer as special “servers” at local participating restaurants. These officers, along with the help of local athletes, help serve drinks and clear tables while working for “tips” for Special Olympics South Dakota. The goal for 2014 is to host several Tip a Cop fundraisers at various restaurants across the state. These events are held throughout the year and are a great way to support Special Olympics South Dakota while enjoying a delicious meal!

Strikes for Special Olympics

This fall, the Law Enforcement Torch Run featured a new and exciting fundraiser, Strikes for Special Olympics. This bowling fundraiser raised over $4,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota in 2013!

Village Bowl in Mitchell and Eastway Bowl in Sioux Falls hosted Strikes for Special Olympics in November. Participants were asked to pay or raise a minimum of $35 per person and in return received food and drink, a t-shirt, three games of bowling and shoe rental. The event also included door prizes, music, fun and prizes to the top scoring bowlers!

We are looking forward to bringing even more Strikes for Special Olympics events to various bowling alleys across the state of South Dakota in 2014 and hope that everyone can join us for a bowlin’ good time!

2014 Torch Run T-shirts

The 2014 Torch Run T-shirts will be ready for sale in January 2014. The shirts are cotton, black and short sleeved and will be $15 a shirt. Please contact Kelsey or Todd at the State Office at 605-331-4117 to order your shirt today!

Social Media

Like us on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date with all the latest information and happenings with the South Dakota Law Enforcement Torch Run!


Twitter - https://twitter.com/SDLETR

For those interested in purchasing a World’s Largest Truck Convoy calendar or t-shirt, please contact the Special Olympics South Dakota State Office at 800-585-2114. The calendars are in and can be purchased for $20 each. Get them while they last!

For more information about the Truck Convoy, please log on the sosd.org website or www.sdconvoy.org website. The date for both of next year’s “World’s Largest Truck Convoy” is September 19-20, 2014. See you all next year!
**Award Winners**

Volunteers do everything there is to do in Special Olympics and more. They are fundraisers, cheerleaders, administrators, food handlers, chauffeurs, chaperones, trainers, coaches, publicists, policy makers, trash collectors, friends, comrades and supporters of Special Olympics. They serve without salary, without recognition, without honors or awards. Special Olympics could not do without them - their devotion, their work and their love.

Each year it is the pleasure of Special Olympics South Dakota to recognize our Outstanding Award Winners. These individuals and groups contribute their time, talents and resources in support of SOSD. They are the driving force behind our success.

So “thank you” volunteer! You represent the highest values of the human spirit. You get your thanks, not in money or words or praise, but through what you do for Special Olympics.

---

**Athlete of the Year - Chana Sandoval, Sioux Falls**

The Outstanding Athlete Award is presented to a Special Olympics athlete who has demonstrated the true spirit, courage, sharing and joy of Special Olympics.

The recipient of the Athlete of the Year award is Chana Sandoval.

Chana has been involved in Special Olympics for 19 years, where she competes in softball, bowling, basketball, track and field and soccer. Chana competed at 2003 World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland as a member of Team USA. She has also competed as a member of Team South Dakota in the 2006 National Games in Ames, Iowa, and in 2010 National Games in Lincoln, NE. Another hi-lite for Chana was participating as an athlete runner in the 2012 Torch Run. During this event, athletes and police officers run through over 20 South Dakota communities spreading their message of hope, acceptance and courage.

Chana is easy going, easy to smile, and very popular with her fellow athlete’s. She is an outstanding athlete, but more importantly, she is an outstanding person.

Congratulations, Chana.

NOMINEES:
- Kayla Bruna, Brookings
- Todd Fossen, Spearfish
- Scott Goldammer, Mitchell
- Kip Heninger, Watertown

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**Don Baker Award - Jan Putnam, Yankton**

The “Don Baker Award” is the highest award presented by SOSD. It is given in honor of Don Baker, a volunteer and official starter for Special Olympics events. This award is given annually to an individual, organization, business, or institution who has given outstanding support to Special Olympics.

Jan has been involved with Special Olympics for over 16 years, with 13 of those years as Head of Delegation for the Yankton program. For the past several years, she has served as the Area Competition Coordinator for the Southeast Area Basketball Tournament as well as a key member of the State Basketball Tournament organizing committee.

With Jan’s recent retirement from Special Olympics, we say goodbye to a talented coach, mentor, tournament organizer, program leader, and friend. Thank you for your service, your dedication and your kind heart. We will miss you.

NOMINEES:
- CCHS & Michelle Boadwine, Sioux Falls
- Myles & Jeanette Kennedy, Spearfish
- Mike & Cindy Markley, Aberdeen
- Lisa Steenson & Rays Corner, Brookings

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**Ron Stewart Award Coach of the Year - Mike and Cindy Markley, Aberdeen**

The “Ron Stewart Award” is given in honor of Ron Stewart of Rapid City who was a Special Olympics Coach for over 25 years. This award is given to a coach who has given their time to encourage Special Olympics athletes to achieve their fullest potential.

Congratulations to Mike and Cindy Markley.

Mike and Cindy put in countless hours not only training their athletes, but also teaching healthy eating and life skill habits. They strive for their athletes to perform to the best of their abilities, but just as importantly, they want their athletes to be healthy and happy. They provide transportation to events, chaperone, and coach.

During out of town events it’s a 24 hour a day job. I’m sure they would call it a labor of love.

For their hard work, their outstanding teaching ability, and their dedication to our organization, we would like to present the Special Olympics Ron Stewart award for outstanding coaching to Mike and Cindy Markley.

NOMINEES:
- Gary Maffett, Brookings
- Rich Mulholland, Sioux Falls
- Becky Schmig, Watertown
- Brent & Tracey Steinbach, Spearfish
The “Lyle Farrand Award” is given in honor of Lyle Farrand of Sioux Falls, who in 1968 was instrumental in starting Special Olympics South Dakota. This award is given to an individual who has made a tremendous impact on Special Olympics.

Like clockwork, Charlie contacts the state office to find out details regarding the State Softball Tournament. It doesn’t matter where or when it is, Charlie is packed and out the door, ready to take on his duties as head umpire. This is not a glamorous job. He needs to make the schedules for the umpires and scorekeepers, sometimes having to figure out how to fill 20 spots with 15 volunteers. If there is a controversial call, Charlie is the one who has to make the decisions and diffuse contentious situations. His experience and ability to communicate with people makes him the ideal person for the job. With Charlie’s ASA certification, he is qualified to work at national level tournaments. In fact, he has... both Ames and the Lincoln. We are extremely fortunate to have him working with us. Thanks Charlie, you’re the best!

**NOMINEES:**
- Sandy Deibele, Brookings
- Mark & Penny Krogstrand, Aberdeen

**Family Of The Year - The Sandoval Family, Sioux Falls**

This award is given to a family who demonstrates unique and outstanding support of Special Olympics athletes.

If you have ever attended a Southeast Area event, chances are you were fortunate enough to hear Brandon, Erica and Nicole Sandoval singing the National Anthem. When done performing, the Sandoval siblings can be found helping their mother Barb (Southeast Area Director) with organizing and running the Southeast Area Games. Volunteer registration, serving lunch, preparing competition areas, running errands... you name it, Barb and her children have done it. When the Sandoval’s aren’t running the games, Barb and Brandon are coaching and chaperoning. Regardless of these other responsibilities, they always find time to fulfill their number one priority... cheering on their daughter/sister Chana. The Sandoval’s have dedicated the majority of their free-time volunteering for SOSD. Thank you Barb and kids for being a truly amazing family!

**NOMINEES:**
- Benning Family, Redfield
- Ivers Family, Brookings

The “DJ Mertens Award” is given in honor of DJ Mertens who was instrumental in establishing and developing Special Olympics South Dakota. This award is presented to a business, organization or media outlet which has made a major contribution to Special Olympics South Dakota.

Under the leadership of Athletic Director Jhett Albers, BHSU staff, coaches and athletes played key roles in the success of our State Summer Games. From preparing competition areas to actually running events, these folks did it all. According to one coach, "Out of all the places we visit for events, BHSU goes above and beyond and treats our delegations like champions! The student athletes and mascots set the tone for a weekend full of fun and energy as they welcomed our athletes to Opening Ceremonies. The high fives and smiles were contagious. The event directors and volunteers answered our questions and were readily available to assist as needed. The facilities were well prepared and the athletes loved the food."

Thank you BHSU for making these games a tremendous success!

**NOMINEES:**
- Sammons Financial Group
- Wal-Mart

**2014 SOSD OUTSTANDING AWARDS**

Please show your love for Special Olympics by nominating the deserving people in your life for a 2014 SOSD Outstanding Award!

Nomination forms are due in the SOSD office by May 22, 2014. Look for a nomination form at your Area and State Games. Forms can also be found on our homepage at www.sosd.org.

Categories include:
- Athlete Of The Year Award
- Don Baker Award (the highest honor presented by SOSD)
- Family Of The Year
- Outstanding Coach (Ron Stewart Award)
- Volunteer Of The Year (Lyle Farrand Award)
- Champion Award (DJ Mertens Award)
Happy Birthday, Special Olympics—You Have Made a Big Difference!

When Eunice Kennedy Shriver started Special Olympics in 1968, she was proposing a bold strategy that was not understood or welcomed in its time. Intellectual disability (at that time mental retardation) was rarely mentioned, and people with intellectual disability were shunned and hidden away.

Shriver’s simple proposition was that if we could shed light on intellectual disability and what people with intellectual disability could accomplish, inclusion of this population as full participants in society would result. She used sport, something familiar and comfortable to most people, as a metaphor for striving, succeeding and demonstrating competence and humanity. She got it right.

As Special Olympics celebrates its 45th birthday on July 20, 2013, the dramatic results of her bold vision have come to fruition. There are many ways to measure success. It could be the more than 4.2 million athletes training and competing in Special Olympics around the world in 170 countries and all 50 U.S. States. It could be millions of volunteers and coaches who have given of themselves, many for decades, to help create the largest amateur sports endeavor in history. It could be millions of individuals and thousands of organizations that have donated time, talent and treasure to support this burgeoning enterprise. It could be the athlete global messengers who proudly stand up and tell the story of Special Olympics and how it changes lives. It could be the families of children with intellectual disability whose fears have been turned to positive expectations for their children and who serve as beacons re-illuminating that first light that Eunice Shriver shone on intellectual disability.

Access is one of the most fundamental rights and needs of all people, including people with intellectual disability. Access to sports, quality health care, educational opportunities, employment, community organizations, early child development services, and overall dignity – these are the things historically denied to people with intellectual disabilities. But thanks to one woman’s vision decades ago and the tireless work of those comprising the Special Olympics Movement, the world is opening up to people with intellectual disabilities. The gains made in the last 45 years are nearly immeasurable, and in the pantheon of human rights, are indeed impressive.

And yet, these major waves, as impressive as they are, reflect what mostly can be seen on the surface. Underneath the smiles, raised hands in victory, applause, handshakes, hugs, photographs, and sheer delight is dramatic “hard evidence” of how Special Olympics has impacted lives and society.

Special Olympics has taken care to document the evidence underlying the truths that are experienced every day. This evidence, derived from cutting-edge research, intensive program evaluations and programmatic documentation, provides a strong push point for the next decades of progress for people with intellectual disability.

So, as we contemplate 45 burning candles on the Special Olympics birthday cake on July 20, we should keep in mind that this celebration was born out of a vision that for people with intellectual disability, there was more than met the eye. And, for Special Olympics itself, there is much more than meets the eye. The Special Olympics Flame of Hope that has been carried in the hands of torchbearers and the hearts of millions for decades, is the good luck candle that will continue to illuminate the considerable work that must go forward.

Happy birthday, Special Olympics...and many more.

Dr. Gary Siperstein Director, Center for Social Development and Education University of Massachusetts Boston
Dr. Stephen Corbin Senior VP, Community Impact Special Olympics International

Hy-Vee Makes Donation to SOSD

Hy-Vee recently donated $1,231.16 to Special Olympics through its “Operation Helpful Smile” program. Operation Helpful Smile is a Sioux Falls Hy-Vee program that has assisted local non-profit organizations and charities over the past 11 years. Hy-Vee proudly announces that Operation Helpful Smile surpassed the $1.6 million mark in funding given back to over 100 local non-profit organizations. Each week, a different area non-profit organization receives a monetary donation from Hy-Vee. Hy-Vee will match all customer contributions received for each weekly organization up to $1,000.00.

Pictured is Darryl Nordquist from Special Olympics and Jeff Rink from Hy-Vee.

Toys "R" Us Partnership

Toys“R”Us has provided us with numerous copies of their toy guide for differently-abled kids. Contact us if you would like copies for distribution.

The Toys“R”Us Children’s Fund has recently pledged $1 million to become Founding Partner of the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games and Presenting Sponsor of the first-ever Young Athletes Festival. Leading up to these games, Toys“R”Us will be featuring photos and bios of Young Athletes representing all 50 states on their countdown website.

Our representative is Hudson Engels from Watertown. You can watch for Hudson’s profile at: http://www.toysrusinc.com/charitable-giving/2014-special-olympics-usa-games/
The Modern Woodmen Of America, in partnership with the Sioux Falls Stampede, will be hosting their annual Matching Funds Project this spring. We are once again honored to be the recipient of these proceeds.

Please join us for an exciting night filled with great hockey, athlete participation and amazing financial support for SOSD!

Modern Woodmen Night
March 28, 2014

Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

A Very Merry Christmas Compliments of Wells Fargo

The spirit of Christmas is alive and well in Sioux Falls. The Wells Fargo Diverse Abilities Team Member Network “adopted” two Special Olympics athletes and one family this holiday season. According to Robin Pappas, project coordinator, “Wells Fargo has a strong belief in community. Everyone deserves the joy of gifts under the tree. It’s our great pleasure to brighten the Christmas of these folks.” Wish lists were provided to Robin and her team and over $700.00 in merchandise was gifted.

Thank you, Wells Fargo, for your support of people with disabilities and for reminding us all what Christmas is about...GIVING!

Support Special Olympics Athletes Every Time You Run, Walk or Cycle!

Let’s get moving! Charity Miles is a free app that enables you to earn money for charity when you exercise. You can download Charity Miles to their iPhone or Android and every time you log in to work out, select Special Olympics as your charity of choice.

You can earn 25 cents for every mile you walk or run, and 10 cents for every mile you cycle! Funds you earn will benefit your local Special Olympics Program. So do your part and we all win!
**Scarf Project 2014**

Folks from all around the country have been hard at work crocheting and knitting scarves for SOSD athletes, coaches, and supporters. We have a long way to go to meet our goal.

**Colors:** Navy and Orange/Tangerine. We are not overly concerned with “exact” colors. Anything close to these are perfectly fine.

**Deadline to Receive Scarves:** February 20, 2014

**Shipping Address:** SOSD * 800 E. I-90 Lane * Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**Scarf Distribution Information:** SOSD State Basketball Tournament to be held in Pierre on March 14 & 15, 2014

**Scarf Goal:** 80

For more information either visit our website at www.sosd.org or follow the project on facebook at “knit and crochet for a cause”

**KEEP ‘EM COMING!**

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**Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®**

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® program was developed in 1996. This program is designed to help Special Olympics athletes improve their health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experience and improved well-being.

**We are actively seeking qualified clinicians for all seven disciplines. Please contact us if interested.**

**Fit Feet:** Athletes are screened for feet and ankles for deformities, skin and nail problems, and also check for proper shoes and socks.

Clinician Requirements: Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

**FUNfitness:** Physical Therapists assess and improve flexibility, stamina, functional strength and balance, educate participants, families and coaches about the importance of flexibility, strength and balance, and provide a hands-on opportunity for participants to learn about physical therapy.

Clinician Requirements: Licensed Physical Therapist

**Special Smiles:** Athletes are provided with hygiene education, a “goody-bag” containing toothbrush, toothpaste and floss, nutritional education and a free mouth guard.

Clinician Requirements: Licensed Dentist or Dental Hygienist

**Health Promotion:** Health Promotion venues empower and motivate athletes to make healthy lifestyle choices that will improve their long-term health by using interactive educational games and literature. Athletes are offered guides for healthy eating, sun safety, smoking cessation, lifestyle choices and fun ways to increase physical fitness.

Clinician Requirements: Dietician, Physician, Nurse, PT, Health Educator

**Healthy Hearing:** Clinicians screen the hearing of athletes and notify athletes and their coaches if follow-up care is needed.

Clinician Requirements: Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist.

**MedFest:** Standard sports physical examination for current and prospective Special Olympics athletes are completed.

Clinician Requirements: Medical Doctor, Physician

**Opening Eyes:** Under this program, extensive vision screenings are conducted. Athletes are then provided with free prescription eye glasses, sport wear glasses and sunglasses as warranted.

Clinician Requirements: Vision Care Professional, Licensed Optometrist or Ophthalmologist.

For More Information Regarding Clinician Training:

Johna Thum, Special Events Director
Local: 605.331.4117
Toll Free: 800.585.2114
Fax: 605.331.4328
E-Mail: jthum@sosd.org

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**young athletes**

**What:** Special Olympics “Young Athletes” is an innovative program designed to introduce children ages 2 to 7 with intellectual disabilities to the world of sport and play.

**When:** February 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2014

**Time:** 10:00am - 10:45am

**Location:** Family Wellness Center
8701 W. 32nd St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

**Other:** An adult is required to chaperone and participate. A Unified Partner (child without an intellectual disability) of similar age to the Young Athlete is welcome, but not required.

**Registration:** Call Johna Thum at 605.331.4117 by January 27, 2014

**Fee:** No cost

**Minimum/Maximum:** 5/10

This program is made possible through the support of these outstanding partners

Sanford Wellness Center
Family Wellness Center
YMCA

We would LOVE to introduce a Young Athletes program into your community! Contact Johna at the state office
2014 USA GAMES

In June of 2014, the third USA Games will be held in Princeton, New Jersey. 3,500 athletes from across the United States will compete.

We are thrilled to announce the members of Team South Dakota:

Athletics
Josh Johnson-Aberdeen
Kent Mulholland-Sioux Falls
Chana Sandoval-Sioux Falls
Amnie Schwend-Spearfish
Rich Mulholland-Sioux Falls
Barb Sandoval-Sioux Falls

Aquatics
Katie Armstrong-Brookings
Megan Mills-Rapid City
Cathy Grubb-Belle Fourche

Basketball
Jacob Anderson-Yankton
Abbie Benz-Brandon
Kyle Duke-Yankton
Josh Gilbert-Rapid City
Chad Hanten-Brandon
Taylor Harwood-Spearfish
Jody Neitzel-Watertown
Noah Pierce-Sioux Falls
Alex Poe-Bryant
David Tanner-Rapid City
Suzy Gehring-Brookings
Paul Schmig-Watertown
John Tanner-Rapid City

Powerlifting
Anthony Kinsinger-Watertown
Trevor Tridle-Deadwood
Brent Steinbach-Spearfish

Unified Bowling
Keith Halberstadt-Sioux Falls
Marcie Halberstadt-Sioux Falls
Mark Hoover-Sioux Falls
Elaine Hoover-Sioux Falls
Lisa Claus-Sioux Falls

Medical
Marilyn Ruhlman-Brookings

Head of Delegation
Melanie Frosh-Sioux Falls

Assistant HOD
Johna Thum-Sioux Falls

By Jenna Aderhold, Hamlin County Publishing

Six Hamlin High School students have been perfecting their bowling skills as well as learning life lessons from the Northeast Educational Services Cooperative Special Olympics athletes the past six weeks.

The six high school students paired with six Special Olympics athletes to make up the newly formed unified bowling team. Their season culminated last Saturday when they competed at the state Special Olympics Unified Bowling Tournament in Sioux Falls.

They competed with other Unified Bowling teams from across the state, around 180 bowlers in all. Saturday was the doubles competition and Sunday they participated in a team competition. All of the NESC athletes received medals in both the team and the doubles competitions.

The Unified sports program is in its infancy at Hamlin School.

Junior Savanna Adams attended the National Special Olympics conference with special education teacher Brian Jacobsen and Special Olympics athlete Terri Gehm. They attended workshops about Project Unify, an initiative to integrate Special Olympics athletes with regular kids in and out of school.

Jacobsen said he’s watched the interactions between the Special Olympics athletes and their peers in the hallways and has seen a change already.

Sophomore Molly Koisti bowling on the unified bowling team. “Since I have participated in unified bowling I have gotten to know the students better. It has been made clearer that they are just like you and me. Before bowling I just said hi when I passed my team mates in the hall, but now when I see them we can talk with each other,” said Koisti.

Seniors Christa Koisti and Jaselle Rosenlund also participated on the Unified Bowling team. C. Koisti said playing on the team was a great experience. “Everyone had a great time and I definitely got to know the kids better. I decided to participate because I enjoy getting to work with the centerbase kids. Their smiles and pure joy for every little thing is so heartwarming, that definitely was the best part and made it all worth it,” said C. Koisti.

Rosenlund has a personal tie to Special Olympics. Her brother Dominick is a Special Olympics athlete and is part of the centerbase class located at Hamlin School.

“I think that my favorite part of Unified Bowling was watching everybody get comfortable with each other. Our first practice was kind of awkward because nobody really knew what to do. Savanna and I were the only ones who had experience with the kids,” said Rosenlund. “My family and I volunteer as much as we can, and go to all of the games. When Brian told me about the Unified Bowling I was excited to get to be involved with another Special Olympic sport.”

Jacobsen said thus far he’s considered the unified sports teams a great success based on how he sees the kids interacting in the hallways. He’s seen more ‘good mornings’ and high fives since the beginning of the year, which is the goal of the unified sports program.

The Special Olympics athletes also paired with a handful of their school peers for a unified bocce ball tournament following the state softball tournament this spring. Jacobsen said they’re goal is to have unified bocce ball, bowling as well as basketball in the next three years.

“I would love to participate in bowling again next year. I have learned a lot and it is a great experience,” said M. Koisti. “The best part of bowling was learning the game and being with my team mates. I always looked forward to the Friday afternoons when we would leave the school after lunch and go bowling.”
### Gold $1,000 and above

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### Dedications

#### In Memory of Ethel Risty
- Michael & Allison Bolger
- R.L. & Glenda Burns
- County Fair Foods Store #90
- Gary & Rosemary Evjen
- Mary Gustafson
- Teresa & Mike Haddican
- M. Paul & Barbara Halistenon
- Linda & Michael Haugen
- Kay Heimark
- Laurie & Terry Heuermann
- Erin & Jeff Horstmeyer
- Evelyn & William Huntimer
- Patty A. Jensen
- Kenneth Eckert Living Trust
- Douglas C. Kepplinger
- Alyce E. Krause
- Jack & Lona Miller
- Howard & Kathleen Mitchell
- Craig Orke
- Judy & Roger Rae
- Roger Risty
- Ronald & Lynn Risty
- Mary Standaert

#### In Memory of Bruce Larson
- Jay & Cleo Clark
- Larry & Janet Johnson
- Bruce & Carol Larsen

#### In Memory of Tammy Acers
- Bud & Catherine Griebel

#### In Memory of Wynell Murphy
- Alfred & Linda Hartmann

#### In Memory of Mike Joffer
- Metro Communications - 911

#### In Memoriam
- Steven Mohr (Sioux Falls)
- David Williams (Rapid City)
**Schedule of Events 2014**

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<td>June 14-21</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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**Thank You, Augustana Running Club!**

The 2nd annual Augustana Langskip 5K was held on October 19, 2013. SOSD was again named the charity of choice by the event sponsor, Augustana Running Club. The total number of runners increased from 169 last year to 271 this year. Proceeds from this event totaled $750.

Left to right: Augustans representatives Corey Camp, Shelby Duffield, Eric Habbe, Krista Youngberg (Darryl Nordquist) and Mike Flynn.

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**The r-word hurts.**

**SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD.**

03.05.14

www.r-word.org

The word retarded hurts millions of people with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends. SOSD is strongly committed to educating our youth in an attempt to eradicate the R-word from our vernacular. Participating in Spread The Word To End The Word (STWTETW) activities is easy, will not cost you a dime, and is important!

Nationally, STWTETW Day is March 5, 2014. Planning your activities around this day is encouraged, but not required.

If interested in participating, please contact Johna at the state office by 5:00 pm on January 10, 2014. All promotional items will be supplied to you free of charge!

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**Special Thanks To These Major Sponsors**

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**Thank You To These Official Partners**

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA