On July 20, 1968, The first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held at Soldier Field in Chicago. Although South Dakota was not represented at these games, a handful of local visionaries were inspired by these events and shortly thereafter Special Olympics South Dakota was born.

The first Special Olympics competition in the state were held at USD in the spring of 1969.

In 1970, South Dakota was represented by 13 athletes at the 2nd International Games held in Chicago.

There have been countless people over the past 50 years who have contributed their time and talents to this organization. As part of our year-long celebration, we recently sat down with three of our pioneers, Lyle Farrand, Ron Stewart and Bob Arnold for a walk down memory lane. Thank you for sharing your stories with us, and for the love you have shown SOSD for the past five decades!

Lyle Farrand - Special Education Teacher, Special Olympics Coach, SOSD Board Member - Sioux Falls (Retired)

In 1965 I was a special education teacher in the Sioux Falls School District. In those days there were no activity or fitness programs for kids with disabilities. So to give them something to do, I started to have open gyms during my lunch break. I had eight kids and they basically didn’t know how to do anything. Some of them had never been off the couch. In fact, one mom said there was a dent where her son spent all his time sitting. The open gym was a success!

Shortly thereafter, I talked a friend of mine into helping me with hosting open gyms on Saturdays. The arrangement was for parents to provide transportation and we would work with the kids for two hours on physical fitness. A couple of years later we were able to get pool time at the YMCA so that was added to our activity offerings. It was something but not close to what we needed.

In 1968, when we heard about Special Olympics, we thought it was perfect and we knew we needed to get our special ed students involved in it.

At the same time I was getting on-board with Special Olympics, others across the state were as well. Dr. Charles Spencer, the head of the physical Education Department at USD, was instrumental in getting things organized. Roger Kerns as well. In the spring of 1969, our first State event was held at USD. I brought 17 athletes from Sioux Falls. There were five athletes from Vermillion, seven from Mitchell and one from Winner. We also invited 100 athletes to come up from Iowa so we would have some competition. There was a very limited number of events offered. The longest race was 300 yards. We ran it shuttle style - 50 yards down and back because we didn’t think the athletes would stay in lanes if they ran on the track. Hard to believe it now. We have come so far since then.

Ron Stewart - Special Education Teacher, Special Olympics Coach, SOSD Board Member - Rapid City (Retired)

In the early ‘70’s, I taught special education in Rapid City. Out of the blue, my supervisor showed some of us teachers a video about Special Olympics. Afterward, she asked if I would be willing to spearhead the program in my school. It was an easy “yes”. Once my program was up and going, I worked to get all special ed departments in Rapid City involved.

The first state meet we attended was in Vermillion. I took seven athletes. Around this time, SOI was mandating states to have a Board of Directors. The folks at USD who were managing our state events didn’t want a board, so to circumvent this rule they just made one up. They sent SOI names of real people, but they had no intention of allowing a board to really work and direct the organization. One of the people they asked to “borrow” their name was Dr. Higbie, a professor at BHSU. I happen to be taking a summer school class with Dr. Higbie at this time. He told me he had no interest in the position and asked if I would take his place. To this I agreed. Shortly thereafter the Board of Directors became real working body. The first International Games I attended (now called World Games) was in Mount Pleasant, MI in 1975.

I served in some capacity or another with SOSD through 2015…. Over 40 years.

Bob Arnold - SOSD Board Member, SOSD Volunteer - Sioux Falls

In 1978, when I was 12 years old, my brother asked if I would help him and his Knights of Columbus group run the softball throw. This sounded easy enough so I was in. It ended up being a rough day. I completely underestimated the skills of the athletes, which resulted in getting nailed in the head I think three times that day.

At the end of the day, I remember Sandi Ragels asking if I was willing to come back the next year to help. Well, I had been hit in the head three times that day and I really didn’t have that much fun. So thinking fast, I told Sandi I would come back if I could announce on the main track. Now keep in my mind, in those days members of the local media always did the announcing, so I was quite confident my phone wasn’t going to ring. About a week before the meet, I remember getting a call from Sandi saying the media couldn’t make it. I stuck to my word, showed up, and announced. Today, 39 years later, I’m still here and going strong.

Have a favorite Special Olympics story to share? Contact Johna

Call Darryl at 605.376.8643 if you would like to help with our celebration
Mitchell was the host city for our 2nd annual installment of the State Fall Classic. This event consists of a one day bocce tournament followed by a two day softball tournament.

As often is the case, we were faced with an interesting mixed bag of weather. On Friday, September 21, 2017, our 55 traditional bocce doubles teams and 82 Unified doubles teams enjoyed sunny skies and t-shirt weather. On Saturday our Softball players were greeted with a cold, heavy rain. Although we lost our Opening Ceremony and a few early games, our players and coaches persevered and completed a very competitive and successful tournament.

Hosting these two tournaments required an army of volunteers, financial support and organizing manpower. Thank you Mitchell for hosting an outstanding event!

Slow Pitch Division 1
1. RC Storm-Thunder
2. Watertown 1
3. SF Fireworks-Pyro Bombs
4. SF Fireworks-Poppers
5. Mitchell Fire

Slow Pitch Division 2
1. SF Fireworks-Spinners
2. RC Storm-Blizzard
3. SF Fireworks-Explosion
4. Spearfish Peaks A

Slow Pitch Division 3
1. Yankton Dukes Crushers
2. Brookings 2
3. SF Fireworks-Rockets

Coach Pitch
1. Spearfish Peaks B
2. SF Fireworks-Sparklers
3. Brookings 1
4. Yankton Dragons

Tee Ball Division
1. Mitchell Kernels
2. Watertown 2 (CP)
3. Yankton Wildcats

Unified Division 1
1. Brandon Sprinters
2. SF Fireworks-Parachutes
3. Yankton Meatballs
4. RC Flame Sr Orange

Unified Division 2
1. Mitchell Outlaws
2. RC Flame Sr Black
3. Heartland Hunters
4. RC Flame Jr (Unified)

Thank You Organizing Committee!

Tournament Hosts
Mitchell CVB
Mitchell Parks & Rec

Umpire-In-Chief
Charlie Unterbrunner

Organizing Committee
Phil Collins
Katie Knutson
Kevin DeVries
Pat Essig
Jamie Henkel
Emily Hennagir
Ed Kieff
Lyndon Overweg
Don Petersen
Rod Titze

Our Sponsors

Arnie’s First & Foster
Boyd Financial Services
Carquest Auto Parts

J & D Masonry
Meyers Oil Company
Williams Masonry Inc.

CHS Farmers Alliance Coop
Custom Plus Collision Center
Northside Sinclair/Southside Sinclair

Studelska Chiropractic & Acupuncture
Dr. Rebecca Studelska

Wells Fargo

REWS
TV & APPLIANCE

First National Bank Omaha

Thank You!
Bowling continues to be well attended and much loved by the 561 athletes who competed at this 30th annual event. Athletes from 27 delegations rolled singles, doubles, team and ramp events on November 3 - 5, 2017.

Our friends at the Village Bowl in Aberdeen once again hosted a first rate event. A huge THANK YOU to Al, Donna and crew for allowing us to invade your space for three solid days.

We found a new home for our Opening Ceremony, Awards Ceremony and dance at the Best Western Ramkota complex conveniently located directly across the street from the bowling alley.

Thank you Aberdeen for the outstanding volunteer support we receive from you. This event requires in the neighborhood of 200 volunteers and you got that covered and then some.

See you next year!

Our Sponsors

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

The Koehler Organization
In Memory of Wayne Fauth

Our Sponsors

Aberdeen Chrysler Center
Aman Foundation
Avis Rent-A-Car
CorTrust
Department of Social Services
Erickson & Associates, LLC
First Premier Realty
Helms & Associates
Hub Music & Vending
House of Glass, Inc.
Insurance Plus
Malchow’s Home Furnishings
Meyers Auto Inc.
Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Padgett Auto Sales
Odoba
Reede Construction, Inc.
Tri State Water
US Bank

---Thank You!
STATE UNIFIED BOWLING

Eastway Bowl * Sioux Falls
November 18 & 19, 2017

This is how we roll! There was an outstanding turnout for the 13th installment of this event. The 324 Athletes and Unified Partners made this the 2nd most attended Unified Bowling Tournament since its inception in 2005.

Participants enjoyed a lovely evening of entertainment at the Unify Center on Saturday at the conclusion of competition. We would like to extend our appreciation to our Unified Partners who have vaulted Unified Sports to the forefront of our Games and our mission.

A huge thank you to Abbie Benz, Sadie Benz and all who helped at this event for being amazing volunteers. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Eastway Bowl for once again being such gracious hosts. We appreciate you!

Our Sponsors

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

Thank You!
Valley Queen Cheese Factory is located in Milbank, SD. Their cheese products are out of this world, but so are their employees! The Valley Queen philosophy is to “Invest in organizations that make South Dakota a better place to live, work and play.” Valley Queen has invested in SOSD by supporting our Unify Center at the “Gold $50,000+” level!

Thank you to all the Valley Queen Cheese Factory employees for this wonderful blessing!

South Dakota Community Foundation Makes Generous Donation

This past July we were gifted a check in the amount of $10,000.00 from the South Dakota Community Foundation. “We are very appreciative of the support The South Dakota Community Foundation has provided us over the years.” said President/CEO Darryl Nordquist. “These funds will be used to grow Unified Champion Schools and Unified sports programming.” Thank you to everyone associated with the SDCF.

Dale Dickmeyer Memorial Foundation Golf Tournament

The 2017 Dale Dickmeyer Memorial Foundation Golf Tournament and Silent Auction fundraiser was held on June 10, 2017 at Central Valley Golf Course. The event was a wonderful success raising over $8,500 for local charities. These contributions will assist the organizations in their efforts to positively influence lives in the community which was Dale’s passion.

SOSD was one of three charities sharing these funds.

“We started this fundraiser to continue Dale’s legacy. Every year we are amazed at the generosity of our friends, family, and local businesses. We did not know what to expect when we started the tournament. We’ve exceeded our expectations and know Dale would be humbled and proud.”

A huge "Thank You" to the Dale Dickmeyer Memorial Foundation for this generous contribution.

Modern Woodmen Night

The Modern Woodmen of America, in partnership with the Sioux Falls Stampede, will be hosting their annual Matching Funds Project this spring.

We are again honored to be the recipient of these proceeds. Please join us!

March 10, 2018

Estate Planning

Are you aware of the many ways you can give the joy and pride of Special Olympics even when you are gone? Please consider Special Olympics South Dakota as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policies and IRA’s.

Contact Darryl Nordquist, President/CEO for more information.

“I would love to help Special Olympics athletes for many years to come.”

Valley Queen Cheese Factory is located in Milbank, SD. Their cheese products are out of this world, but so are their employees!
2017 AWARD WINNERS

Volunteers do everything there is to do for Special Olympics and more. They are fundraisers, cheerleaders, administrators, food handlers, chauffeurs, chaperones, trainers, coaches, publicists, policy makers, trash collectors and friends. You serve without salary, without recognition, without honors or awards. Special Olympics could not do without you - your devotion, your work and your 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 and our athletes.

Spirit of a Champion Award - Bruce Weeldreyer, Sioux Falls Fireworks

The following was written by Special Olympics Coach Barb Sandoval. “Bruce participates in Basketball, Bowling, Bocce, and Softball. When I think of someone that shows good sportsmanship, Bruce always comes to mind. On and off the field of play, he shows respect for his opponent and is gracious in winning or losing. I have coached Bruce’s Basketball Team for the past 20+ years and I have loved every minute of it! Because of Bruce’s ability, height and understanding of the game, he could dominate play any time he wanted. But he doesn’t. He will pass the ball more than he will shoot and he is always trying to get the ball to the members of his team that he knows haven’t scored during the game or tournament.”

Barb continues, “Bruce has an incredibly kind heart and I have never seen him get angry or discouraged if we are behind; he is always positive and just happy to be playing. He cheers his teammates on and encourages them to shoot and play to the best of their ability.”

“My softball teams have played against Bruce’s team and I see the same qualities in him as a member of the opposing team as I do when I am his coach. He is as fun to play against as he is to have on my team.”

Don Baker Award - Black Hills Harley Davidson, Rapid City (Jim and Monica Burgess)

Black Hills Harley Davidson has hosted the Rapid City Polar Plunge for the past two years. This venue provides a party like atmosphere that generates the most incredible amount of enthusiasm and energy that I have ever seen at a Polar Plunge. As a result, this event has set two consecutive state records for money raised at a Polar Plunge, with 454 plungers and $115,000 raised in 2017. No question, Black Hills Harley Davidson, their employees and Jim and Monica are generous and gracious hosts.

In addition, Black Hills Harley Davidson has a visible presence in other area Special Olympics fundraisers whether it is during the Annual Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis or supporting local Special Olympics programs and events.

Thank you, Jim and Monica, for everything you do for the Law Enforcement Torch and Run and Special Olympics South Dakota. You are appreciated!

Ron Stewart Award Coach Of The Year - Lori Jerred, Vermillion

The following was written by a parent of a Special Olympics athlete. “A teacher and coach who has become hugely important in my son Jonathan’s life is Lori Jerred. Coach Jerred has this zest for finding a student’s potential. For my son, a bond was evident early on. Coach always told the kids that if you worked hard, there was always time for fun. She was firm, but compassionate. She was fair, but treated each child as a favorite. Their tears were also her tears, as the kids always wanted to talk to Coach Jerred when there was a problem. Coach Jerred is like family and this is very evident when you see the bond that she has with the athletes as they are participating in an event. In Coach Jerred’s eyes, every one of our athletes is a winner, even if they get last place.”

Thank you, Lori, for being a part of our Special Olympics family.

NOMINEES:
- Kyle Duke, Yankton
- Michael Foote, Spearfish
- Logan Gauer, Aberdeen
- Bryson Geffre, Aberdeen
- Brittany Lambertz, Sioux Falls
- Mike Murfield, Sioux Falls
- Jobe Nelson, Spearfish
- Tyrel Ott, Spearfish
- Whitney Rauscher, Aberdeen
- Amme Schwender, Spearfish
- Wade Uhrich, Aberdeen
- Carla & Marla West, Spearfish

NOMINEES:
- Dakota Beverage, Sioux Falls
- Great Bear Recreation Park, Sioux Falls
- Jody & Cathy Grubb, Belle Fourche
- Knights of Columbus, State Wide

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
MORE 2017 AWARD WINNERS

Lyle Farrand Award Volunteer of the Year - Shelly Wolfe, Rapid City

Shelly has served as the Competition Coordinator for the BH Area Spring Games for the past four years. This past fall she has also assumed these duties for the BH Area Bowling Tournament.

Shelly’s enthusiasm, commitment and organizational skills are second to none. She recruits, organizes and instructs hundreds of volunteers for both the BH Area Spring Games and Bowling Tournament. She takes it upon herself to coordinate facilities and works tirelessly to secure media coverage, concessions, medical support and too many other tasks to mention. She even solicits local business for donations to offset event expenses. Shelly’s sense of humor, unmatched enthusiasm and dedication to providing quality events for the Black Hills Area athletes is why I feel Shelly is deserving of this award.

We couldn’t agree with you more, Cathy Grubb.

NOMINEES:
- Becky Brennan, Sioux Falls
- Pat Grashel, Sioux Falls
- Mary Hieb, Mitchell
- Heather Leischner, Sioux Falls
- Dylan Smunk, Watertown

D. J. Mertens Award “Champion” of the Year - First PREMIER Bank/ PREMIER Bankcard

PREMIER has been actively involved in Special Olympics South Dakota both financially and in terms of volunteers since 1988.

PREMIER employees in Watertown have helped organize and run the NE Area Swimming competition for many years. Sioux Falls PREMIER employees have also been long time volunteers at the SE Area Spring Games. These volunteers have a passion for Special Olympics and our athletes. Over the years they have collectively volunteered more than 10,000 hours.

First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard has also been a strong financial supporter of SOSD, and most recently, a major contributor to the Unify Center. These gifts total more than $100,000.

Thank you, PREMIER for this long enduring partnership!

NOMINEES:
- Jenna Aderhold, Hamlin County Herald Enterprise
- Black Hills Gold Swim Club, Spearfish
- Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club, Rapid City
- Century Link Communications, Spearfish
- Culver’s, Spearfish
- Edward Jones Financial Group, Rapid City
- Spearfish Middle School Student Council

Family Of The Year - The Kjergaard Family, Rowena

When it comes to pulling off a huge fundraising event such as the Sioux Falls Truck Convoy, you can surely bet the Kjergaard family is somewhere working their tails off. This family puts in countless hours of volunteering, doing anything and everything they can to promote the event. Every year, they give four days of their time to help at the Huron Wheel Jam and the SD Truck Driving Championships. It also isn’t unusual to find them going door to door contacting businesses promoting the Convoy and looking for live auction items.

While Brian is out driving truck across the country, he is constantly spreading the word about the Convoy. As if this wasn’t enough, the Kjergaard’s travel to Rapid City to assist with their convoy plus volunteer at the SE Area Softball Tournament. The Kjergaard children even work odd jobs over the summer so they can save up to purchase items to be donated for the Convoy live auction.

There are a number of amazing families involved with Special Olympics, but none more deserving for recognition than this family!

NOMINEES:
- Kevin Johnson Family, Aberdeen
- JD Young Family, Belle Fourche

Please show your love for Special Olympics by nominating the deserving people in your life for a 2018 SOSD Outstanding Award!

Nomination forms are due in the SOSD office by May 22, 2018. Look for a form at your Area and State Games. Forms can also be found on our homepage at www.sosd.org.
2017 was once again another successful year for the Pigskin Madness Raffle! 2,384 tickets were sold and over $47,000 was raised for Special Olympics South Dakota!

With the 2017 professional football season winding down, we are excited to announce that we will be selling Pigskin Madness tickets again in 2018, with larger prizes to be offered!

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

The eight highest point totals and the lowest point total are awarded prizes each week.

Prizes for 2017 included:

- Highest Grand Total - $500
- 2nd Highest - $100
- 3rd Highest - $80
- 4th Highest - $60
- 5th Highest - $50
- 6th Highest - $40
- 7th Highest - $30
- 8th Highest - $20
- Lowest - $20

For more information Contact Todd or Amy at 605-331-4117.

In 2017, Polar Plunges raised over $300,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota and had over 1,200 brave participants take the Plunge into the icy waters. We want 2018 to be our biggest and best year ever – and we need your help to do just that!

For information on all of 2018’s Polar Plunges across the state, please visit our website at www.plungesd.org.

2017 Pigskin Madness!

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For more information Contact Todd or Amy at 605-331-4117.

As an important part of the USA Games, the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg® for Special Olympics will heighten awareness and take the message of Special Olympics to every corner of Washington State. Law Enforcement officials and Special Olympics athletes, unified together as a part of the Final Leg Team, will serve as true Guardians of the Flame™ and promote the powerful messages of inclusion, acceptance, and ability every step of our Final Leg journey to promote the 2018 USA Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg will kick off on June 27, 2018 and end on July 1, 2018. Out of a pool of law enforcement, Nick Davis was chosen to represent South Dakota as one of the Final Leg runners. Nick has been a great advocate for Special Olympics South Dakota as a coach for the Rapid City Flame for several years as well as a great volunteer for our Law Enforcement Torch Run events for 5+ years. Detective Davis currently works at the Rapid City Police Department with 5 years’ experience in Law Enforcement work. Next time you see Nick, make sure to congratulate him!

LETR is Celebrating its 30th Anniversary!

Now that the calendar has turned, we are gearing up for LETR’s 30th Anniversary bash in 2018! Help us celebrate this milestone by participating in new events and other anniversary specific activates throughout this coming year. You can find the most current information about our game plan for 2018 on our Facebook page.
In 2017, the LETR hosted several Tip a Cop fundraisers across South Dakota. Here is a list of all of our amazing restaurants across the state and how much was raised at each location:

Red Robin (Sioux Falls) October 2, 2017 $1,660.76
Applebee’s (Spearfish) October 26, 2017 $2,325.92
Texas Roadhouse (Sioux Falls) November 15 & 16, 2017 $3,692.42
Buffalo Wild Wings (Sioux Falls) December 11, 2017 $1,665.91

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, assist in serving drinks and clear tables while working for “tips” for Special Olympics South Dakota. The goal for 2018 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!

If you have interested in hosting one of these events in your area, please let us know.
Heroes Behind The Badge

This annual holiday blood drive is a friendly competition between the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue and Sioux Falls Police Department to see who can recruit the most blood donors. Congratulations to the Police Department for narrowly edging out the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, 530 units to 518 units. As their charity of choice, a donation of $300 was made to SOSD. The real winners, however, are the folks who receive this invaluable gift of life.

A huge thank you to the Police Department for your on-going support of SOSD!

2017 International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference

In September, nine law enforcement officers, one athlete, and one SOSD staff traveled to the Nashville, TN to attend the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference. The South Dakota Law Enforcement Torch Run program raised $574,042 in 2016 and was awarded at the International Conference with the Emerald Level of Excellence, as well as the Third Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program throughout the world for 2016!

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!

2018 Torch Run Contacts

James Smit of Belle Fourche will continue as the Director for the South Dakota LETR program through 2018.

Please feel free to contact the individuals below for anything LETR related.

LETR Director James Smit
Belle Fourche (Retired)
5320jas@gmail.com

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

Asst. Director Jon Cole
Vermillion Police Department
jcole@vermillionpd.org

Todd Bradwisch
Torch Run Liaison
tbradwisch@sosd.org

Amy Crawford
Asst. Torch Run Liaison
acraford@sosd.org

2018 Torch Run T-shirts

The 2018 Torch Run T-shirts will be ready for sale in January 2018. The shirts are cotton, short-sleeved and will be $15 a shirt and $20 for dry-fit. Please contact Amy or Todd at the State Office at 605-331-4117 to order your shirt today!

2018 Torch Run T-shirts

Tommy’s Lanes in Watertown hosted a Halloween themed Strikes for Special Olympics event October 28th, 2017. Participants were asked to pay or raise a minimum of $35 per person and in return received food and drink, Halloween goodies, a t-shirt, three games of bowling and shoe rental. The event also included door prizes, music, and fun!

We are looking forward to bringing more Strikes for Special Olympics events to various bowling alleys across the state of South Dakota in 2018. Here are a few upcoming Strikes events already scheduled on 2018.

March 11 – Pierre
March 18 – Huron
March 24 – Madison
October 27 – Aberdeen
October 28 – Watertown

Hope that everyone can join us for a bowlin’ good time! For more information on these events, check out our website at www.firstgiving.com/sosd.

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Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is a comprehensive program of the Unified Schools strategy that combines Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement to create opportunities for social inclusion and athletic competition.

Want to help foster social inclusion in your school? Contact Julie Briggs jbriggs@sosd.org / 605.331.4117

On January 13, 2018 NSU was the site of the second annual Rivalry Series games between Unified Northern State University and Unified Augustana University. Participants in this game were Northern State students teamed with Special Olympics athletes from Aberdeen and Augustana students teamed with Special Olympics athletes from Sioux Falls. Teams competed at half time of both the men’s and women's games held at the Barnett Center.

Rivalry Series contests allow Special Olympics athletes to showcase their athletic prowess while simultaneously showcasing the power of Unified Sports as a catalyst to building friendship, understanding, and inclusion.

Augustana University will host this series in 2019.

2018 Scarf Project Winding Down

There is still time to participate in this year’s event!

- Primary color navy blue
- Up to two accent colors - crafters choice
- All winter wearables will be loved (scarves, hats, mittens, headbands)
- Our goal is 500 pieces
- Due date is March 1, 2018

Be honest.
Be humble.
Be kind.
03.07.18

Pledge at www.r-word.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
The Games

From July 1 - 6th 2018, the Special Olympics USA Games will showcase the awe-inspiring abilities of thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities, promote the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport, and celebrate the transformative power of Special Olympics.

More than 4,000 athletes and coaches representing 50 state Programs and the District of Columbia, along with the support of tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators, will compete in 14 Olympic-type team and individual sports.

Team South Dakota

On this, our 50th Anniversary, we plan to send 50+ athletes for an experience of a lifetime. Congratulations to these Athletes who will be representing South Dakota at the USA Games!

Athletics
Adrianna Bamsey - Sioux Falls
Sam Howell - Madison
Chana Sandoval - Sioux Falls
Tanner Stirling - Parkston
Coaches: Missy Hill, Brandon Sandoval

Swimming
John McHale - Sioux Falls
Megan Mills - Rapid City
Addison Whitney - Rapid City
Kent Mulholland - Spearfish
Coaches: Cathy Grubb, Rich Mulholland

Traditional Basketball Team
Garet Alickson - Spearfish
Taylor Allen - Sioux Falls
Sarah Faue - Sioux Falls
Aaron Krouse - Mitchell
Skylar Pagel - Aberdeen
Casey Tetzlaff - Watertown
Jasmine Tonnesson - Aberdeen
Wade Uhrich - Aberdeen
Jon Underberg - Sioux Falls
Bruce Weeldreyer - Sioux Falls
Coaches: Chad Hellenga, Laurie Schmig

Traditional Softball Team
Jacob Anderson - Yankton
Eva Blake - Spearfish
Derrick Boegel - Rapid City
Kyle Duke - Yankton
Mike Estman - Rapid City
Josh Gilbert - Rapid City
Chad Hanten - Brandon
Anthony Kelly - Mitchell
Luke Nagel - Mitchell
Jody Neitzel - Watertown
Noah Pierce - Sioux Falls
Tim Schellhouse - Sioux Falls
Chris Smith - Sioux Falls
Blake Stephens - Watertown
David Tanner - Rapid City
Coaches: James Duke, Mary Hieb, Amy Jobgen

Unified Basketball Team (High School)
Caleb Adermann - Huron
Kellan Benck - Clear Lake UP
Alayna Benike - Castlewood UP
Nicole Conrad - Lake Preston
Darah DeKam - Castlewood UP
Dylan Motzer - Clear Lake
Cole Pedersen - Arlington
Gavan Schultz - Goodwin
Xander Sheehan - Hayti UP
Kyler Tvedt - Castlewood UP
Coaches: Amanda Katzenberger, Chris Lather

Unified Bocce
Gary Alickson - Spearfish UP
Mallory Bingham - Aberdeen
Joe Burmeister - Rapid City UP
TeaLayna Hill - Belle Fourche UP
Matt Morin - Black Hawk
Kaylee Namken - Hayti UP
Dominick Rosenlund - Bryant
Denelle Wilson - Sioux Falls
Coaches: Peggy Heermann, Brian Jacobsen
### Gold $1,000 and above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>July 1 - December 31, 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A &amp; A Express Inc</td>
<td>Service First Federal Credit Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADP, LLC</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Chiropractic Prof, LLC</td>
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<td>American Bank and Trust</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Roller Dollz</td>
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<td>American Endowment Foundation</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital, LLP</td>
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<td>Avera Health</td>
<td>South Dakota Community Foundation</td>
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<td>Avera Heart Hospital of SD</td>
<td>South Dakota Sheriff Association</td>
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<td>Baldwin-Debates Insurance</td>
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<td>Basin Electric Power Cooperative</td>
<td>SpartanNash Foundation</td>
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<td>Beacom, Miles &amp; Lisa</td>
<td>Special Olympics Wyoming</td>
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<td>Beardl Trucking Inc</td>
<td>Subway</td>
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<td>Best Western Ramkota Hotel</td>
<td>Sun Enterprises, Inc</td>
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<td>Christian Youth Activity League</td>
<td>The Bancorp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Iron Label</td>
<td>The Sioux Falls Ministry Center</td>
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<td>City of Mitchell</td>
<td>Thurman, Comes, Foley &amp; Co, LLP</td>
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<td>CNA Foundation</td>
<td>Unzelman, Myrl &amp; Lois</td>
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<td>CoBank</td>
<td>Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc</td>
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<td>Cody Transportation, LTD</td>
<td>Viessman, Ryan</td>
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<td>Colter Deutsch Trucking Inc</td>
<td>Visit Spearfish, Inc</td>
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<td>Concrete Materials</td>
<td>Walmart Foundation</td>
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### Silver $500 - $999

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<td>A and A Corporation</td>
<td>Site Work Specialists, Inc</td>
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<td>Aberdeen Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>Anthony P &amp; L, Inc</td>
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<td>Briese, RL &amp; RA</td>
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<td>Capital Card Services, Inc</td>
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<td>Cross Country Carriers</td>
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<td>Dominos Pizza</td>
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<td>Donner, Shilo</td>
<td>Waterbury Heating &amp; Cooling, Inc</td>
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<td>Wheeler Brake &amp; Supply, Inc</td>
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<td>Farner, Sandy S &amp; Cy J</td>
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### Bronze $250 - $499

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<td>Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>McPherson Auction &amp; Realty</td>
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<td>Meyer &amp; Associates</td>
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<td>Burns, Nathan R.</td>
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<td>Charles Mix Electric Association</td>
<td>Network for Good</td>
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<td>Classic Corner, LP</td>
<td>Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc</td>
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**Y our generosity is humbling, appreciated, and we thank you!**
In Memoriam

Matt Tietz - Mitchell (Athlete)
James Wirth - Vermillion (Athlete)

Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day… unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.
Thank You For Your Service
SOSD will be saying farewell to Dr. Mark Harlow and Jack Lynass. Thank you for your service and we greatly appreciate your contributions to SOSD over the years. You will be missed!

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

Jim Boadwine (Sioux Falls), Sherry Grismer (Black Hawk), Tim Jensen (Sioux Falls) and Maynard Konechne (Kimball).