

June 2015

Newsletter

Special
Olympics
Iowa



SOIA Honors Athlete, Coach and Family of the Year Along with Unsung Hero at Summer Games Opening Ceremony

Special Olympics Iowa honored its Outstanding Athlete, Coach and Family of the Year award winners during the Summer Games Opening Ceremony presented by Hy-Vee May 21 at Iowa State University's Hilton Coliseum. The Scott Bryant Unsung Hero Award was also presented to recognize an individual dedicated to the Law Enforcement Torch Run program.

Outstanding Athlete of the Year Danny McDonald (Glenwood)

Danny McDonald has been in Special Olympics for more than 30 years, competing in bowling, bocce, track and Challenge Days. He had the opportunity to compete at the 2006 National Games in Ames when our Challenge Day was showcased for three days to people from all over the United States. It was nothing but pure fun for this athlete, making new friends and competing with athletes from all over the country, playing basketball and volleyball. Danny is one of the friendliest, kindest and most loving people you will ever meet. He is always ready to shake your hand after he competes. It doesn't matter if he gets first or last place, to him, he is a winner because he gets to participate.



Outstanding Coach of the Year Stevie Shively (Spencer)

Stevie Shively exemplifies all the qualities a Special Olympics coach should have – commitment, compassion and the ability to motivate and train our athletes for competition and life. She has been involved in Spencer Community Special Olympics for more than 30 years, filling roles as coach, chaperone, fundraiser and more. Her desire



to help bring out the best in our athletes has helped create an outstanding Special Olympics program in Spencer.

Outstanding Family of the Year The Arrick Family (Sheldon)

Harry and Connie Arrick's son, Zach is an active member of the Village Northwest Unlimited Panthers in Sheldon. The Arrick's and their two daughters welcomed Zach, and two more sons with special needs, into their home and hearts. The family can always be found in the bleachers encouraging the Panthers, often making up their own cheers and chants. Their liveliness and enthusiasm is contagious to all in attendance at Panther events. The Arrick Family's love and dedication to their family and others have made a tremendous impact on the Panthers' team.



Scott Bryant Unsung Hero Award Jeanette Steinfeldt (Polk City)

Jeanette Steinfeldt is the director of development for Special Olympics Iowa. She truly exemplifies what this award was intended for. Her dedication and determination for the past 26 years has helped guide the Iowa Law Enforcement Torch Run program as the largest grass roots fundraising entity for Special Olympics Iowa. Her efforts helped raise more than \$865,000 in 2014. She is constantly doing what she can to recruit more police officers and sponsors for the cause.



Congratulations to our 2015 award winners!

Buy A Casey's 44 oz. Cup Now Through Labor Day to Support SOIA



Special Olympics Iowa athletes and law enforcement officials are being showcased on the 44-oz. cups at Casey's General Stores throughout the state as Casey's helps to raise funds for the more than 12,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and their Unified Sports partners in Iowa. The cups will be available in stores from Memorial Day through Labor Day with a portion of the proceeds from each Casey's Cup sold going to SOIA.

This is the second year Casey's has supported SOIA with the Casey's Cup campaign, raising \$33,495.35 in 2014.

Casey's is also challenging customers to take photos of themselves with the cups, and each week, a winner will be chosen to receive a free Casey's pizza. A grand-prize winner will be chosen at the end of the promotion. Check the SOIA website for details at www.soiowa.org.

Help Us Win \$25,000 in the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant Contest

Special Olympics Iowa has been selected as one of the top 200 causes (out of about 4,000 entries) to move forward to the voting phase for the State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant program!

If we are among the top 40 at the end of the voting, we will win a \$25,000 grant to support Unified Sports throughout Iowa!

From your Facebook account (mobile, tablet, computer)

1. Go to the Special Olympics Iowa Facebook page: facebook.com/specialolympicsia
2. Click on the link in the first post on our page for the State Farm Neighborhood Assist contest
3. Click on the box to Use Remaining Votes Today (each person has 10 votes/day, so use them all for us!)
4. Vote for Play Unified!

Remember to VOTE EVERY DAY through June 3!

LETR Final Leg Kicks Off Summer Games

Police officers from around the state ran and cycled the Flame of Hope from downtown Des Moines to Ames for the Special Olympics Iowa Summer Games Opening Ceremony. Mike Hamm, retired officer from Sioux City, brought the torch into Hilton Coliseum and made the final pass to Special Olympics athlete Trevor Gimm from Scott County who lit the caldron and officially opened the 2015 Summer Games.

Thank you to all of our law enforcement officers for your efforts to support Special Olympics Iowa!



Special Olympics Iowa Calendar of Events

June

6	Plane Pull	Des Moines International Airport
13	Challenge Day	Lake City

July

10	Softball Skills Competition	Atlantic
11	Softball Conference Tournament	Des Moines
11	Softball Skills Competition	Muscatine
18	Softball Conference Tournament	Cedar Rapids

August

1	SOIA at Downtown Des Moines Farmer's Market	Des Moines
8	State Softball	Ankeny

September

3	SOIA at Valley Junction Farmer's Market	West Des Moines
5	SOIA at Downtown Des Moines Farmer's Market	Des Moines
12	State Equestrian Meet	Iowa State University
16	Over the Edge	Des Moines
26	World's Largest Truck Convoy	Des Moines

October

3	State Flag Football (tentative)	Cedar Rapids
10	State Volleyball Tournament	Iowa State University

November

7	Des Moines Polar Plunge	Jordan Creek Town Center
21	State Bowling Tournament	Sioux City Des Moines, Cedar Rapids

Are You Ready for Some Football? Pigskin Madness Tickets on Sale Now!

We're gearing up for the NFL season and our annual Pigskin Madness tickets are on sale now! For just \$20 you have eight chances to win each week of the regular NFL season — that's 17 weeks of play! Each week, the highest scoring ticket will win \$225 with payouts given to the eight highest and three lowest scores.

Want to help your friends get in on the fun? We will send you a book of 25 ticket to sell — you do not need to pay anything up front. Just turn in the sold tickets and money to the SOIA state office.

Questions? Contact Jeanette Steinfeldt at 515-986-5520 or jsteinfeldt@soiowa.org.

Connect With Us!

Remember to follow Special Olympics Iowa to receive important updates and stay on top of the latest events and activities.



www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsIA

Twitter: @SOIowa

Be Our Twitter Reporter!

Training for a competition? Volunteering at an event?
Having a great time at a fundraiser? Let us know about it!
Tag your tweets with @soiowa and we will retweet you!



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Thank You to Our Partners!

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