

September 2015

Newsletter

Special
Olympics
Iowa



Volunteerism Grows Friendships and Creates Opportunities

By Shelly Perkins, CLG Communications, Wells Fargo

Making the decision to help out, lend a hand, become involved, stand up for a cause, become an advocate, has a far-reaching and positive influence on so many lives. For Chick Herbert, a Business Initiatives Senior Manager in our Retail Services business in Des Moines, choosing to volunteer and serve on the board for Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA) the past nine years has been an extremely meaningful and rewarding experience for a number of reasons – specifically, meeting and growing a friendship with Tyler Leech.

Building a foundation

Chick and Tyler met during Chick's first year with SOIA and Chick soon learned why everyone knows and loves Tyler. "Tyler is a great human being and very active in the SOIA movement," said Chick. "Tyler is a Global Messenger (Global Messengers are ambassadors for SOIA). The Global Messenger program provides Special Olympics athletes formal communication and presentation skills training. Tyler is a tremendously talented Global Messenger and shares with others how SOIA has shaped his life and given him opportunities."

Chick recalls when he chaired the Gold Medal Gala fundraiser with Tyler as the co-emcee with popular local sportscaster Keith Murphy. Tyler stole the show with his sense of humor and quick wit. Chick enjoyed working with Tyler throughout the years and loved seeing him in action – from running through the fan tunnel with Harrison Barnes (Ames, Iowa native and Golden State Warrior) during player introductions at the NBA preseason game at Wells Fargo Arena, to speaking to crowds of more than 3,000 at the opening ceremony of the SOIA Summer Games!

A new partnership emerges

The evening after the NBA game, Tyler asked Chick if he could help arrange a job shadow at Wells Fargo to meet his class requirement at Des Moines Area
Story continued on page 4



Tyler (red shirt) with (from left) Chick, Ashlee Goodrich (Tyler's manager) and Scott Barsness (who Tyler job shadowed).

SOIA Will No Longer Print or Mail Newsletters after December 2015. Sign up for our E-Newsletter Today!

We have been talking about it for a while...and the time has come. The Special Olympics Iowa newsletter will be moving to an all electronic format in 2016. Newsletters will not be printed or mailed after December 2015.

To ensure that you continue to receive articles, notices and updates, please visit our website at www.soiowa.org and click on Newsletters in the About Us droplist. Click on the link to Subscribe to our E-Newsletter to have your email address added to our distribution list.

You may also send your email address to Lauri Pyatt at lpyatt@soiowa.org to have it added to our system. Thank you!

Go Over the Edge for Special Olympics Iowa Sept. 16

The fear of heights is one of the most common phobias in the world...but why let that stop you? Over the Edge is a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support SOIA athletes by rappelling off the 345-ft. Financial Center in downtown Des Moines!

The whole event is an experience you'll never forget, and one you'll want to share with others! Help us recruit rappellers or find another way for everyone to be involved:

- Rappel Solo
- Rappel as a Team
- Corporate Challenge
- Toss Your Boss
- Sponsor
- Volunteer
- Recruit



**Register online at
www.soioa.org/overtheedge**

Participants must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to guarantee a rappel spot. Space is limited so fundraise early!

Want to toss your boss? Your fearless leader may not seem so fearless when it comes to dangling over the side of a 345-ft building. Start a petition and generate excitement in the office so that your boss can't say no!

State Flag Football to be Held Oct. 3 in Cedar Rapids

The fifth annual Special Olympics Iowa State Flag Football Tournament will be held Oct. 3 at Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids. Flag football is the newest competition for SOIA, allowing athletes of all ages and ability levels the opportunity to play America's game.

Flag football is a five-on-five, non-contact sport played by both male and female athletes. Teams are divided into divisions based on age and ability level to allow for fair play and competitive competition at each level.

Registration is due to the state office by Sept. 11. In order to compete in the State Flag Football Tournament, an athlete's Application for Participation must be valid through Oct. 4, 2015.

Please contact Rhonda Schwarzkopf at 515-986-5520 or rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendar for State Volleyball Tournament Oct. 10

The Iowa State University Kinesiology and Health Club will once again be an instrumental part of the Special Olympics Iowa State Volleyball Tournament, slated for October 10 at the Forker Building on the ISU campus.

Each year, the ISU Kinesiology and Health Club provides invaluable support for the tournament, coordinating the venue and students in the program to volunteer.

Registration is due to the state office by Sept. 18. In order to compete in the State Volleyball Tournament, an athlete's Application for Participation must be valid through Oct. 11, 2015.

Please contact Rhonda Schwarzkopf at 515-986-5520 or rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org if you have any questions.

Souvenirs for Sale at State Volleyball Tournament

In an effort to provide souvenir items at more competitions, SOIA staff will be selling t-shirts, polos, shorts, hats and other items at the state volleyball tournament this year.

Keep an eye out for souvenir sales at other upcoming events! All proceeds from the souvenir sales go directly to Special Olympics Iowa.

State Softball Skills Competition Brings New Athletes, Volunteers

More than 400 athletes competed during the Special Olympics Iowa State Softball Tournament Aug. 8 at the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex in Ankeny. Sammons Financial Group was the Presenting Sponsor for the event, providing more than 80 volunteers including employees, their families and friends.

Highlights of the day included a check presentation for \$10,000 from Sammons Financial Group and the gift of a special wood bat for Sammons to display at their office. A new partner of SOIA, Kona Ice, provided spectators and athletes with snow cones as a cool refreshment. They later presented SOIA with a check from the proceeds that day.

Though more teams were on the fields this year, the softball skills competition was the main reason for the increase in athletes at the tournament.

"The new venue along with the fantastic volunteers from Sammons allowed us to put on an amazing event," said SOIA CEO Gary Harms. "The determination, sportsmanship and pure enjoyment displayed throughout the day drives the athlete experience and joy, provides inspiration for our coaches and keeps our fans cheering."



LETR Truck Convoy Sept. 26

The World's Largest Truck Convoy® is a national one-day celebration of the trucking industry, allied partners and law enforcement all working together to help raise money for Special Olympics Iowa.

Iowa's law enforcement officers escort the convoy from Veterans Parkway (exit 101 off Highway 5) and travel 20 miles to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Special Olympics Iowa athletes and families, community organizations, companies and law enforcement agencies welcome the truckers as they enter the fairgrounds for lunch at Jalapeno Pete's and a celebration with awards to recognize participating truckers for the support they give to Special Olympics.

Join us for this unique event on Sept. 26! For more information contact Jeanette Steinfeldt at 515-986-5520 or jsteinfeldt@soiowa.org.



SOIA Day at Kinnick Stadium Iowa vs. Illinois State Sept. 5, 11 a.m. Kickoff



SOIA athletes and their families are invited to Iowa's season opener at great discounted group rate pricing.

SOIA Youth (high school and younger): \$25
SOIA Adult: \$40

Regular single game rate: \$55

ORDER TODAY!

Call Bravo Sports at 319-626-8286 or order online through the link at www.soiowa.org. All orders will be seated together.

Tailgate for Teammates Promises Fun and Fundraising



Nothing brings fans together like a good old-fashioned tailgate. Tailgate for Teammates will offer a sense of camaraderie, inclusion, and pride among athletes and their supporters.

Join us on Oct. 17 from 6-9 p.m. at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines. Guests will indulge in upscale tailgate cuisine, take part in fun and festive sports-themed activities, bid for prizes in an auction and cheer for athletes competing in upcoming Special Olympics Iowa events.

In addition to company sponsorships, individual tickets will be available for \$100. All net proceeds from the event will go directly to the athletes. Your support would be greatly appreciated by our athletes, our fans, and all of us at Special Olympics Iowa striving to create opportunities for inclusion and achievement.

For more information on sponsoring the event or to purchase tickets, contact Stuart Steffy at 515-986-5520 or ssteffy@soiowa.org.

Volunteerism Grows Friendships

Continued from page 1



Community College. Chick reached out across our business, had multiple managers raise their hands, and arranged for Tyler to shadow two separate departments within Retail Services (two hours each). Of course Tyler performed well.

"I am a member of our diversity and inclusion council which manages our summer intern program," added Chick. "Prior to making the internship offer to Tyler, I spoke

with his mother, whom I have known for years, and outlined the process and our plans. She was very supportive and gave me the green light. Needless-to-say, Tyler has excelled as an intern – as he does with everything he sets out to accomplish!"

"I have had a great experience with the internship program," said Tyler. "I was so happy to be involved with it. Chick and I have known each other throughout Wells Fargo and also in Special Olympics, so I'm glad we have had the opportunity to work together. I think Wells Fargo is a great company to work for and it has been my dream to work for Wells Fargo for as long as I can remember. I'm glad I had the opportunity to be an intern here and I hope that I can work at Wells Fargo for a long time."

"Tyler is one of the kindest and most involved individuals I have ever met," said Ashley Sill, a fellow intern in the Retail Services area. "Working with him this summer was a delight; his sense of humor and caring heart were great additions to our intern group. We could always count on Tyler to show up with fun stories and a fresh perspective each and every day and I will sincerely miss working with him!"

"Tyler has been an amazing addition to our team over the last eight weeks," said Ashlee Goodrich. "He came to work every day with a positive attitude and an open mind. Not only did Tyler learn a lot and make new friends, he offered others an experience that most people don't get. Wells Fargo would benefit tremendously from having Tyler as a team member."

"At the Summer Games, Tyler told my youngest son who was volunteering with me, that working for Wells Fargo was a life-long dream of his," said Chick. "He wants to work for a company that gives back and is community focused. He knows we are because he has met hundreds of Wells Fargo volunteers from his SOIA competitions over the years.

"Each year, a number of individual Iowans, schools, businesses and groups are recognized with Iowa Character Awards, presented by officials with the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. Tyler is being recognized as the 2015 Citizen of Character in the Adult division – and Ashlee and I will have the honor to attend the awards ceremony when he is honored! I am proud of all that he has accomplished in his life and my goal is to help find Tyler full-time work at Wells Fargo."

COACHES CORNER...

Coaches Training Certification Clinics

Training will be offered on the following dates. Online courses are also available. Questions? Contact Rhonda Schwarzkopf at 515-986-5520 or rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org.

September 23 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Corydon
Training for athletics, bowling and cycling.

September 26 at 9 a.m. Location: Spencer
Training for aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce and bowling.

September 29 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Bluffs
Training for bowling, basketball and athletics.

November 7 at 9 a.m. Location: Sioux City
Training for bowling, basketball, athletics, bocce and soccer.

November 17 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Urbandale
Training for athletics, basketball, bowling and cycling.

Website Tip of the Month...

Remember to Refresh

Did you know your web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome) stores cookies?!? These are not the chocolate chip kind, though.

In internet terms, a cookie is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored in a user's web browser while the user is browsing that website. This helps keep your internet running fast and smooth, avoiding download times on images and other files on pages you visit often.

For instance, if you have visited www.soiowa.org and downloaded the Class A Volunteer Application, this file is now stored in your cookies. However, since the file is now stored as a cookie, your web browser will continue to open that cookie file...even after we have updated the file on our website.

So unless your computer is set to delete your cookies on a regular basis, you should remember to refresh! This will ensure you are downloading the most current files from our website. Once you have the .pdf file open in your browser, simply hit CTRL + F5 and this will refresh your browser...and your cookie!

Athlete Physical Updates

When submitting an athlete's Application for Participation, please keep the following in mind:

- **Athlete Physical Form** - Any physical other than the Application for Participation in Special Olympics Iowa will not be accepted. This form is specifically designed for Special Olympics. Information listed on this form may not be listed on other forms.
 - » If we do receive a different physical (example: school physical) that physical will not be approved and will be returned back to the sender, if possible.
 - » If an athlete is transferring from another Special Olympics state program, we may accept their physical upon review.
- **Athlete Consent** – If the athlete is over the age of 18 and is their own legal guardian, they may sign the consent but they must have a witness signature.
 - » If the athlete is over the age of 18 and is not their own legal guardian, the legal guardian will need to sign the consent form. If the form is not signed by the legal guardian the physical will not be approved.
- **Verbal Consents** – Per Special Olympics North America (SONA), we are required to have written consents only. **Effective August 19, 2015, verbal consents will not be accepted.**
- **Delegation** – Please remember to fill in the delegation at the top of the athlete physical. This helps ensure each athlete is placed with the correct delegation.
- **Completion** – Please remember to fill in all information on the athlete physical form. If all parts are filled in correctly, it will speed up the entry process and increase the likeliness of the physical being approved.

For legal reasons and for the safety of our athletes we have to follow these guidelines. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you have any questions, contact Hayley Gross at 515-986-5520 or hgross@soiowa.org.

Polar Plungers Across the State are Freezin' for a Reason

Brrrrrring on the cold! Whether you plunge solo or with coworkers, friends or family – for the ultimate bonding experience – we'll help you take "cool" up a degree or two.

Being a Plunger means cooling your body while warming hearts. The Polar Plunge® is a signature fundraiser for Special Olympics and offers a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support Special Olympics Iowa athletes by jumping into frigid waters. The more you raise, the more great Polar Plunge® gear you can earn!

The event is jam-packed with fun and festivities... there's a way for everyone to be involved:

- Plunge Solo
- Plunge as a Team
- Toss Your Boss
- Sponsor
- Corporate Challenge
- Too Chicken to Plunge
- Volunteer

Too chicken to take the Plunge? No Problem! Register as a chicken and raise funds, receive your chicken t-shirt and prizes and then WATCH the Plunge!

Oct. 17	Davenport, West Lake Park Beach
Oct. 24	Siouxland, Brown's Lake (Salix, Iowa)
Nov. 1	Fort Dodge, Kennedy Park
Nov. 7	West Des Moines, Jordan Creek Mall
Nov. 14	Dubuque, Dubuque Water Sports Club

For more information and to register, visit:
www.soiowa.org/plunge

Freezin' For A Reason



Wilson Begins Role as SOIA Regional Director



Bruce Wilson has been named Regional Director for the West Region of Special Olympics Iowa. He began his new role in August, overseeing the Northwest, Southwest, South Central and West Central areas of SOIA.

Wilson was previously an assistant coach for the Iowa Energy, an NBA development league team, where he coached for five years. He was also the head men's basketball coach and a professor at Simpson College for 25 years.

Wilson got hooked on Special Olympics after volunteering at a cycling event in 1991. He has been a mainstay at the cycling venue at Summer Games ever since. He has also volunteered at the Unified Sports day at Drake University as well as the West Central area Spring Games.

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!

HIGHEST Three Team Total	\$225
Second Highest	\$100
Third Highest	\$70
Fourth Highest	\$40
Fifth Highest	\$35
Sixth Highest	\$30
Seventh Highest	\$25
Eighth Highest	\$20
LOWEST Three Team Total	\$15
Second Lowest	\$10
Third Lowest	\$5

Want to help your friends get in on the fun? We will send you a book of 25 tickets 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.

Special Olympics Iowa Calendar of Events

September

1	Southeast Area Coaches Meeting	Mt. Pleasant
3	SOIA at Valley Junction Farmers Market	West Des Moines
3	North Central Area Coaches Meeting	Fort Dodge
3	Southwest Area Coaches Meeting	Council Bluffs
5	SOIA at Downtown Des Moines Farmer's Market	Des Moines
8	Northwest Area Coaches Meeting	Sioux City and Sioux Center
8	South Central Area Coaches Meeting	Creston
9	West Central Area Coaches Meeting	Grimes
12	Unified Golf Tournament	Davenport
12	Unified Golf Tournament	Akron
12	Hamilton County Bike Ride	Webster City
14	North Area Coaches Meeting	Spirit Lake
15	Central Area Coaches Meeting	Marshalltown
15	Northeast Area Coaches Meeting	Cedar Falls
16	Over the Edge	Des Moines
17	Southeast Area Bowling (Ages 22+)	Ottumwa
18	Dunkin Donuts Cop on Top	All Locations Statewide
19	Trap and Skeet Shoot Fundraiser	Ames
19	Southwest Area Cycling	Avoca
19	Jester Park Unified Golf Tournament	Granger
23	Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic	Corydon
25	Northeast Area Soccer Skills	Cedar Falls
26	State Equestrian Competition	Granger, Jester Park Equestrian Center
26	World's Largest Truck Convoy	Des Moines
26	Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic	Spencer
29	Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic	Council Bluffs
30	East Area Bowling	Maquoketa

October

2	East Area Bowling	Davenport
3	State Flag Football	Cedar Rapids
6	Southwest Area Bowling (Ages 22+)	Council Bluffs
10	State Volleyball Tournament	Ames, Iowa State University
10	Northeast Area Bowling	Waterloo
13	Southwest Area Bowling (Ages 8-21)	Council Bluffs
15	North Area Soccer Skills	Spirit Lake
15	Central Area Bowling	Marshalltown
15	West Central Area Bowling (Ages 8-21)	Des Moines
16	Northwest Area Bowling (Ages 8-21)	Sioux City
16	South Central Area Bowling (Ages 8-29)	Atlantic
16	East Central Area Bowling	Cedar Rapids
16	West Central Area Bowling (Ages 22+)	Des Moines
17	Tailgate for Teammates	Des Moines
17	Polar Plunge®	Davenport
17	Northwest Area Bowling (Ages 22+)	Sioux City
17	South Central Area Bowling (Ages 30+)	Atlantic
17	East Central Area Bowling (Ages 22+)	Cedar Rapids
19	Southeast Area Bowling (Ages 8-21)	Ottumwa
22	North Area Bowling	Fort Dodge
22	North Central Area Bowling	Fort Dodge
24	Polar Plunge®	Siouxland





Special Olympics Iowa

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