

## Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) and the Board of Trustees for the Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF), we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. The success of both agencies would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, participants, families, and donors, along with the committed staff, member districts, and their boards. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with appreciation for the meaningful partnerships and shared successes that have enriched our community. Your dedication to our mission has been instrumental in our ability to provide exceptional recreational programs and services to individuals with disabilities.

Our recently published annual report highlights the impact of your contributions. Your support has enabled us to expand our programs, reach more participants, and create lasting memories for individuals and families across our region. Your commitment to inclusivity and accessibility is truly inspiring, and we are proud to partner with you in making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and remain committed to our shared goals. We value your continued support and partnership as we work together to build a more inclusive and supportive community for all.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. We look forward to our continued partnership with community organizations, collaboration with local businesses and delivering outstanding recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

Tracey Crawford, CPRP, CTRS NWSRA Executive Director SLSF President

freces M. Transford



Christina Ferraro NWSRA Board Chair Prospect Heights Park District





# Providing Outstanding Opportunities Through Recreation for Children and Adults with Disabilities

NWSRA is the largest provider of therapeutic recreation services for children and adults with disabilities in the state of Illinois. As an extension of 17 park districts throughout the northwest suburbs, NWSRA offers public access, year round recreational programming to over 6,000 individuals with disabilities in its service area. The Special Recreation Association (SRA) model is unique to the state of Illinois and leads the nation in inclusion and accessibility for residents with disabilities.

#### NWSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christina Ferraro, Prospect Heights

Chair

Craig Talsma, Hoffman Estates

Vice Chair

Carrie Fullerton, Arlington Heights

Rita Fletcher, Bartlett

Erika Strojinc, Buffalo Grove

Ben Curcio, Elk Grove

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Bret Fahnstrom, River Trails

Kevin Romejko, Rolling Meadows

Diane Hilgers, Salt Creek

Tony LaFrenere, Schaumburg

Jay Morgan, South Barrington

Jeff Janda, Streamwood

Jan Buchs, Wheeling

#### **Mission**

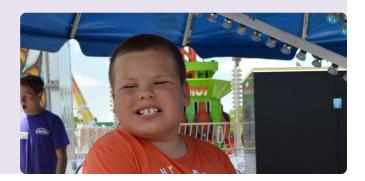
To provide outstanding opportunities through recreation for children and adults with disabilities

#### **Vision**

To be a leading force, creating greater options that enrich the life experiences of the participants, families and communities we serve

#### **Values**

Teamwork • Respect • Enthusiasm
Collaboration • Communication • Diversity



# In 2023 Programming Reached New Heights



## LEISURE EDUCATION

Allows students the opportunity to experience inclusive leisure activities within different schools and experience leisure activities within a community setting among all member park districts.

719 Students

**52** Classrooms





#### **NWSRA Offered the Following Camps:**

- **3 Cooperative Camps** with school districts 15 and 54 to provide recreation after the extended school year program (ESY).
- **5 8 Week Camps | 4 4 Week Camps** utilized three schools,two churches and three park district facilities in Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Bartlett, and River Trails.
- **2 Specialty Camps** ran for 4 weeks at NSSEO's Kirk School for campers with extensive personal care and medical needs. Another camp ran at NSSEO's Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center for campers who are looking for adventurous outdoor recreation opportunities.

32%
Increase Over
Summer 2022

453
Total
Registrations

## **ATHLETICS**

In 2023, NWSRA
Lightning Athletes
continue to
represent. Athletes
compete in nearly
every sport possible
through tournaments
with neighboring
SRAs, ITRS and
Special Olympics
State and Regional
Games.



15 Sports

182 Athletes

**30** Tournaments



### Programming



### SPECIAL **EVENTS**

In 2023 NWSRA offered a Special Event called Bon Appetit where participants got to take a food tour of local restaurants along with a walk around Lake Arlington. Participants loved experiencing new dishes and broadening their horizons. New events like these have in part helped Special Event participation increase by 32%

## SOCIAL **CLUBS**

Social clubs allow participants the opportunity to socailize with their peers while participating in a plethora of activities.

453 Total Registrations



## 1:1 PROGRAMMING



Each participant worked to accomplish individualized goals such as independence, socialization, taking turns, and adapting to change and transitions. Certified Therapeutic Recreation Professionals (CTRS) work one on one with participants in NWSRA's Snoezelen Sensory Rooms, Community Sensory Garden, Accessible Dream Lab. and Club Wellness.

Over

of Member Agencies had of Member Agencies individuals Participate

## **SWIM** LESSONS



With such high demand NWSRA was able to add another night of lessons in 2023 - offering lessons at Arlington Heights, Elk Grove, Wheeling and the Streamwood Park Districts.

44%

Registrations

of Member Disticts had Registrants

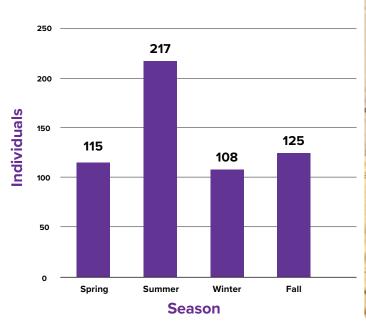
## **PURSUIT**

The PURSUIT Community Adult Day Program is designed to be a leading force providing adult day programming options to enrich the life experiences of adults living with disabilities. Through a partnership with Clearbrook, NWSRA hosts six programs and in 2023 they reached full capacity.



## **INCLUSION**

NWSRA Inclusion services allows individuals with disabilities the ability to participate in their home park districts' programming. Support provided to the park districts includes training and guidance of park district staff, adaptive equipment, individualized resources, regular observations, facilitation of personal care plans and/or the placement of an inclusion aide.





### Professional Development

#### **CERTIFICATIONS**

In order to remain a leader toward the provision of outstanding recreational programs and services, NWSRA staff demonstrate their commitment to professional certification and accreditation. Congratulations to the following newly certified staff:

**Certified Inclusion Assessor (CIA)** 

Kayla Officer

**Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP)** 

Ethen Frierson

**Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP)** 

Courtney Risinger

Cassie Lexa

**Certified Drivers License (CDL)** 

Sam Tabert

**Professional in Human Resources (PHR)** 

Amy Kalov



#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

NWSRA is proud to be recognized on local, state and national levels for its commitment to outstanding recreational programming. Congratulations to the following staff:

**American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration:** 

**President** 

Tracey Crawford

IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Agency Committee: Member

Tracey Crawford

**ATRA: Board of Directors** 

Tracey Crawford

Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates: President

Rachel Hubsch

Woman In Leisure Services, Chi Chapter: National Delegate

Rachel Hubsch

**National WILS: Director of Membership & Events** 

Rachel Hubsch

**ATRA: Board of Directors** 

Courtney Fecske

**IPRA ITRS: Inclusion Committee Co-Chair** 

Andi Marfillius

**Arlington Heights Lions Club: 2nd Vice President** 

Darleen Negrillo

**Northern Illinois Human Resource Counsel** 

Darleen Negrillo

**Rotary Club of Palatine: Secretary** 

Liz Thomas

**Schaumburg Business Association: Ambassador** 

Liz Thomas

Schaumburg Business Association: Rookie of the Year

Nominee Liz Thomas

**Palatine Chamber of Commerce Board: Secretary** 

Liz Thomas

**Palatine Jaycees: President** 

Megan O'Brien

Illinois Jaycees: Programming Vice President Elect

Megan O'Brien

Palatine Jaycees: Chairmen of the Board

Megan O'Brien

**ITRS New Professionals** 

Danielle Olson



NWSRA is honored to announce, through the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA), NWSRA has reaccredited and been recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Agency. This accreditation delivered by these two state-wide associations provides a "comprehensive evaluation process to demonstrate that agencies have met established guidelines to provide exceptional park and recreation services to their communities" says Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO. NWSRA could not be more honored to receive this accreditation and continue to provide children and adults with disabilities truly outstanding recreational opportunities.



NWSRA was awarded Best of the Best with Hoffman Estates Park District through IAPD for the Vogelei House Programming Space. The collaboration between NWSRA and the Hoffman Estates Park District allowed the 1900s farmhouse to be transformed into a fully accessible programming space. This space houses the region's community adult day program and hosts a number of other programs serving individuals with disabilities throughout the region.

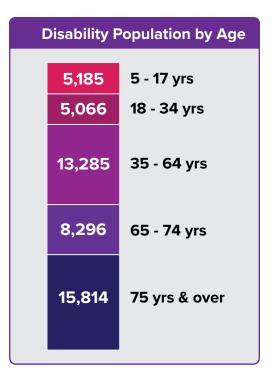
## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

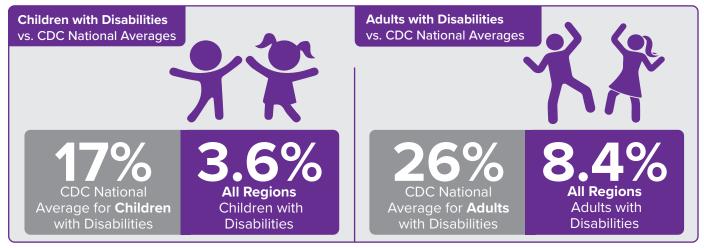
Census data plays a crucial role in helping NWSRA understand the demographic composition of the population we serve. By analyzing census data along with data derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) NWSRA gains valuable insights into the characteristics of the communities we work with, such as their age distribution, ethnic diversity, disability, gender identify and more. Collecting this Data is part of NWSRA's Research and Outreach Initiative (ROI).

This information is essential for NWSRA to ensure our programs and services meet the current and future needs of the communities we serve. In 2023 staff began to dive into data that was compiled at the end of 2022. While analyzing this data staff discovered a number of key elements which will be addressed moving into 2024.

- The population that we serve is aging, 78% of individuals with disabilities are over the age of 35. As an agency we are working diligently to develop a plan to cater programs and services to this population.
- The data collected though the Census and ACS does not necessarily represent the true identify of those we serve. For example, respondents are only asked to identify themselves as male or female, where individuals we serve may not identify as either. This caused us to develop a belonging campaign set to launch in Fall of 2024.
- Looking at the population with disabilities that NWSRA serves in each of our communities, there are communities we are very strong in and others where we can strive to serve more. As an agency we are analyzing who we serve in each community and identifying ways to grow.

Population with	Disabilities that NWSRA serves in all regions	
Based on the latest information, SRAs have reported on average that they have served .55% of the total population		
.55% of Total Population	Population NWSRA serves	
3,315	4,386	





NWSRA is committed to utilizing this data responsibly and effectively to provide outstanding services to children and adults with disabilities living in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago. As we move further into 2024 NWSRA will continue to utilize this data to make well-informed decisions to ensure our programs and services are on the forefront of what our community needs.

#### **2022 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

OPERATING REVENUE	NWSRA
Member Contributions	\$3,456,246.00
Program Services	\$883,858.00
Grants	\$101,340.00
Misc	\$62,988.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,504,432.00

EXPENSES	NWSRA
Programs	\$716,001.00
Unrealized Loss on Investment	\$0.00
Administration	\$4,699,154.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,415,155.00

CAPITAL	\$747,711.00

(\$2,103,206.00)

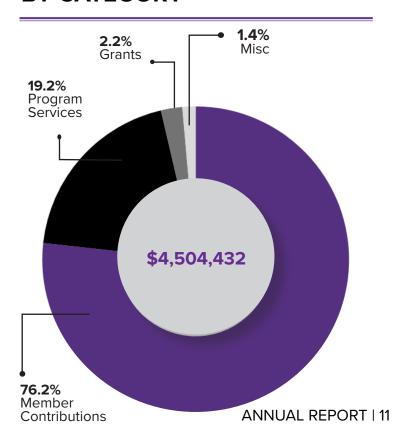
**NET REVENUE** 

ASSETS	NWSRA
Cash	\$3,540,145.00
Investments	\$1,285,409.00
Accounts/Pledges/Receivables	\$109,109.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,595.00
Capital Assets	\$2,902,186.00
IMRF	\$2,293,651.00
Liabilities	-\$3,484,628.00
NET POSITION	\$6,647,467.04





## ORGANIZATIONAL REVENUE BY CATEGORY







Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation, was formed as the fundraising arm of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), to provide additional funding needed to maintain quality services, create innovative programs and facilitate future growth.

SLSF works with individual donors, granting organizations, businesses and community organizations collaboratively to ensure the necessary funding is available to open doors of opportunity for individuals with disabilities through NWSRA recreational programs.

#### **SLSF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Al Crook Chair **Anthony Gattuso** Vice Chair

Kevin Romeiko Secretary & Organizational Treasurer

Tracey Crawford President

Linda Ballantine Tom Campone **Amy Charlesworth Bret Fahnstrom Dennis Hanson** Jim Houser, Jr. Jay Morgan

Kathy Nowicki Terri Oates

Tom Perkins Rafal Piontkowski

Erika Stroiinc

Jonathan Salk

Carl Arthur (In memory of, passed April 2023)

## **Mission**

We exist to support children and adults with disabilities through philanthropy for Northwest Special Recreation Association.

#### Vision

Maximizing all philanthropic opportunities to build a future that is diverse and inclusive by opening doors through innovative services and community opportunities.

#### **Core Values**

Relationships
 Social Equity

Integrity

Sustainability

## **Pillars of Support**

Transportation

Scholarships

Programs

Athletics

Inclusion

### **CELEBRATE ABILITY**

2023 marked the 30th anniversary of the Celebrate Ability Gala. The event was held at the Chevy Chase Country Club at the Wheeling Park District and featured live music from a Jazz Duo, a beautiful silent auction and raffles, and a DJ and dancing - all to support NWSRA in their mission.



The evening included an impact auction that raised over \$15,000 to renovate the NWSRA Music Room at the Rolling

Meadows Park District. The updated space will include sound attenuation, new instruments, and additional storage and will accommodate group music programming upon completion. We could not be more excited to offer NWSRA participants an exceptional space to learn and experience more through the power of music.

**193 GUESTS**Attended

**\$61,750**Anticipated
Revenue

**\$90,274**Actual
Revenue

## GOLD MEDAL FASHION SHOW

The 33rd Annual Gold Medal Fashion Show brought a tropical twist with its Caribbean Adventure theme!

This event is all about the models, who get the full runway experience complete with interview, try-ons, and



professional hair and makeup! The event brought in 126 more guests than the previous year- making it a packed house to cheer on our models. Thank you to all of the attendees, sponsors, committee members and donors who make this event a success year after year.

**459 GUESTS**Attended

**\$61,420**Anticipated
Revenue

**\$59,775**Actual
Revenue

## **DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN** COMPETITION

SLSF partnered with Double Good to sell gourmet popcorn, with proceeds benefiting SLSF. This year our PURSUIT Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser and competition was a huge success! Each PURSUIT Site made it their mission to sell the most popcorn with Buffalo Grove coming out on top. Thank you to everyone who participated in this competion to support NWSRA.



**\$7,073** total sales

126 supporters

14 different states

#### **PURSUIT Site Leader Board**

**Buffalo Grove:** \$2,558 \$1,484 Mt. Prospect: Hoffman Estates: \$1,249 \$667 Wheeling: \$617 Hanover Park: Rolling Meadows: \$526

## ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISERS



Apparel Store



**Ride for Autism** 



**Fun Pasta** 



## BRIDGES OF POPLAR CREEK GOLF OUTING

71 golfers in attendance \$12,425.00 anticipated revenue \$11,414.82 actual revenue



The second year of the Bridges of Poplar Creek Golf Outing!

#### PALATINE HILLS GOLF CLASSIC

126 golfers in attendance\$24,830.00 anticipated revenue\$30,413.39 actual revenue



This year the outing brought in many new faces and golfers loved the Vegas theme!

#### **BUFFALO GROVE GOLF CLASSIC**

125 golfers in attendance\$42,250.00 anticipated revenue\$44,211.71 actual revenue



The outing raised the most money this year and the Rotary Club received their largest check from the outing!

#### MORETTI'S/NWSRA GOLF CLASSIC

125 golfers in attendance\$15,200.00 anticipated revenue\$33,650.47 actual revenue



SLSF and Moretti's/ AlaCarte were excited to celebrate the 36th anniversary and doubled attendance.

#### **WOMEN'S GOLF OUTING**

110 golfers in attendance\$24,200.00 anticipated revenue\$35,461.25 actual revenue



For the 32nd Women's Golf Outing, eleven new caddies attended and helped raise over \$12,226.06 in the caddy auction!

#### **ARLINGTON CLASSIC GOLF OUTING**

101 golfers in attendance\$22,915.00 anticipated revenue\$34,369.72 actual revenue



We were excited to honor John Scaletta as the Duffer and doubled attendance.

#### **2022 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

OPERATING REVENUE	SLSF
Fundraising/Contributions	\$ 428,834.00
Grants	\$ 161,034.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$589,868.00

EXPENSES	SLSF
NWSRA Programs	\$787,299.00
Unrealized Loss on Investment	\$155.213.00
Administration	\$163,421.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,105,933.00

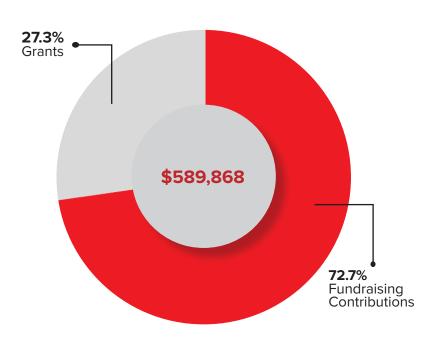
NET REVENUE	\$-516,065.00
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ASSETS	SLSF
ASSLIS	JLJI
Cash	\$380,214.00
Investments	\$916,599.00
Accounts/Pledges/Receivables	\$0
Prepaid Expenses	\$7,945.00
Capital Assets	\$0.00
IMRF	\$0.00
Liabilities	-\$83,432.00
NET POSITION	\$1,221,326.00





## ORGANIZATIONAL REVENUE BY CATEGORY



## SLSF GRATEFULLY THANKS THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR DONATIONS THROUGHOUT 2023

#### **GRANTORS**

**All Saints Lutheran Church Barrington Junior Womens** Club **Chester County Community** Foundation **Elk Grove Township Geico Philanthropoc Foundation** Mt. Prospect Junior Women's Club **Northwest Community** Healthcare Pajeau Children's Foundation **Palatine Jaycees Palatine Township Rotary Club of Arlington** Heights Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village **Rotary Club of Palatine Foundation** Rotary Club of Schaumburg / **Hoffman Estates** 

Club
The Max Goldenberg
Foundation
The Talanian Costello Fund
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters
Zurich North America

The Arlington Heights Lions

**Schaumburg Township** 

N.A., Co-Trustee

The A. Montgomery Ward

Foundation, Bank of America,

#### **CIVIC GROUPS**

Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce **Arlington Heights Lions Club Arlington Heights Park District Bartlett Park District Buffalo Grove Park District Christian Life Church (Kids** Pantry) Clearbrook Connect to Community, Inc. **Elk Grove Park District Hanover Park Park District Hoffman Estates Park District Inverness Park District Lend Me Your Ears** Meals on Wheels Mt. Prospect Chamber of Commerce Mt. Prospect Jr. Womans Club

Mt. Prospect Park District **Northwest Covenant Church Palatine Park District Project Linus Prospect Heights Park District** Rotary Club of Schaumburg/ **Hoffman Estates Rolling Meadows Events Foundation River Trails Park District Rolling Meadows Park District** Salt Creek Park District **Schaumburg Park District South Barrington Park District Streamwood Park District Township High School District** 211 **Township High School District** 214

#### **EVENT SPONSORS**

Church

**Wheeling Park District** 

**Willow Creek Community** 

**Aaron Appell Abbington Distinctive Banquets Accurate Services Ala Carte Entertainment** Allen Gabe Law PC **Alumni Duffers American Solutions for Business** Anthony Vincent Tile, Inc. Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority **Arboretum Golf Club Arlington Ale House Arlington Heights Park District Arlington Lakes Golf Club** Arthur J. Gallagher & Company Baird & Warner - Julie Murtaugh **BEAR Construction Company Bear Family Restaurants Bellissimo Distribution, LLC Greco and Sons** Benefax / The Maxwell Family Benjamin F. Edwards Hanson **Fisher Wealth Management** Berkshire Hathaway/Stark Real **Estate - Sue Gould Bob and Deb Whisler Brandt Accounting Inc.** Brian Properties, Inc. **Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club** 

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**Busey Bank** 

**Buffalo Grove Fire Department** 

Carrie, Ann and Lynn Crawford

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**Pulse Technology RAMP YoPro** Re/Max Central

**Red Bull** 

Ride for Autism Chicago **River Trails Park District Rolling Meadows Park District Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation** 

**Rotary Club of Schaumburg** A.M.

**Rotary Club of River Cities** Salon GG Salt Creek Park District

**Schaumburg Boomers Schaumburg Park District** Schwartz Wolf & Bernstein LLP Streamwood Park District

Suite 7

The Daily Herald

The Danon Family Charitable Fund

The Minton Firm The Palatine Kiwanis Foundation, Inc The Pasta Shoppe LLC **Tony's Fresh Market Trinchero Family Estates** Umberto Ficarella D.D.S.PC **Unemployment Consultants,** Inc.

**UPS** 

V.C. Plumbing, Inc **Village Of Hoffman Estates** Visualedge Creative Services, Inc.

Walgreens **Warehouse Direct** Weil Foot & Ankle Wheeling Park District **Wheeling Police Department**  **Wold Architects and Engineers WT Group Zurich North America** 

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<sup>\*</sup>Please forgive and bring to our attention any mistakes or omissions. We deeply appreciate all who have helped SLSF provide recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities



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## Join a **Committee**

SLSF Committees work to ensure events are a success! Prior to the event they work to recruit attendees and sponsors, contact businesses for prize donations and assist SLSF staff in planning the event. The day of, they participate in the event as an attendee or volunteer, and provide valuable feedback.

## Become a **Volunteer**

Sign up to volunteer at one of SLSF's 6 golf outings or 3 seated events. Without volunteers, the events that SLSF hosts would not be possible. Volunteers assist in a variety of areas including registration, selling raffle tickets, running gimmick holes, helping distribute prizes and so much more.





## Attend an **Event**

SLSF features events for those of all interests. From golf outings to fashion shows to numerous partnered events throughout the year, we have something for everyone. Visit SLSF.me for upcoming events.

Contact Megan O'Brien at Mobrien@slsf.me or 847-392-2848 ext. 267 to get involved



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