# VI. REPORTS

Memo

Date: May 4, 2015
To: Tracey Crawford, Executive Director
From: Nanette Sowa, Superintendent of Development
Re: SLSF Update – May Board Meeting

***GMFS***

Total Revenue: $58,969 ($9869 above anticipated budget)
Total Expense: $19,647.50
**Net Profit: $39,987.85** (33% expense/67% profit)

***Annual Appeal***

The Spring Appeal will be mailed in early May. SLSF has been fortunate to be chosen as the recipients of a challenge grant from Art Van Furniture. The Challenge runs May 18-June 22 with donations needing to be made via an online portal. The Spring Annual Appeal requests donors to give to this Challenge Grant. There will also be a Constant Contact sent with the information close to the day the grant begins. An email request letter template has been sent to all NWSRA staff members and the two boards of directors asking that it be sent to their contacts. In 2014, Art Van Furniture donated $7500 to SLSF via this grant. The money will benefit Inclusion.

***Buffalo Grove Golf Classic***

The outing will be held at The Arboretum Club on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. This event is a cooperative event between SLSF and the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove.
Sponsors: $6,225 (includes 14 golfers)
Golfers: 130 = $16,250
Passports: 98 sold for a total of $4,900
Hole Sponsors: 15 - $2,250
Business Hole Sponsors: 5 - $1000
Donations: $270
**TOTAL as of 5.4.15: $27,052.95**
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL: $31,850**

***Palatine Hills Golf Classic***

The outing will be held at Palatine Hills Golf Course on Thursday, June 4, 2015.
Sponsors: $5,000
Golfers: 137 = $15,700; 8 sponsored golfers
Passports: 25 sold for a total of $1,250
Hole Sponsors: 6 for a total of $750
Business Hole Sponsors: 1 @ $200
**TOTAL as of 5.4.15: $23,461.81**
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL: $27,025**

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***Ala Carte Entertainment/NWSRA Golf Classic***
The outing will take place at Old Orchard Country Club on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.
Business Hole Sponsor: $200
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL: $24,975**

***Women's Golf Outing***
The outing will take place at Traditions at Chevy Chase on Thursday, August 27, 2015.
Sponsors: $500
Business Hole Sponsors: $200
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL: $19,000**

***Arlington Classic Golf Outing***
The outing will take place at Fox Run Golf Links on Wednesday, September 16, 201
Business Hole Sponsor $200
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL: $24,700 with a portion going to The Rotary Club of Arlington Heights**

***Terrazzo & Marble Supply Companies Golf Outing***
The outing will take place at Traditions at Chevy Chase on Saturday, October 3, 2015
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL: $16,398**

***Celebrate Ability Early Bird Raffle***
The Celebrate Ability $100 raffle tickets went on sale in April. As in years past, there will only be 200 tickets sold. There will be an Early Bird Drawing the first of each month starting in May up until the day of the event on November 6. Each monthly drawing will net the winner $100. So far **60** tickets have been sold.
60 tickets sold: $6,000
1 winner pay out: $50 – the winner donated the other $50 back to SLSF
**We anticipate selling all 200 tickets prior to the dinner and pulling the winners as the first item of the evening.**
**ANTICIPATED RAFFLE TOTAL: $20,000 minus $5,550 payout ($50 less due to donated winnings)**
**ANTICIPATED TOTAL FOR GALA: $114,050**

***Hole Sponsor Deal***
The Annual Hole Sponsor Deal mailing was sent at the end of March.
There are 8 businesses who have signed up for the Hole Sponsor Deal contributing $4,000.

## Board Report – Grant Activity as of 5/4/2015

The following is a list of 2015 grant activity on behalf of SLSF/NWSRA

### Government Grants

| Pending | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **Purpose** | **Amount Requested** | **Status** | **Notes** |
| **Illinois Department of Transportation** – IDOT grants vehicles to non-profit agencies through the Paratransit Vehicle Program. The purpose of this program is to meet the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities. | Accessible transportation | 14 passenger vehicle | Approved $63,000 | NWSRA submitted a grant application for one 14 passenger vehicle to the Illinoi Department of Transportation (IDOT). **Delivery is expected in the fourth quarter of FY2015 through the third quarter of FY2016.** |
| | | **Total Government Grant Money Received in 2015** | **$63,000** | |

### Private Grants

| Pending | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **Purpose** | **Amount Requested** | **Status** | **Notes** |
| **National Alliance for Accessible Golf** | Golf Uniforms and Equipment | $11,195 | Pending | SLSF requested funds to purchase golf bags, golf balls, shirts and jackets for athletes and coaches. |
| **Women's Club of Inverness** | Early Childhood – General Program Support | $1,500 | Pending | SLSF requested a grant to help purchase equipment needed for early childhood programs. Sen 3.6.2015 |
| **Palatine Jaycees** | Early Childhood – General Program Support | $760 | Pending | SLSF requested a grant to purchase equipment needed for early childhood programs. Sent 3.9.2015 |
| **Schneider Electric/Square D- The Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation** | Scholarships | $15,000 | $15,000 | SLSF requested a grant to fund scholarships through the Kevin T. Kendrigan Memorial Scholarship Program. Sent 4.21.2015 |

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| **Not Approved** | | | | |
| **Impact 100 Chicago** | Transportation | $145,450 | Denied | SLSF requested a grant to purchase 2 new accessible vehicles. Sent 11.26.2014. Following is what the grant committee wrote: ***"The comments were although your mission and services are critically important, the funding of two vehicles was no as compelling as other projects Every year the applications vary as does the make-up of the committee reviewing the application. Our mission is that we want our grant to make a BIG impact!"*** |
| **Approved** | | | | |
| **Alexian Brothers Foundation** | General Program – Martial Arts | NA | *****$9,000*** | NWSRA and Alexian Brothers will collaborate on a martial arts program for highly functioning autistic community. SLSF requested funding for NWSRA staff and Martial Arts instructor Grant was approved. ***SLSF received a check on 5.4.2015*** |
| **Rotary Club of Palatine** | Scholarships | $3,000 | ***$1,000*** | SLSF sent the allocation application to request funds for our Scholarship Program. Received funding to provide a scholarship to 3 Palatine residents for the one week of NWSRA Day Camp. Sent 1.28.15 |
| **Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village** | Scholarships | $3,000 | ***$1,000*** | SLSF requested funds for scholarships to EGV residents. Sent 2.17.2015. SLSF received money on 3.25.2015 |
| **Circle of Service Foundation** | Inclusion | $20,000 | ****10,000*** | SLSF applied for a two year challenge grant from the Circle of Service Foundation in 2014 for $20,000 per year to support inclusion services in 2014 and 2015. Sent 10.14.2014 ***SLSF was approved for a one year challenge grant of $10,000 for 2015. This will be the last grant SLSF will receive from*** |

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| | | | | ***COSF due to their support since 2002.*** |
| **Office Depot Foundation** | Inclusion | $5,000 | ***$2,000** | SLSF requested a grant to support NWSRA Inclusion Program. Sent 11.5.2014 ***SL approved money will receive 2015.*** |
| **Elk Grove Township** | Accessible Transportation | $10,000 | ***$10,000*** | SLSF requested a grant to hel purchase an accessible vehicl Sent 1.5.2015. ***SLSF receive acceptance letter 4.13.2015*** |
| **Art Van Charity Challenge Grant** | Inclusion | NA | Approved | SLSF applied to be a recipien for the 2015 challenge grant f Inclusion. The Challenge gra begins May 18, 2015 and end June 22, 2015. |
| **Rotary Club of Mount Prospect Sunrise** | Scholarships | | $1,000 | This rotary club has dissolved Due to the long standing relationship with SLSF, they granted SLSF with scholarshi money. |

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| **Total Proposed Amount from Private Grant Money** | **$214,905** |
| **Total Approved Grant Money in 2015** | **$24,000** |
| **Total Private Grant Money Received in 2015** | **$14,000** |

****COSF and Office Depot Foundation money is not included in the total private money received or approved in 2014 because the money is granted in 2015.***

*****Alexian Brothers Foundation grant was approved in April 2014 for $9,000. (Amount not included in Total Approved Grant Money in 2015). SLSF will be receiving funds in 2015.(Amount is included in Total Private Grant Money Received in 2015).***

To: Tracey M. Crawford, President

From: Nanette Sowa, Superintendent of Development

Date: May 4, 2015

Re: 2015 Sponsor Progress Report through May 4, 2015

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Northwest Community Healthcare - $15,000 Opportunity Partner: Given credit for $7,500 Presenting Sponsor at both Gold Medal Fashion Show and the Celebrate Ability Gala

Gold Medal Fashion Show:
$1200 Emerald Table Sponsors: Benefax/Maxwell Family and Richard and Joanne Kluck
$1000 Invitation Sponsor-Art Van Furniture
$500 Sign Sponsor- Anderson and Ubert families
$250 Photography Sponsor-Wintrust

Hole Sponsor Deal: 8 businesses @ $500 totaling $4000

Buffalo Grove Golf Outing:
$1500 Bronze Sponsor: Buffalo Grove Park District
$1500 Bronze Sponsor: Kolbi Pipe Marker
$1000 Dinner Sponsor: Rubin Law
$500 Lunch Sponsor: John Jawor
$500 Lunch Sponsor: The Continental Restaurant
$300 Bag Drop Sponsor: Culver's
$250 Ball Drop Sponsor: The Continental Restaurant
$250 Beverage Sponsor: McDonald's
$250 Putting Contest Sponsor: Buffalo Grove Bank and Trust
$175 Bag Piper Sponsor: Tim Ratigan, State Farm Insurance
$1000 in Business Hole Sponsors
$2250 in Hole Sponsors

The Palatine Hills Golf Outing: has the following sponsors:
$3000 Gold Sponsor: Weber Grill
$500 Lunch Sponsor: The Rotary Club of Palatine
$500 Lunch Sponsor: Cornerstone Bank
$500 Lunch Sponsor: Lavelle Law
$250 Beverage Sponsor: ACT Appraisal
$250 Breakfast Sponsor: Fred and Bunny Hall
$200 in Business Hole Sponsors
$750 in Hole Sponsors

AlaCarte/NWSRA Golf Outing:
$200 Business Hole Sponsors

Women's Golf Outing:
$250 Lunch Sponsor: Rolling Meadows Park District
$250 Lunch Sponsor: Unemployment Consultants
$200 Business Hole Sponsor

Arlington Classic Golf Outing:
$200 Business Hole Sponsor

Celebrate Ability Gala
$1200 Ruby Table Sponsor: Carl and Grace Arthur
$1000 Invitation Sponsor: Call One

In-kind:

- Northrop Grumman – program printing for Gold Medal Fashion Show
- Formally Modern Tuxedos, Bachrach Woodfield, Reddington Bridal, Dick Wilson, Forbici Salon were in-kind sponsors of the Gold Medal Fashion Show.
- Miller/Coors is providing product for four of the golf outings.
- The Buffalo Grove Fire Department is donating their time and a truck for the Buffalo Grove outing's ball drop contest.
- Sunset Foods-Long Grove is donating water for the Buffalo Grove outing
- Kolbi Pipe Marker is providing all signs for the Buffalo Grove outing
- Buffalo Grove Park District is providing part of the tee gift for the Buffalo Grove outing
- Carmen Molinaro is providing part of the tee gift of the Buffalo Grove outing

# Special Leisure Services Foundation

## 2015 Strategic Plan: Critical Issues and Action Strategies

## Created January 2015

**The following document reflects the short term goals identified for completion in 2015.**
**Special Leisure Services Foundation Goals were based on five programs of the foundation.**
**These five programs continue to be the framework used to create this Strategic Plan.**

1. **Athletics**
2. **Inclusion**
3. **Programs**
4. **Scholarships**
5. **Transportation**

## #1 CRITICAL ISSUE: Fundraising

**ACTION STRATEGY 1.1:** Maintain the current level of fundraising

| TACTICS | STAFF RESPONSIBLE | COMPLETION DATE | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Continue to provide a calendar of quality fundraising events | Nanette<br>Cathy | January 31 | All fundraising events are scheduled and facilities are confirmed for the 2015 calendar. |
| Seek out additional sponsors by attending networking events and area chamber of commerce events. | Nanette<br>Cathy | December 31 | So far in 2015 SLSF staff has attended three AHCC events, three RMCC events, and presented at the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates |
| Maintain current grant timeline. | Cathy | December 31 | Cathy is on track with the grant timeline. |
| Research and apply for new grants that support the goals of the foundation. | Cathy<br>Nanette | December 31 | In process |
| Identify new, smaller sponsorship opportunities for targeted NWSRA events | Nanette<br>NWSRA staff | December 31 | Three new companies were sent the Hole Sponsor Deal letters. Nanette attended an after hours event at Allegra Printers and spoke with two new companies about sponsorship. She met with Call One about moving their sponsorship to one of the events. |
| Continue to offer current third party events and foster new relationships that may lead to additional third party events | Nanette<br>Cathy | December 31 | In process |
| Research and contact companies within the 17 | Nanette | March 31 | In process |

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| park district area that can be enlisted as SLSF partners | | | |
| Create a timeline for reaching out to the new companies and meet with one new companies per month | Nanette | December 31 | In process. See above as to having spoken with three new companies re: sponsorship. |

## #2 CRITICAL ISSUE: Marketing and Technology

**ACTION STRATEGY 2.1:** Develop a strong SLSF identity

| TACTICS | STAFF RESPONSIBLE | COMPLETION DATE | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Publicize and maintain the new SLSF website accessible from the NWSRA website | Brian<br>Nanette<br>Janet | December 31 | SLSF.me is up and running. The website has been publicized through various online resources including TribLocal, Daily Herald, Patch and more. In addition, the site has been publicized at events, through the new SLSF Impact e-mail blast, and through print publications and online social media pages. |
| Use the SLSF name/logo on all communications | Tracey<br>Brian<br>Nanette<br>Janet | December 31 | New business cards are in process with the slsf.me address. All SLSF related materials have been updated with the new SLSF logo. |
| Send the SLSF Impact in an electronic format sent semi-monthly to all SLSF donors and all NWSRA participants for whom we have email addresses. | Tracey<br>Brian<br>Nanette<br>Janet | December 31 | The SLSF Impact has been sent in January and March. The newsletter was designed to match the look of the new SLSF.me website and to provide a simple interface with easy access to links. |

## #3 CRITICAL ISSUE: Community Relations

**ACTION STRATEGY 3.1:** Increase the SLSF identity in the communities served by NWSRA

| TACTICS | STAFF RESPONSIBLE | COMPLETION DATE | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| The SLSF staff and board will work together to identify young professionals and community members that may be interested in serving on an event committee. | Tracey<br>Nanette<br>SLSF Board | December 31 | In process |

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| Partner with an outside firm to promote SLSF as a targeted charity beneficiary. | Nanette<br>Cathy<br>Sherry | December 31 | In process |
| Nominate volunteers for service awards (IPRA, Kevin T. Kendrigan Spirit Award and other community awards). | Nanette<br>Cathy<br>Brian | December 31 | A nomination was made for Nanette Sowa as Community Leader of the Year at the Rolling Meadows Chamber Circle of Success event. Nanette won the award and will receive it at the May event. A nomination for the Schaumburg Volunteer of the Year award has been made. Eight people will received IPRA awards from SLSF in 2015 |
| SLSF staff members will join or maintain memberships in local service clubs and chambers of commerce | Tracey<br>Nanette<br>Cathy | December 31 | SLSF is a member of the AHCC, RMCC. Nanette is a member of the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates and Tracey will be joining the Rotary Club or Rolling Meadows. |

**ACTION STRATEGY 3.2: Strengthen SLSF Board Member commitment**

| TACTICS | STAFF RESPONSIBLE | COMPLETION DATE | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meet with each non park district director board member at least once during 2015 to discern their reason for sitting on the board, their individual skills and how to make those skills work on the board. | Nanette | December 31 | Nanette is in the process of making appointments with SLSF board members. She met with one board member in January. |
| Create a spreadsheet of the board member responses from the individual meetings to enable the SLSF staff to respond to the requests made by board members | Tracey<br>Nanette | March 20 | The spreadsheet has been created and will be completed with the information requested after each meeting. |
| Identify and reach out to members of the community who would be effective SLSF board members | Tracey<br>Nanette | December 31 | A listing for new board members is on Hands on Suburban Chicago. |
| Encourage SLSF board members to maintain or increase their personal commitment to the viability of SLSF. | Tracey<br>Nanette | December 31 | In process. Nanette discusses this at the individual meetings. |

**To:** Tracey Crawford, Executive Director
**From:** Brian Selders, Manager of Public Relations and Marketing
**Re:** NWSRA/SLSF Marketing and Public Relations Report
**Date:** May 11, 2015

Following is a synopsis of marketing activities that have taken place in 2015:

| MEDIA | |
|---|---|
| **Daily Herald** | • Appreciation ad sent for:<br>- Gold Medal Fashion Show<br>• Added GMFS and Spring Golf Outings to online calendar of events through Spingo<br>• Press release for:<br>- Gold Medal Fashion Show |
| **TribLocal/ Metromix** | • Added GMFS and Spring Golf Outings to online calendar of events<br>• Posted article about Clearbrook IPRA/IAPD Community Service award<br>• Press release for Gold Medal Fashion Show |
| **Daily Herald Business Ledger** | • Submitted SLSF information for the Business Ledger Philanthropy Guide |
| **Patch** | • Posted article about Clearbrook IPRA/IAPD Community Service award<br>• Press release for Gold Medal Fashion Show |
| **Miscellaneous** | • SLSF events posted online to the following sites: Daily Herald, WGN TV, Chicago Mama, Chicago Music Guide, North Shore Breaking News |
| **ONLINE** | |
| **NWSRA/SLSF Website** | • Reviewed and updated the NWSRA FOIA and Transparency site with up to date bid information<br>• Reviewed and updated the SLSF Director's website<br>• Created online marketing partnerships with local school districts and libraries to distribute electronic information<br>• Updated 2015 SLSF online Eventbrite registration pages- now includes sponsor logos<br>• Updated SLSF Fit and Fund web page<br>• New www.slsf.me website introduced<br>• New Community Resources page unveiled- invitations to potential online collaborative partners continue<br>• All web pages updated with 2015 information<br>• New payment procedures posted online for 2015 registrations<br>• 2015 SLSF events posted online |
| **Social Media** | • Received $120,000 annual Google Adwords grant- now running various Google ads<br>• Prepared Art Van Charity Challenge social media plan<br>• Created and shared Music Recital video on Facebook<br>• Aligned Youtube with Google+ page, which has received over 80,000 views<br>• Won the 2014 Constant Contact All Star Award for third year in a row (top 10% of organizations win this award)<br>• Targeted Facebook ad to run in member Park District communities |

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| | identified with low participation in the ROI project- after 4 days, increased Likes on page by 54 people<br>• Updated VolunteerMatch site, which now links to SLSF events and donations as well as the NWSRA LinkedIn page<br>• NWSRA was showcased on the Northwest Volunteer Administration Network site<br>• Added Polls to Facebook page<br>• Introduced the "NWSRA Now" bi-monthly e-newsletter<br>• Introduced the SLSF.me LinkedIn Company page<br>• Introduced the "What's Your Why" campaign to increase followers of the SLSF.me LinkedIn Company page<br>• Revamped the "SLSF Impact" bi-monthly e-newsletter to fit the SLSF.me brand<br>• Created recap video of 2014 accomplishments and posted to social media<br>• Email addresses are being collected on NWSRA registration forms, at community expos attended by NWSRA/SLSF staff, through the NWSRA website and at SLSF fundraising events. |
| **PUBLICATIONS and FLYERS** | |
| **NWSRA/ SLSF** | • Created rack card for SLSF outlining ways to become an advocate<br>• Created SLSF Board Talking Points document<br>• Updated NWSRA registration forms and publications with auto withdrawal information<br>• SLSF Spring golf outings flyers and save the dates created<br>• 2014 Annual report created and sent<br>• 2015 Day Camp brochures created and sent<br>• Schaumburg Township ran a full page free promotion of the PURSUIT program in its monthly newsletter<br>• Sent half page ad for PAL fundraiser program book<br>• Procured a step and repeat banner with stand for large SLSF events<br>• Summer 2015 brochure completed and sent<br>• Winter/Spring 2015 brochure redesign completed- brochure sent<br>• GMFS invitations, raffle tickets and program books created and sent |
| **Television, Video and Radio** | |
| **NWSRA/SLSF** | • A series of 30 second commercials about NWSRA is now being played on the Village of Hoffman Estates, Village of Mount Prospect and Schaumburg Park District local television stations.<br>• Worked with Schaumburg Park District staff to include NWSRA staff interacting with participants on upcoming video |
| **ADDITIONAL MARKETING** | |
| **NWSRA/SLSF** | • Partnered with Center for Health Services through website linking and exposure at Summer expo<br>• Partnered with Northwest Community Healthcare's Pediatric facility to provide NWSRA information to clients<br>• Nominated Nanette Sowa for the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce "Community Leader of the Year" Award<br>• Implemented SLSF "What's Your Why" marketing strategy at SLSF Fashion Show<br>• Contacted all area libraries to discuss website link exchanging<br>• Submitted nomination for Rolling Meadows Chamber Circle of Success Awards<br>• Implemented several initiatives through the Outreach Committee to accomplish goals set through the ROI project |

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| | • New NWSRA giveaways ordered<br>• NWSRA marketing materials submitted in IPRA Agency Showcase competition<br>• Nominated various individuals and organizations for IPRA Community Service Awards.<br>• Hosted full day database kickoff meeting with breakout sessions to re-imagine the building of the database and website |
| **Expos/Networking Events Attended** | |
| **NWSRA/SLSF** | • Calendar of expos/networking events attended created by Outreach Committee. Information on events attended posted in quarterly Outreach report.<br>• Park District marketing website updated with increased access to ads, photos, writeups, online calendar and more. |
| **IN PROGRESS** | |
| **NWSRA/SLSF** | • Database/website build project<br>• SLSF donor videos<br>• SLSF Sponsorship opportunities pamphlet<br>• Various publications and online media |

G:\Marketing\Board Information\2014 Communications Updates

To: Tracey Crawford, Executive Director
From: Julie Clasen and Jayne Finger, Superintendents of Recreation
Re: Program Report, March 10 – May 9, 2015

**Program Highlights**

Weekly Programs

Saturday Superstars held in Park Place, Streamwood, has 9 youngsters ages 7 – 12 years who enjoy crafts, games, swimming and social time with friends. This season they enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, parachute games and a sensory activity with food coloring and shaving cream. The program leader provided consistent structure through a regular routine which allowed the group to improve their ability to take turns, follow directions and work together as a team.

Learn to Skate welcomed a new skater, Jessica, age 6 who has blossomed on the ice. She is still very tentative but now can stand and march forward independently. She enjoys stepping on the bubbles from the dinosaur bubble machine and sliding when there are no bubbles. Each week she has come in a new skating outfit and her entire family are in the stands, cheering her on for every move she makes.

Clubs

On April 24, three Friday night social clubs, which serve individuals with physical disabilities, joined together at the Palatine Community Center for Paralympic Night. There were 25 athletes along with 15 staff and volunteers that made this night a success. NWSRA showcased five Paralympic sports which included boccia, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair football, power soccer and adapted cycling. Many community center members were drawn to the event and watched as our athletes competed against one another. The event lasted two hours with a short snack intermission that was provided for everyone involved. NWSRA and its Paralympic Sports Club look to continue to work together to increase awareness of Paralympic sports and the offerings they provide.

Special Events

On May 25, NWSRA presented the Third Annual Music Recital featuring 16 participants in piano, guitar, drum and singing lessons. A dessert reception followed the event for parents, performers and invited guests. Several parents commented that they were pleased to see that NWSRA offers multiple music programs and that their child has the ability to participate and showcase their talent to family and friends.

Inclusion

This spring NWSRA is supporting 120 individual residents in 191 member park district programs. Inclusion Coordinators Evelyn Kourliouros and Rachel Hubsch assisted Mt. Prospect Park District with a senior resident who has mobility issues and needs assistance for his water aerobics class. The Mt. Prospect Park District and NWSRA worked together to find a safe alternate for the senior to enter and exit the pool.

The Inclusion Coordinators, along with NWSRA member park districts, have been working together to help provide continued support to preschool and school age children by scheduling parent meetings. The parent meetings consist of the park district program coordinator, the parent(s) and an Inclusion Coordinator. These meetings are held to help foster the team environment and to discuss ideas to ensure their success in the park district program. This spring the Inclusion Coordinators have been involved in eight parent meetings and have seen continued success of the resident(s) involved.

NWSRA Lightning Sports Teams

Start...Press...Rack!!! The NWSRA Lightning Powerlifting Team has been dedicated to their training schedule since September, gearing-up for the Special Olympics District Qualifier that was held on Sunday, April 12. Greg Zbrzezny, Program Specialist, and his assistant coaches have been

preparing the athletes to compete in events such as bench press, deadlift and squat. Twenty-seven NWSRA Lightning athletes competed at the district qualifier and 26 of them received a gold medal; qualifying them for the 2015 State Summer Games June 12-14.

**Collaborative Opportunities**

Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies (HMHB)

The HMHB program for veterans at the Life Center Health & Fitness Center (Bartlett Park District) continues to grow with 8 veterans involved in the program. Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies is a nation-wide program implemented by fitness centers to provide veterans with two one year memberships for the veteran and a "buddy", up to 15 personal training sessions and monthly networking opportunities.

PURSUIT

Giving back to the community is one of the most rewarding activities planned for the adults in the PURSUIT program. Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House and baking desserts is one activity on the schedule each month. PURSUIT participants also volunteer at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights, leading bingo once a month. The group gathers prizes and has been working on their public speaking skills. The adults in the PURSUIT program have logged 72 volunteer hours from March 10 – May 9.

PURSUIT began planning for their community garden plots which are located at the Schaumburg Park District garden plots; utilizing the above-ground raised garden plots that they built just for the PURSUIT program. They mapped out a complete plan for the garden and are super excited to get started.

Other Pursued Collaborative Opportunities

The 9th Annual SRA (Special Recreation Association) Art show was held on Sunday, April 26 at the Bloomingdale Museum. This event is a collaborative between all the SRAs and gives participants from an opportunity to display their fine art work in a professional gallery setting. Artists and their family and friends were invited to the art show to enjoy the art, listen to live music, partake in refreshments and make a piece of art if desired. Jodi Schultz, Manager, coordinated the event on behalf of the NWSRA artists. Art work was displayed from the following programs:

- Art Sampler
- Saturday Superstars
- Ceramics, a collaboration with NWSRA and Thrown Elements in Arlington Heights
- Art Expression, a collaboration with NWSRA and the Hoffman Estates High School Transition Program
- Pursuit, a collaboration with NWSRA and Clearbrook

**Staff Update**

Part Time Staff

During the Winter/Spring program session, there were 102 part time staff working 118 weekly programs. Sixteen awesome part time program leaders are leading 28 of the 118 programs.

Volunteers

During the winter/spring season, 181 individual volunteers donated time and talents to 29 club events, 2 inclusion sites, 13 sports teams, 37 weekly programs, 5 spring break camps, and 8 special events. Over the last three months 68 new volunteers were welcomed to the NWSRA volunteer team. One of these new volunteers is a talented woman named Donna Koral. Donna became aware of NWSRA programming and services as a teacher that is involved in our leisure education program. Donna has recently retired and is now a volunteer in the horseback riding program. Her contributions include on-site support for our riders, as well as behind the scenes work that she has done to create new games and visual supports to help all riders be successful.

Staff Recognition
Several office staff were recognized on Administrative Professionals Day on April 22. They enjoyed fresh flowers on their desk, arranged by our very own "budding" floral stylist, Angie Lee, Manager. Thank you to our support staff who were recognized on their special day: Mary Lou D'Astice, Sherry Gach, Michele Paradise, Zofia Sobkiewicz, Jessica Vasalos, Kelly DeCorrevont and Janet Plencner.

Staff Development and Training
On April 16, Mary Mazzaroli spoke at the ACA Mid-states conference at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles on the topic of creating individualized accommodations for children and adults who have disabilities.

The NWSRA Day Camp Coordinators and their manager attended the PDRMA Day Camp, SRA and Aquatics Forum on April 17. The forum focused on aquatic safety, communication and the development of procedures between SRAs, outside groups and the park district aquatic staff.

Twin Lakes Boating Safety Training was held on April 21 to train the program staff on the procedures of using the paddle boats during leisure education programs at Twin Lakes.

A CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) refresher was offered to full time staff with current certification in order to keep the skills fresh and updated.

The NWSRA office staff presented a workshop on customer service which included a power point presentation and a video. The Recruitment Team presented a workshop on interviewing skills to be utilized during Open Interview Nights. Staff in the finance department presented a workshop on basic budgeting skills.

**Recruitment and Outreach**
Recruitment
Angie Lee, Manager, spoke to 90 students enrolled in an Intro to TR and Inclusive Recreation class at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse on April 6. She spoke about SRAs in general, and more specifically about NWSRA programs, the inclusion process, camps and transportation. She responded to questions about internship and employment opportunities.

With summer session and day camp quickly approaching, recruitment and training is in full force. Six open interview nights have been offered since January, with the goal to hire 100s of seasonal staff to work this summer as well as yearly staff to stay on board the rest of the year. On April 20, Bartlett Park District hosted a Joint Interview Night with NWSRA. 10 individuals showed up for the interview night and all 10 were hired.

Since March, Kristy Ekner, Recruitment and Outreach Coordinator, and various other staff members have been making presentations at area high schools to discuss volunteer and employment opportunities.

- Wheeling High School

Other recruitment opportunities for employment included attending job fairs.

- Harper College
- Arlington Heights Teen Job Fair
- Palatine Library
- Schaumburg Library

Outreach 2015
On March 20, Kristy and Mary Mazzaroli, Volunteer Coordinator, spoke at Carl Sandberg Junior High's Career Day about careers in Therapeutic Recreation.

On April 11, Kristy and Val Thompson, Inclusion Coordinator, went to the Kids at Hope Fair Expo in Hanover Park. Information about NWSRA's services were shared with all whom attended.

On April 28, Kristy went to Hersey High School's Parent Night of the Year and distributed summer brochures, employment flyers and additional resources for families about the services offered at NWSRA.

**NWSRA Intra-Staff Committees**

Paralympic Sports Committee

On March 30, NWSRA's Paralympic Sports Club Committee hosted an adapted sports demonstration at Nerge Elementary School in partnership with School District 54. Staff members from NWSRA educated 20 students on adapted sports and provided them with firsthand experiences at each of three stations featuring boccia ball, wheelchair basketball and adapted cycling.