

# Special Olympics Area 5

WINTER 2008  
NEWSLETTER

This year's bowling season got off on the right foot.



## Winter Games and Basketball Training Begins

Handball, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, skating and snow shoe practice begin on Monday, November 24, 2008 at 7:30 at South Middle School in Grand Forks. Handball is a partner sport so coaches, partners, and athletes are needed. Practices will be held every Monday and Tuesday night from 7:30 p.m to 8:45 p.m. State games are planned for January 16 & 17, 2009 in Bottineau.

Basketball practice begins Monday, January 5, 2009. Basketball

practices will be held every Monday and Tuesday evenings starting at 7:30 p.m and ending at 8:45 p.m. at South Middle School. The State Games are planned for March 13 & 14, 2009 in Minot.

## Area 5 Banquet Scheduled for December 11

The Area 5 annual banquet will be held at Holy Family Church in Grand Forks, starting at 6 p.m. on December 11, 2008. Our meal will be catered by Al's Diner and the cost will be approximately \$9.

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**Special Olympics**  
*North Dakota*  
Area 5

You can support North Dakota Special Olympics by participating in our fundraising programs:

- Donate Ink Cartridges
- Car Parking in Bank Forward parking lot at UND home hockey games
- Annual Raffle Tickets
- Monetary Donations
- Donate Coke Points from bottle caps and cases

Call 772-8626 for more information about these programs.

### Become a Volunteer

Volunteer for a state or district tournament. We always need referees, chaperones, food servers and general hospitality volunteers.

Volunteer for a sport  
Coaches, chaperones and volunteers are always needed in all Special Olympics North Dakota Area 5 sports. Some sports, like soccer, even allow volunteers to play along with the athletes.

Participate in a fundraiser  
We're always looking for creative and fun ways to raise funds for athletes and programs. If you know of opportunities or have a new fundraising idea, call your area director.



Baumann Family accepting Family of the Year Award.

## Baumann Family wins Family of the Year Award

The Family of the Year Award was presented to the Tim and Meredith Baumann Family on October 11th, 2008 at the Special Olympics North Dakota State Awards Banquet. People who are familiar with Area 5 will agree that this award was a long time coming and very well deserved.

The entire Baumann Family, including Tim, Meredith, Erin, and Kristin and Dan O'Connor are dedicated, to say the least, to the organization. They live and breathe it every day. Whether it's coaching, organizing, chaperoning, answering phone calls, recruiting volunteers, or even participating as an athlete, this family is an asset to Area 5 Grand Forks.

Meredith started working with Special Olympics as a volunteer in 1994. As all long-time volunteers can relate, she quickly gained more and more responsibilities within the organization as time passed, and in 1998, she became the Director for the Area 5 program in Grand Forks.

One soldier does not go without a trusty companion, however, and Meredith's husband is nothing less. Tim began volunteering for Special Olympics in 1995 and, like Meredith, quickly became a rock in the organization. From being involved as a parent and being a favorite among all of the athletes, to implementing various fund raisers and keeping the practices fun, Tim helped to bring the organization to where it is today.

Tim and Meredith are the proud parents of Erin and Kristin. Erin has been involved with Special Olympics since 1994. Her infectious smile and friendly demeanor made her the shining star she is today. As an athlete and Global Messenger, Erin is always willing to speak about Special Olympics in front of college students, church groups, teachers, or friends. Her Cool Cat Club is always her favorite topic of conversation and her friendships are very dear to her heart.

Kristin is the Baumanns' oldest daughter. She and her husband Dan have been involved with Special Olympics as individuals and as a couple. The two actually met at Special Olympics soccer practice, and thanks to help from Erin, began dating! Kristin and Dan both volunteer as partners and coaches during the main sports seasons, and Kristin has been an active liaison between the Special Education department of the Grand Forks Public Schools and Special Olympics.

What a difference five people can make in the world. Thank you, Baumann Family, for your dedication to the Special Olympics organization.

Calendar	November	December	January
<p>There are always lots of exciting events in Special Olympics Area 5. For more information about any event listed here, contact <a href="mailto:area5sond@hotmail.com">area5sond@hotmail.com</a> or 772-8626.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Winter games start. Practice is Mondays and Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at South Middle School.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Area 5 Banquet.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Basketball practice starts. It will take places Mondays and Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at South Middle School.</p>
<p>A great fundraising opportunity for us is parking cars in the Bank Forward parking lot during UND home hockey games. If you are interested in helping out, contact Josh Parrill at 218-791-1479 or <a href="mailto:josh.parrill@yahoo.com">josh.parrill@yahoo.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>28-29</b> UND Hockey, car parking at Bank Forward.</p>	<p><b>12-13, 19</b> UND Hockey, car parking at Bank Forward.</p>	<p><b>16-17</b> State Winter Games Tournament in Bottineau.</p>
			<p><b>3, 9-10</b> UND Hockey, car parking at Bank Forward.</p>

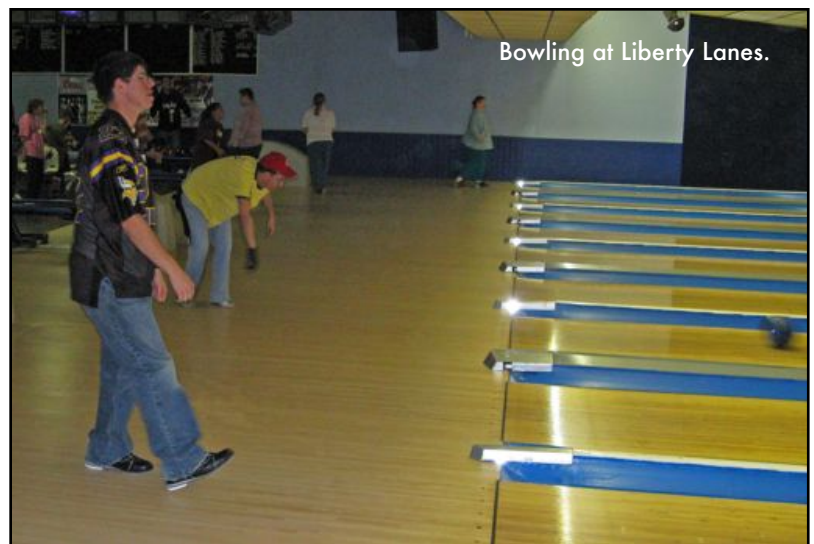
## Attention UND Hockey Fans

You can help out Grand Forks Special Olympics and The Village Family Service Center by parking in the Bank Forward parking lot when attending UND Hockey games. Grand Forks Special Olympics and The Village are alternating parking lot supervision during UND Men's home hockey series. A \$10 donation will allow you to park in the Bank Forward lot near the Ralph Engelstad Arena. The lot will be supervised until 15 minutes after the game ends. Please park at Bank Forward to help these two great organizations.

Grand Forks Special Olympics has been given the opportunity to park cars in the Bank Forward parking lot during some of the UND Sioux home hockey games this year. If you are interested in helping out with this fundraiser contact Josh Parrill at (218)791-1479 or [josh.parrill@yahoo.com](mailto:josh.parrill@yahoo.com). If you want to volunteer, please be sure you have winter wear that will keep you warm for a couple hours while parking the cars.

## Sponsor a Bowler Fundraiser

Sponsor a Bowler Fundraiser has set another record. This year's Sponsor a Bowler fundraising campaign set a new record this year by beating last year's total. Last year we raised \$11,256. This year the total was a little over \$11,400. Way to go!!! A special thank you goes to all who participated, but a special thanks goes to our top fund raisers. They were Erin Baumann, over \$2,100; David Chambers, almost \$1,900; Sharon Daucsavage, just under \$1300 and James Wolfgram, just over \$1000.



Check out the all new look of Special Olympics North Dakota at [www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org](http://www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org). Athletes forms, volunteer forms and state award forms are all available to download.

## Area 5 Management Team

Meredith Baumann Area Director	Will Kusler, Games Coordinator	Sue Schaumberg Fundraising Committee Member
Tim Baumann Assistant Area Director/ Transportation Coordinator	Cindy Dahlgren Family Coordinator	Jolene Mikkelson Fundraising Committee Member
Emily Parrill Volunteer Coordinator	Kristin O'Connor Outreach Coordinator	Joan Schulthesis Area 5 Secretary
Josh Parrill Training Coordinator	Deb Leier Finance Coordinator	David Dahlgren Athlete Representative
Stacy Kusler Public Relations Coordinator	Francine Davis Medical Coordinator and Fundraising Committee Member	Patty McGlynn Athlete Representative

### From the director's desk

It is always hard to believe that winter is upon us, but here it is again. For Area 5 Special Olympics, that means wrapping up our summer and fall sports and fund raisers, and getting ready for the Winter Games and Basketball training seasons.

Our Winter Games sports include team handball (a unified sport), alpine skiing, snow shoe, and ice skating. Training for these will begin on Monday, November 24. Basketball will begin in January. All practices will be at South Middle School on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45.

Though we are ready for the next season, I also want to celebrate the past accomplishments we have had since our last newsletter. Soccer/Bocce was a successful season. We had an increase in the number of Bocce players by having 12 players and 8 partners. At the State tournament in Grand Forks, we brought home 5 gold medals, 6 silver medals, and 4 bronze medals. We also earned 3 fourth place, 2 fifth place, and 1 sixth place ribbons. Way to go Grand Forks Bocce!

Soccer had a total of 5 unified teams and brought home 2 bronze medals, 2 fourth place ribbons and 1 seventh place ribbon from the State tournament. 4 of our soccer players were named to the all tournament team, including Pat Bearman, Karen Miller, Tony Schaumberg, and Baylee Bjorge. Jennifer Noss was named to the honorable mention all tournament team. Congratulations to all participants of the Soccer and Bocce teams!

We just concluded our bowling season with a trip to Bismarck/Mandan. Grand Forks brought 54 athletes to Bismarck and we had a great competition weekend. All total, we came home with 15 gold, 7 silver, and 10 bronze medals, 9 fourth, 7 fifth, 3 sixth, and 3 seventh place ribbons.

The oath of Special Olympic shines with the efforts made by our athletes on every playing field and I am always proud to witness the success of their efforts.

We have also had great success with fund raising over the last few months. Most recently, we were able to host a concession stand at the State Soccer/Bocce tournament. We made a profit of about \$1000. As I am sure you are aware, over \$150 of our concessions supplies were taken from us in an overnight robbery at Bringewatt Park. What you may not be aware of is that a group of students from Midway schools heard about it, completed a successful fundraiser and sent us a check for \$265. A group of 5 boys did this with their teacher and wanted us to know of their support for our program. Their generosity to our program is a wonderful thing! Thank you Midway School!

Please remember our Area 5 Banquet coming up on Thursday December 11 at 6:00 at Holy Family church on 17th Ave S in Grand Forks. As is our tradition, if you want to be involved in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift worth \$5-10. We will also have door prizes and a celebration of our Sponsor a Bowler and Christmas wreath sales that evening.

On behalf of the Area Management team, I want to wish you Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Remember to call me after 5 pm if you have questions.

Meredith Baumann, Area 5 Director

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### Contribute to Next SOND Area 5 Newsletter

To contribute a story or photo to be featured in our next newsletter, please send it to [area5sond@hotmail.com](mailto:area5sond@hotmail.com).