



**MAINE-NILES
ASSOCIATION OF
SPECIAL RECREATION**

*Join us as we transform life's
challenges into opportunities!*



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

**Des Plaines Park District ~ Golf-Maine Park District
Morton Grove Park District ~ Niles Park District
Park Ridge Park District ~ Skokie Park District
Village of Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation**

Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Families,

The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is proud to present our 2014 annual report. This report is a snapshot of the services we provide and the financial commitment it takes to fund our Agency. M-NASR is a cooperative endeavor which consists of six park districts and one village recreation department coming together to support M-NASR and the residents of their communities who have special needs. The Des Plaines Park District, Golf-Maine Park District, Morton Grove Park District, Niles Park District, Park Ridge Park District, Skokie Park District, and the Village of Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department are to be recognized because they are the core of M-NASR.

The annual report is an excellent opportunity to not only recognize services, but other programmatic challenges that present as we make our way through the year. As you review our annual report you will learn firsthand about the intricacies of providing these programs, the specifics about our services, and the many contributors who help make it happen.

Businesses, foundations, and individuals have provided financial support throughout the course of the year. The financial support we receive enables us to fund our scholarship program and our heavily-used transportation program. We thank those donors who have made M-NASR a priority.

Please take a moment to review our annual report. We look forward to continuing to provide quality therapeutic recreation programs and are appreciative of the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully,

Suzanne M. Bear



Administrative Staff

Suzanne BearExecutive Director
Jennifer Gebeck, CTRS ...Superintendent of Rec.
Jean Gross, CPABusiness Manager
Stella Lipomi Liponi Liaison
Mary Ann MinelliFront Office Assistant
Barbara SaundersPublic Info. Manager
Claudia Werner Registrar/Admin. Assistant
Peggy WilsonDevelopment Officer

Recreation Staff

Kelly Damron Senior Operations Manager
Tracy Gillingham, CTRS Inclusion Manager
Kristine Kuester, CTRS Support Staff Manager
Lauren Ruiz, CTRS Program Manager
Olivia Antosz Recreation Specialist
Stephen Cozzi Recreation Specialist
Cory Griffith, CTRS Recreation Specialist
Kevin Medema Recreation Specialist



Our Mission

The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is dedicated to improving the quality of life and, through advocacy and awareness, promoting a successful leisure lifestyle for individuals with disabilities.

M-NASR's Board of Directors

Gayle Mountcastle, President *Park Ridge Park District*
 John Ohrlund, Vice President.....*Skokie Park District*
 Tracey Anderson, Treasurer *Morton Grove Park District*
 Don Miletic *Des Plaines Park District*
 John Jekot *Golf-Maine Park District*
 Jan Hincapie *Village of Lincolnwood
 Parks & Recreation*
 Tom Elenz *Niles Park District*



M-NASR Annual Calendar of Events

M-NASR Recognition Night May
 End-of-the-Summer Celebration
 for Participants August
 M-NASR Annual Appeal December

Calendar of Events for Supporters of M-NASR

Liponi Foundation Dinner Dance March
 Morton Grove Foundation "Taste" March
 Liponi Annual Miniature Golf Outing August
 Knights of Columbus
 Tootsie Roll Campaign..... October
 Optimist Club Holiday Tree Sale..... December

Volunteer...
*to lighten
 our load*

Participate...
*so we can all
 have fun!!*

Sponsor...
*to help cover
 our costs*



Engaging the Senses

Recently, one of our Member Districts, Des Plaines Park District, approached M-NASR for information about a Sensory Room, a special room designed to create a stimulating yet calming atmosphere, usually through special lighting, music, and textures. It can be used as therapy, education, and recreation for children and adults with a variety of disabilities. Des Plaines Park District wrote a grant to Rivers Casino asking them to provide the funds needed to build a Sensory Room at the Des Plaines Leisure Center.

It wasn't very long after the grant was submitted to Rivers Casino by Des Plaines Park District when they were notified that the grant was approved, and they would receive \$60,000 to construct the Sensory Room. To say that Des Plaines Park District and M-NASR were excited would be quite an understatement. This grant makes Des Plaines Park District and M-NASR only the 3rd Special Recreation Cooperative out of 33 organizations in Illinois to offer a Sensory Room.

The Sensory Room will be designed around the Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and behavior strategies used by M-NASR's participants' schools, social workers, and therapists and will, therefore, provide benefits which will greatly enhance M-NASR's recreational programming. With this addition, countless people in both Des Plaines Park District and M-NASR programs will receive benefits. These benefits include:

- increased coping skills
- decreased aggressive behaviors
- self-regulation
- decreased anxiety
- increased independence
- sense of security
- activation of different sensory areas for individuals who have deficits in these areas
- increased self-determination
- education and resources for the community, their families, and friends.

Individuals of any age with sensory processing disorders, autism, brain injuries, dementia, Attention Deficit Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and behavioral disorders are just some of the people who will benefit from using this space.

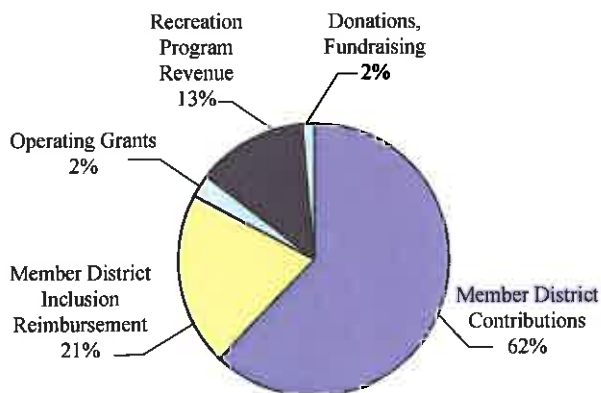
Technology is constantly developing and this has had an incredible impact on individuals with disabilities. The Sensory Room will allow us to incorporate unique equipment that will engage all seven senses. Equipment may include:

- Bubble Tubes
- Vibroacoustic Learning Chair
- Gesturetek Cube
- Aromatherapy
- Fiber Optic Light Spray
- Sound-to-Light Wall Panel

M-NASR and Des Plaines Park District are excited to have such an incredible impact on those we serve with the addition of a sensory room. Many thanks to Rivers Casino for providing the funds for this project!



Revenue by Source - Business Type Activities



Participant Spotlights

Behind that twinkle in his eye and the smile on his face, you would never know that Slawomir is a very determined competitor when it comes to Adapted Boccia. Just to let you know how serious he is about the sport, he attended the last two Boccia National competitions. Of course, it's not always about boccia for Slaw; he loves many sports and the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks are among his favorites. When M-NASR offers a special event to attend one of the Chicago sports teams, you can be sure that Slaw will try to join the fun. He even had the opportunity to take a vacation trip with M-NASR as they headed to Disney World. He considered this a "trip of a lifetime." Slaw's generous spirit spreads in many directions, and he loves to volunteer with his Polish Community Group. He enjoys helping with e-mails, Facebook postings, and all things computer-related for this group. To further show you what a fantastic person Slaw is, M-NASR chose him as the "Athlete of the Year" and presented him with this award at our recent Annual Recognition Night. In typical fashion, Slaw thanked us and said, "The Staff at M-NASR are really well-organized and very caring." Frankly, Slaw, we all think you are the caring one, and we are proud to have you participate in our programs!



"No matter how busy a person is, if they care, they will always have time for you." —anonymous. There is no more perfect quote to describe Patrick. Between working two jobs, one at Jewel and one at the Allstate Arena, he doesn't have a lot of free time leftover, but you can be sure that Patrick makes time to be a part of M-NASR's programs. You will see him coming and going in his bright orange car as he enjoys many of our sports activities such as softball, basketball, bowling, and more. He has also participated in some of our special events, and our Pizza & Bingo event is a particular favorite! However, he and his buddies wouldn't miss the chance to see some professional wrestling meets whenever M-NASR offers that special event. When asked if he has any special favorites among our staff, he states with a broad grin, "I like them all!" At the end of the day, if Patrick has even a few minutes to spare, he enjoys watching Wheel of Fortune, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Deal or No Deal, or The Price is Right. We are so glad that Patrick makes time for M-NASR's programs because he plays a very important part in our "family." Thanks, Patrick!



It all began in 2008 when Matthew's parents enrolled him in his first M-NASR program, Buddy Baseball. Since that time, he has participated in countless programs which include bowling, swimming, summer day camp, and numerous special events. As an eighth-grade student at Emerson Middle School, you can imagine that Matthew loves socializing with his peers. His mom states, "M-NASR has helped develop Matthew's independence ... we love your programs and think your staff is terrific. They are great helping him as needed and keeping him motivated." On Saturdays, you will find Matthew participating in M-NASR's Teen Bowl and Teen Scene where he has the opportunity to spend time with friends which, of course, is one of his favorite things to do! His family is so pleased with our services that his older sister has even volunteered at some of our programs. It is her way of "giving back" for the great experiences her brother has with M-NASR. We send a big "thank you" to Matthew and his family for their participation in and support of our programs.



Inclusion Services

Inclusion services create an opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in the least restrictive environment and be included in our Member District recreation programs. Inclusion provides support and education while it addresses the abilities of people with disabilities in their chosen recreational pursuit. These programs consist primarily of preschool, before and after school programs, holiday programs, sports, fine arts and summer camps. In 2014, M-NASR helped 237 individuals to participate in 981 of their municipality's traditional recreation programs.

Member Park District 2014 Total Inclusion Participants

Des Plaines	32
Golf-Maine	2
Lincolnwood	9
Morton Grove	27
Niles	22
Park Ridge	39
Skokie	106
Total Participants	237

Member Park District 2014 Total Inclusion Registrations

Des Plaines	230
Golf-Maine	2
Lincolnwood	23
Morton Grove	83
Niles	93
Park Ridge	117
Skokie	433
Total Registrations	981

During 2014, did you know...

M-NASR processed 4,790 registrations



M-NASR provided 26,408 one-way rides



M-NASR gave \$40,000 in financial aid



M-NASR processed 981 Inclusion registrations



THANK YOU M-NASR CONTRIBUTORS!

Your support certainly makes our services better.

ORGANIZATIONS

2nd Chance, the Chance Cole Walker Foundation
Allstate Giving Campaign
American Legion Post #134
Best Bus Sales
Bredemann Chevrolet and Toyota
City of Des Plaines
Daniel E. and Ada L. Rice Foundation
Des Plaines Community Foundation
Des Plaines Park District
Golf-Maine Park District
Grainger
Kiwanis Club of Des Plaines
Knights of Columbus Council #4338
keller&associates llc

Liponi Foundaton
Loyal Order of Moose - Lodge 376
Machinery Movers, Riggers & Machinery Erectors Union Local 136
MB Financial Bank, Morton Grove
Morton Grove Foundation
Morton Grove Moose Lodge
Morton Grove Park District
Muslim Community Center Inc.
Niles Park District
Niles Township
NorthShore University HealthSystems
Optimist Club of Des Plaines
Optimist Club of Niles

THANK YOU M-NASR CONTRIBUTORS!

Your support certainly makes our services better.

Park Ridge Community Fund	Ms. Ramona Nitzschke	Thomas LoSasso
Park Ridge Lions Club	Ms. Janet Porter	Ron Lundin
Park Ridge Baseball and Softball	John and Felicia Przekota	Bob Magee
Park Ridge Park District	David, Debbie, and Ross Randon	Liam Mahoney
Rivers Casino	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reda	Mikey Malina
Rudy's Cycle and Fitness	Don and Judy Rosedale	Tim Martin
Signs Plus	Ms. Nadine Roy	Jack Massari
Skokie Park District	Dick and Judy Ruemmele	Matt Massari
Sunshine Through Golf Foundation	Mrs. Pat Ruth	Kellie McCabe
United Way	Kevin and Mary Ryan	Jason McSheridan
Village of Lincolnwood	Ivy and Ralph Silverman	Fred Minelli
Parks and Recreation	Mary and John Sleger-Murphy	Emily Mortola
Village of Skokie	Ms. Denise A. Streff	Grace Murphy
White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant	Ms. Audrey Szczygiel	Scott Mydlinski
World Sport Chicago	Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Thompson	Laura Nevryly
Zia's Trattoria	Mr. Arthur Turner	Nicollette Nevryly
	Gerald and Nancy Turry	Tommy Ortman
	Sybil Wijas	Gail Pannozzo
	Ms. Cindy Wroblewski	Francesca Vena Pederser
	Mr. and Mrs. John Zumph	Georgette Pietric

INDIVIDUALS

Blaise and Kathryn Arena
Fred and Gerry Batliner
Mr. Michael Bazarek
Ms. Suzanne Bear/Ms. Janet Porter
Michael and Jill Besenjak
Sue and Paul Betts
Andy and Patti Bonk
Bradley and Carol Boos
Charles and Sung Choi
Ms. Kelly Damron
Dr. and Mrs. DelMonico
Mr. and Mrs. Vearl Dillon
James and Sophia Erskine
Mr. Bill Fabbri
Mrs. Maryann Fabbri
Mr. William Fisch
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Fong
Ms. Doris France
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gall
Ms. Jennifer Gebeck
Mr. John Gill
Ms. Tracy Gillingham
William and Delores Gruzynski
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Haas
James and Dennis Hopp
Mr. Cary Izzi
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Kadlec
Ms. Bellene Kaish
Rudy and Debbie Kubica
Mr. Ken Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lubash
Mr. Gerry Mokosaik
Gary & Elayne Nebel

VOLUNTEERS

Christian Antosz
Walter Antosz
Kathryn Arena
Suzanne Betts
Lucas Brace
Cassandra Bremer
Julia Brogan
Tim Brunning
Tom Carden
Tim Casey
Kathryn Cichon
Daniel Dahm
Katherine DeLara
Daniel Diaz
Scott Dueball
Caitlin Flanagan
Vince and Julie Genualdi
and Family
John Gill
John Griffith
Andrea Hitt
Christian Inciong
Matt Kaiser
Sarwar Khan
Kaitlyn Koller
Steve Koller
Paul Kubicek
Kurt Kuester
Jim Lange
Stella LiPomi
Bill LoSasso

Thomas LoSasso
Ron Lundin
Bob Magee
Liam Mahoney
Mikey Malina
Tim Martin
Jack Massari
Matt Massari
Kellie McCabe
Jason McSheridan
Fred Minelli
Emily Mortola
Grace Murphy
Scott Mydlinski
Laura Nevryly
Nicollette Nevryly
Tommy Ortman
Gail Pannozzo
Francesca Vena Pederser
Georgette Pietric
John Penner
Amy Przybylo
Trevor Rahfs
Caitlin Riley
Mia Romano
John Romano
Ellen Rosenblatt
Pat Ruth
Kacie Simkins
Mary Simons
Julia Servinskas
Larry Sorensen
Dolores Stanton
Ron Stein
Dean Strzelecki
Bob Vossen
Nicholas Walczak
Serena Walker
Sian Wilson
Christopher Worthley
John Zumph

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Virginia Bear
Mrs. Anna R. Mokosaik
Ms. Phyllis Partipilo
Mr. Jack Ruth

IN HONOR OF

Ms. Stella LiPomi



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