







"Together, we will achieve and advance opportunities for those individuals who wish to make friends, have fun, be included, go new places, learn new things and celebrate their lives."

Dear Friends,

On behalf of NWSRA and SLSF, we would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment and support. 2018 was filled with accomplishment, as NWSRA opened its third programming location in Mt. Prospect, installed its second state of the art Snoezelen Sensory Room and so much more.

As we completed the second year of the 2017–2021 Comprehensive Strategic Plan, the importance of collaboration and sharing of resources to enhance programs rang true throughout the year. Together, we achieved and advanced opportunities for those individuals who wish to make friends, have fun, be included, go new places, learn new things and celebrate their lives.

Thank you for volunteering, making a financial donation or being a part of the lives of our participants. By supporting SLSF and NWSRA, you have helped a child with Down Syndrome to be part of a group through team sports, a teenager with autism to build confidence through acting in a theatrical production, or an adult with a physical disability to exercise independence on a trip of a lifetime.

In 2018, you have created remarkable moments in people's lives. We look forward to your continued partnership as we make an impact on the lives of NWSRA participants in the future, together.

Diana T. Hilgers
Diane Hilgers, CPRP

NWSRA Chair

Jim Houser, Jr. SLSF Chair Tracey Crawford, CPRP, CTRS NWSRA Executive Director, SLSF President

Introduction

In 2018, NWSRA and SLSF collectively worked to address the social, physical and cognitive needs of children and adults with disabilities through outstanding recreational opportunities. From the completion of several programming initiatives to the opening of the new programming space in Hanover Park, the staff, Boards, families and supporters worked together to open new doors of opportunity.

Throughout the year, NWSRA provided over 3,500 programs including special events, trips, cultural arts, athletics and inclusion opportunities. Certified full-time staff and hundreds of trained part-time staff and volunteers supported the needs of children and adults with disabilities in a wide variety of programs and services.

Throughout the year, a common theme of collaboration was evident. In the current state of economics in Illinois, NWSRA has acknowledged the need for collaborative efforts that save taxpayer dollars while providing the highest level of service possible. In recognition of this need, NWSRA entitled the 2017-2021 Comprehensive Strategic Plan "Together." NWSRA celebrates the unique partnerships that provide the necessary resources and expertise for individuals with disabilities to recreate to their fullest level of ability within their communities.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support toward enhancing the lives of children and adults with disabilities in the northwest suburbs. As you read the 2018 Annual Report, know that you have made the following possible.

NWSRA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Diane Hilgers - Salt Creek Chair

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Mission: We exist 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.

Core Values: Teamwork • Respect • Enthusiasm • Collaboration • Communication

About NWSRA



SLSF, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit foundation, is the fundraising arm of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA). NWSRA is a partnership of seventeen park districts in the northwest suburbs of Chicago providing year-round recreational programs and services to children and adults with disabilities. SLSF works with individual donors, granting organizations, businesses and community organizations collaboratively to ensure the funding necessary to open doors of opportunity for individuals with disabilities through NWSRA recreational programs.

Mission: We exist to support and promote outstanding opportunities through recreation for children and adults with disabilities in cooperation with the Northwest Special Recreation Association.

Funding Focuses: Transportation • Programs • Inclusion • Scholarships

Athletics



About SLSF

In 2018, NWSRA completed its second year of the 2017-2021 Comprehensive Strategic Plan. In its second year, NWSRA exceeded its goals in a variety of ways, including the opening of its third programming space, second Snoezelen Sensory Room, third PURSUIT Adult Day Program location, second STAR Academy location and so much more. NWSRA staff led the field of Therapeutic Recreation through new certifications and involvement on local, regional, state and national levels.

In order to provide innovative and appropriate programming to meet the unique needs of a diverse population, NWSRA determined appropriate program categories, evaluated the goals for each program, and determined the level of program leadership needed to achieve the goals for each program/individual.

As you read the following pages, please know that your involvement has paved the way for individuals with disabilities at NWSRA to celebrate their lives in new and unique ways through outstanding recreation.

2017–2021 NWSRA Comprehensive Strategic Plan

Through its development process, a variety of NWSRA staff, Board Members and stakeholders worked collaboratively to develop a year to year plan for the Association. This plan set the Mission, Vision, Core Values and Pillars of the Association and from there, Focuses and Goals were developed. Annually, staff determine Action Items to meet each identifed Goal.

The commitment to long-range planning is a priority of the NWSRA Board and Administrative team, as it enables stakeholders to share a common vision while implementing necessary change.

NWSRA was proud to report that through collaboration and continued engagement with stakeholders, staff were able to accomplish the goals set forth within the plan.

View the complete Strategic Plan at: www.nwsra.org/strategic



The Opening of NWSRA Programming Space @ Mt. Prospect

On Thursday, November 29, NWSRA introduced its 3rd programming location at the Mt. Prospect Central Community Center. The new space features a computer lab, accessible kitchen, activity rooms, pool table, interactive technology and more! Over 100 attendees toured the new space and received information on plans for future programming.

As part of the 2017–2021 Comprehensive Strategic Plan, this space provides opportunities to provide innovative programming that will meet the diverse needs of a growing population. Thank you to Mt. Prospect Park District and all of the donors, grantors, volunteers and supporters who have made this dream a reality!





What We Accomplished Together

Leisure Education Growth

The Leisure Education program is a cooperative program with school districts within NWSRA's member park districts. The program runs throughout the school year. In the 2017 - 2018 school year, NWSRA's Leisure Education Program served 1,055 students in 386 unique programs and activities. The program offers an array of recreation and leisure activities that occur at Park District, commercial or community-based facilities.





True Regional Programming

With the opening of NWSRA Programming Space @ Mt. Prospect, NWSRA added duplicate programming to Rolling Meadows and Hanover Park including:

- a. Autism Movement Therapy
- b. Private music instruction
- c. Adult fitness programs Spin class, core strength and Flexibility
- d. Saturday Clubhouses and Saturday Afternoon Hangout
- e. Early childhood programs
- f. Clubs and special events have also utilized the space

Events



NWSRA All Star Basketball Game

NWSRA Lightning Basketball players convened for the first annual All Star Basketball Game, held at Conyers Learning Academy in Rolling Meadows. The event raised funds for the Lightning Booster Club, and showcased the Lightning basketball stars to over 200 fans in attendance.

"The Holiday Sensory
Concert was enjoyed
by many, and such a
great way for families
to spend time together
in a venue that may not
otherwise be possible."
- Mary Beth DeMore,

Parent

Holiday Sensory Concert:

NWSRA partnered with the Harper College Performing Arts Center in Palatine to host the Holiday Sensory Concert. The concert provided an opportunity for families to experience a full symphony orchestra in a relaxed setting.





Skating Championships:

The NWSRA Skating Championships Invitational was held in February at Glacier Ice Arena in Vernon Hills. The Skating Championships Invitational was a huge success, with over 30 skaters in attendance. Long-time Chicago Cubs public address announcer Wayne Messmer was on hand to sing the National Anthem.



Camps

NWSRA revamped summer day camps in order to meet the unique needs of working families. Staff worked collaboratively to ensure future day camp programming would be offered at appropriate times of day and number of weeks based on need, as well as week-to-week programming options. Age groups were narrowed to allow campers to recreate with peers in their appropriate age group. In addition, a one year age overlap from camp to camp was created, allowing parents to decide if their child is ready for the next age bracket or would like them to increase maturity and independence in younger age bracket.

Numbers You Should Know - Inclusion





THE OLDEST INCLUSION PARTICIPANT



THE YOUNGEST INCLUSION PARTICIPANT



NWSRA and its member park districts believe that all individuals should be provided with leisure opportunities that allow for performance at their highest level of ability. Although many people achieve this through participation in an NWSRA program, others may have greater success in a park district activity. Through NWSRA inclusion services, resources and assistance are provided to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to recreational programs that will help them to achieve their personal goals.

NWSRA Behavior Intervention Team

NWSRA is committed to making safety an integral part of an enjoyable recreation and leisure experience for all participants. In order to ensure safety and communication between all involved in each recreational experience, NWSRA implemented the Behavior Intervention Team.

The team is comprised of full time Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists & Certified Park and Recreation Professionals who train throughout the year on best practices to ensure that proper individualized attention is provided to meet the needs of each participant.

The Behavior Intervention Team works as a resource for all full and part time staff to identify and address challenging behaviors throughout the year, highlighting the continuous implementation of the NWSRA Core Values.



Programs



Hanover Park Sensory Room Opening



In 2018, NWSRA opened the second Snoezelen Sensory Room. Through technology and innovative design, the Snoezelen room is a controlled multisensory environment that helps to create a therapeutic alliance between the client and the Certified Therapeutic Recreations Specialist (CTRS) as well as a safe place to develop life skills.

Snoezelen Sensory Therapy is a non-directive therapy that is controlled by the client not by the therapist. Therapy sessions are individualized to each client's sensory needs. By allowing an individual to participate at their own free will in a safe environment, the CTRS helps maximize the individual's potential to focus, feel in control, make choices and reduce pain and anxiety both mentally and physically.

Through NWSRA Sensory Therapy, certified staff provide an innovative approach toward providing clients the tools to enhance and unlock their own abilities. It provides families with an option for therapy that goes above and beyond in customizing the experience to meet the needs of the client. NWSRA staff have spoken on local and statewide levels about Snoezelen Sensory Therapy to promote its therapeutic benefits, and demand has grown exponentially.



Field Trips

Snoezelen field trips were offered to schools as a way for students to experience the room as a group, while learning about sensory therapy. Activities included the use of sensory toys, tours of the room and interactive play opportunities.

Brithday Parties

Birthday parties included a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist in the room as well as a nearby activity room for guests to experience sensory play, participate in active games, enjoy snacks or open presents.

PURSUIT Snoezelen

PURSUIT Snoezelen provides PURSUIT clients with the opportunity to receive one-on-one therapy sessions with a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). Clients receive a reduced rate for sessions, and the Snoezelen Therapist works collaboratively with PURSUIT staff to work towards meeting the client's current goals, ensuring success through therapy sessions.



"Larger venues often cause overstimulation and my daughter tends to shut down. Snoezelen therapy offers a better environment for her. It's like a wonderful potential awakening each visit."

- Renee Kirshner Parent



As a collaborative program between Clearbrook and NWSRA, the PURSUIT Adult Day Program provides continued growth through enriching recreational activities. In 2018, PURSUIT was introduced to the Mt. Prospect Central Community Center with much fanfare from the community, and currently has a waiting list that highlights the success of program while making the need for additional services evident.

The STAR Academy After Care Program is also a collaborative program between Clearbrook and NWSRA, and provides year round after school care for children and teens with disabilities. The program provides each individual with activities designed to meet their personal goals. The STAR Academy After Care opened in Hanover Park and looks to expand in the future.

Through the expansion of programming space in collaboration with partner Park Districts, current and future NWSRA sites will provide a diverse range of recreational options. Certified staff will provide the tools and leadership for individuals with disabilities to achieve their personal goals, including social skills, community integration, health & wellness, sensory integration and more.





"He is having a nice time there and we are so HAPPY we found it. It has really helped us with after school care and most importantly to know he is happy and well-cared for by good people."

Michelle Reynolds,
 Parent

Speaking Engagements

Staff promoted Therapeutic Recreation on local, state and national levels:

American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) National Conference on Multi-Sensory Environments

Tracey Crawford, Andrea Griffin & Rachel Hubsch

Therapeutic Recreation Symposium for the Southwest on Factors that Contribute to Successful Partnerships and Collaborations Tracey Crawford & Andrea Griffin

Western Illinois University on Special Recreation Associations and Inclusion
Andrea Griffin & Ted Adatto

West Allis-West Milwaukee Recreation & Community Services Department on Inclusion & Behavior Management

Victoria Gonzalez & Katrina Place

Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Annual Conference on the Inclusion Process

Manuel Aguilar & Katrina Place

Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) Annual Conference on Multi-Sensory Environments, a Peek at the NWSRA Snoezelen Room Andrea Griffin, Victoria Gonzalez, Nicole Estrada, Katrina Place,

Andrea Griπin, victoria Gonzalez, Nicole Estrada, Katrina Piace, Megan Quandt & Jocelyn Wright rels:
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Enhancing Opportunities

NWSRA recognizes the need for collaboration in order to enhance access to resources and build stronger programs. We thank the many organizations for working with NWSRA cooperatively on various programs and events, including:

- Amita Health
 - **Safety for Yourself Program**
- Clearbrook
 - **PURSUIT Adult Day Program**
 - **STAR Academy**
- Connect to Community
 - **Transportation Needs, Accommodations and Obstacles Survey**
- Building Great Beginnings
 Sibshops











Making an Impact







In 1981, Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF), a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed to provide additional funding needed to maintain quality services and facilitate future growth for Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA). The mission statement of SLSF is "We exist to support and promote outstanding opportunities through recreation for children and adults with disabilities in cooperation with Northwest Special Recreation Association."

SLSF supports NWSRA programs and services utilizing funds raised through fundraising events, business partnerships, grants and individual donations. SLSF provides funding toward programs, inclusion, scholarships, athletics and accessible transportation.

SLSF funded the following projects in 2018:

- NWSRA programming space at Mt. Prospect
- Startup costs for PURSUIT 3 in Mt. Prospect
- Funding for Broadway Buddies expansion
- PURSUIT gardening supplies, trips and miscellaneous supplies
- Hanover Park Park District Sensory Room
- Sensory Kits
- Scholarships
- Inclusion
- Athletics
- Transportation- new IDOT vehicle received
- General program support

Total support provided to NWSRA in 2018: \$598,152.91

Financial Highlights 2017 Statement of Activities

Operating Revenue	NWSRA	SLSF	Combined
Member Contributions	\$4,152,137.48	-	\$4,152,137.48
Program Services	\$653,761.00	-	\$653,761
Fundraising/Contributions	-	\$757,161	\$757,161
Grants	\$275,000	\$271,195	\$546,195
Miscellaneous	\$35,086	\$144,656	\$179,742
Total Revenue	\$5,115,984.48	\$1,173,012.00	\$6,288,996.48

Expenses	NWSRA	SLSF	Combined
Programs	\$4,195,582	\$550,000	\$4,745,582
Unrealized Loss on Investment	-	-	-
Administration	\$773,008	\$140,429	\$913,437
Total Expenses	\$4,968,590.00	\$690,429	\$5,659,019

Net	NWSRA	SLSF	Combined
Non Operating Income	\$59,596	-	\$59,596
Revenue	\$206,990.48	\$482,583	\$689,573.48

NWSRA Income Spent on Programs in 2017

SLSF Income Provided to NWSRA programs and fundraising efforts in 2017

Net Position Up 9.8%



82% Income Spent on Programs



46.9%
Income Provided directly to NWSRA Programs and fundraising

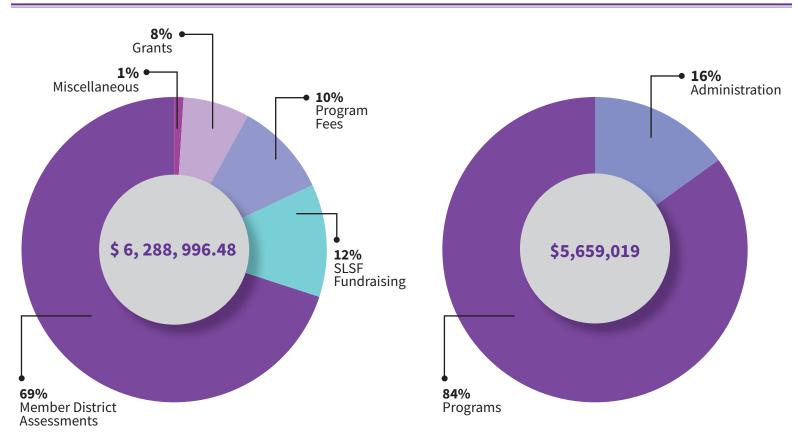


Statement of Net Position (Year End December 31, 2017)

Assets	NWSRA	SLSF	Combined
Cash	\$4,789,032.00	\$379,916.00	\$5,168,948.00
Investments	-	\$1,138,589.00	\$1,138,589.00
Accounts/Pledges Receivables	\$13,399.00	\$40.00	\$13,439.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$115,922.00	\$10.00	\$115,932.00
Capital Assets	\$1,557,644.00	-	\$1,557,644.00
IMRF	\$943,754.00	-	\$943,754.00
Liabilities	-\$1,741,694.00	-	-\$1,741,694.00
Net Position	\$5,678,057.00	\$1,518,555.00	\$7,196,612.00

Organizational Revenue By Category

Organizational Expense By Category



SLSF gratefully thanks the following supporters for their donations throughout 2018

GRANTORS

Allstate Foundation

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Chicago Bulls Charities

Elk Grove Township

ITW Foundation

MB Financial Bank Charitable Foundation

Northrop Grumman

Northwest Community Healthcare

Palatine Jaycees

Palatine Township

Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove

Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village

Rotary Club of Palatine

Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows

Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates

Schneider Electric North America Foundation

Township Of Schaumburg UPS Foundation, Inc.

Women's Club Of Inverness

Zurich North America

CIVIC GROUPS

American Legion Baseball, Mt Prospect Post

Amita Alexian Brothers Health

Arboretum Club Golf Course

Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce

Arlington Heights Park District

Arlington Heights Police Department

Arlington Lakes Golf Course

Arlington Lanes

Autumn Leaves of Arlington Heights

Autumn Leaves of South Barrington

Bartlett Park District

Bensenville Theatre

Big Deal Productions

Brunswick Zone-Mount Prospect

Buffalo Grove Fire Department

Buffalo Grove Park District

Busse Woods Running Club

Camelot School

Carl Sandburg Jr. High

Catholic Charities of Archdiocese of Chicago

Chevy Chase Country Club

Chicago District Golf Association

Clearbrook

Connect to Community, Inc.

Einstein Elementary School

Elk Grove Bowl

Elk Grove Park District

Feed My Starving Children

Freedom Golf Association

Frontier Days, Inc.

Grace Lutheran Church

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Hanover Park Park District

Hanover Park Senior Center

Harvest Bible Chapel

Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies

Hoffman Estates Park District

Inverness Park District

John Conyers Learning Academy

Journeys/PADS

JP Woods Martial Arts

Keenyville School District 20

Kenneth Young Center

Kimball Hill School

Kirk School

Kiwanis Club of Palatine

Kiwanis Club of Rolling Meadows

Knights of Columbus #4977

Lend Me Your Ears

Meadows Christian Fellowship

Meals on Wheels

Miner School

Mitsubishi VISION COMMITTEE

Mount Prospect Golf Club

Mount Prospect Park District

New Connections School

Northwest Community Healthcare

Northwest Covenant Church

NWSRA Lightning Booster Club

Once and Again Resale Shop

Palatine Hills Golf Course

Palatine Jaycees

Palatine Park District

Palatine Women's Club

Poplar Creek Bowl

Project Linus

Prospect Heights Park District

River Trails Park District

Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce

Rolling Meadows Park District

Rotary Club of Arlington Heights

Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove

Rotary Club of Elk Grove Village

Rotary Club of Palatine

Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows

Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates

Salt Creek Park District

Schaumburg Jaycees

Schaumburg Library

Schaumburg Park District

Schaumburg Professional Firefighters

School District 15

School District 25

School District 54

School District 59

Sky Center Martial Arts

South Barrington Park District

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State Rep. Dave McSweeney

State Rep. Diane Pappas

State Rep. Fred Crespo

State Rep. Jonathan Carroll

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State Rep. Mark Walker

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State Sen. Jim Oberweis

State Sen. Julie Morrison

State Sen. Laura Murphy

State Sen. Terry Link

State Sen. Thomas Cullerton

Streamwood Park District

Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center

Sunshine Through Golf

Thrown Elements Pottery

Timber Ridge School

Township High School District 211

Township High School District 214

Trinity Lutheran Church

US Rep. Janice Schakowski

US Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi

US Rep. Sean Casten

US Sen. Richard Durbin

US Sen. Tammy Duckworth

Wheeling Park District

Willow Creek Community Church

Winston Knolls School

Women's Club Of Inverness

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Ala Carte Entertainment

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Buffalo Grove Park District

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Steve Casstevens CDE Collision Center

Clearbrook

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Cruise Planners Crystal Ice House Culver's, Buffalo Grove

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"Thank you so much for the scholarship money for camp for Colby and especially for considering him for the Weekly Recreators. It really means a lot to me that you did that. It's been tough without Colby's dad and being unemployed for 2 years. So any and all support to help with stuff for him is greatly appreciated."

- Kimberli, Mother of a scholarship recipient

"Just wanted to let you know that I think, as many parents do, you and your staff are doing a great job. If not for all you, our athletes wouldn't be who they are today."

- Fran Falcone





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DATE	EVENT
Wed, May 15	Buffalo Grove Golf Classic
Thu, Jun. 6	Palatine Hills Golf Classic
Wed, Aug. 14	Moretti's/NWSRA Golf Classic In Memory of Kevin T. Kendrigan
Thu, Sept. 12	Arlington Classic Golf Outing
Wed, Sept. 18	Women's Golf Outing
TBD	Terrazzo & Marble Supply Companies Golf Outing
Fri, Nov. 8	Celebrate Ability Gala

