

1 DAY REGIONAL



Athlete Impact

The athletes are not able to experience life as we do on a daily basis. Do you remember high school prom or homecoming, being on a competitive team against others or taking a vacation? The one day event took away any of those chances.

Community Impact

Individuals who are involved with the event as athletes, coaches, chaperones, family members, and volunteers, cannot reach out to the host community and share this fellowship. And few hands-on opportunities to interact with them are available.

Economic Impact

A one-day event where athletes from the region arrived early, participated and left that same day. The economic benefit to the host community is, therefore, negligible.

Emotional Impact

There is strength in numbers. Whether it is an ability to come together financially and make a greater impact than one person on their own, or giving of your time to the campaign and talents to advocate or volunteer to coach a team. This is not currently possible.

3 Day Tournament

ATHLETE IMPACT

Opening and closing ceremonies are restored. And possibly even more important is the Saturday Night Dance. This coupled with the chance to get away to a hotel means more than you can imagine.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The host community is allowed to take on all participants as adopted family. Doors are open to hands-on opportunities that provides a backbone of support that is needed by every team – and every team remains a winner.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

A three day, two-night tournament leaves an estimated \$500,000 in income to the community. That is a remarkable return on investment anyway it is looked upon.

EMOTIONAL IMPACT

The tournament will become embedded and sustained by the continuing efforts of the new host community: Greater Grandville. A goal is to lead the state in volunteers committed to all of the activities on behalf of the Big John Kahuna Fund that only gives to SOMI for the Basketball Tournament.

Volunteer Community Member Message

Isn't it funny how things happen?

You can always see in hindsight how something small can change your entire life.

We cannot plan the events that shape us.

We cannot predict the moments that will define us.

But we can all change the world around us.

When it comes to disabilities, you do not need to change peoples' minds about the disabled. You need to change their minds about themselves.

The real differences you make – those of lasting importance – are the little ones we can all make in the lives of another person. Especially in the lives of those who may not even appear to us everyday.

Special Olympics Michigan State Basketball Regional is coming to Grandville with 3,000 athletes, families, participants, and fans.

That gives you and your family a chance to meet and experience, firsthand, these special individuals from our communities – before and after March!

Amanda Schelling

Caledonia

Chair, Big John Kahuna Fund

www.kahunafund.org

(All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please contact your financial advisor before making any gift.)

What Do...

Enjoying Fun, Hands-On Ways to Get to Know a Non-Profit that Serves Your Community,

Having a Positive Emotional Experience with a Non Profit for You and Your Family,

and

Generating \$500,000 in New Commerce for Your Community Have in Common?



**Special Olympics
Michigan**

The answer is Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) and the State Tournament Basketball Finals that's coming to Grandville, Michigan, at the Grandville High School on March 27 – 29, 2009.

The tournament, which has dropped from a three-day format to a one-day regional recently, is coming back to its full glory. A local, volunteer fundraising campaign has begun to make this a reality. The dollars raised here stay here.

Would you be welcome to learning more about the world of some very special people who live right next door, down the street, or across town?

The following includes stories from real neighbors who are willing to share important parts of their lives with you.

Stories from Our Neighbors

"My brother, Mick, has been a participant in Special Olympics Michigan most of his life. His favorite sport has always been basketball. Although, I have many great memories of watching my brother play basketball, my most memorable Basketball Tournament Finals moment was provided by another athlete.



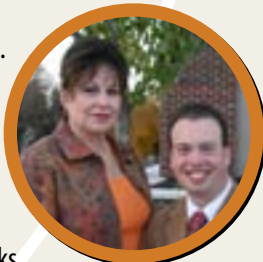
It was during the tournament some years ago. Mick's team was playing in Grand Rapids. One of the players on the opposing team was very challenged both physically and mentally. This individual had a difficult time following the flow of the game and may not have been able to tell you which basket he should be shooting at. Because of his ability, he didn't get to play many minutes.

When one of his teammates was fouled and injured while attempting a lay-up, the coach gave this challenged teammate the opportunity at the free throw line. The first attempt was a two-handed, bet ween the legs, 30 feet high shot that didn't come within 10 feet of the basket. The second attempt was the same two-handed, between the legs, 30 feet high shot except this shot saw 'nothing but net.'

Everyone went absolutely nuts! The reaction was more pure joy than any Super Bowl, World Series, NBA Finals or Stanley Cup that I have ever seen. The crowd gave this young man a standing ovation and, for one day, this special athlete felt a sense of joy, elation and accomplishment that he had previously only been able to imagine."

David – Family Member
Grand Rapids

"Clint started Special Olympics somewhere between third and fifth grade. At first, I was the protective mom who didn't want her son out of her sight. When Clint began participating, I saw an incredible difference not only in Clint, but also in myself.



Seeing the kids together is amazing. They're like a family and they're an incredible group of people. Clint has become more confident, talks to everybody and is proud of himself. He's also willing to take more chances – even giving speeches, something he doesn't like to do. Without the weekend tournament, the athletes do not have as many opportunities to go places. Clint is losing touch with his friends because he doesn't get to see everyone as often."

Lorilee – Mother
Grand Rapids

"The irony of Special Olympics is that while participating in Special Olympic programs, the athletes – for one weekend – aren't 'special'. Anyone who has walked into a room full of people who faced the same challenges and experiences you yourself have faced in your life, can understand the comfort that comes from meeting, not just one person, but hundreds who share stories similar to your own. For this weekend, our athletes aren't just Special. They're Olympians."



John Schelling - The Big Kahuna
Caledonia
1954 - 2005

"Every day our daughter Sarah brings to our family a renewed sense of devotion, affection and uplifting of the spirit. As she continues her journey, our family rejoices. In teaching and coaching these special individuals I am very positive they'll be able to bring those same qualities to our community. Bringing 2,000 of them together in Grandville for the State Basketball Tournament finals will help our community see how special these athletes can be to all of us."



Lori - Parent, Teacher and Coach
Grandville

"The overnight events are so special to the athletes and their families. For many of the athletes who are in group homes it is often their only chance to have a night away from 'home.'

As a parent and coach, I know how much these special people appreciate these events and talk about them for years.



What makes the full weekend events so special is not just the athletic competition but the extra time it gives for opening and closing ceremonies, dances and meals which creates special social relationships between the athletes and their parents, friends, relatives and chaperones. It makes it truly an Olympic event!"

Dorane – Parent and Coach
Caledonia

PLEDGE CARD

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

DONOR LEVEL

- ___ Basketball Family **\$100**
- ___ Basketball Friend **\$50**
- ___ Basketball Booster **\$25**
- ___ Basketball Fan **\$10**
- ___ Other **\$ _____**

I pledge \$ _____ and will make my payment by _____.

I pledge \$ _____ and will make payments on _____.

PAYMENT INFO

Please make your checks payable to:
Special Olympics Michigan – Memo: Kahuna Fund

MAIL TO: Special Olympics Michigan
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859



Credit Card   

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Or go to www.kahunafund.org to give online