



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



**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

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

## Message from our Executive Director

Dear Families and Friends,

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation is proud to present our 2010 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 that consists of six park districts and one village recreation department coming together to support our agency and the residents of their communities who have special needs. 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.

M-NASR board and staff made a commitment in 2010 to stay true to our mission. “We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by providing quality recreational programs. Through advocacy and awareness, we promote a successful leisure lifestyle by supporting and abiding by the M-NASR Core Values.” The state of our economy has been a significant challenge in 2010. M-NASR strives to follow our mission, and we feel that was accomplished in 2010. We were able to avoid “the bumps in the road” and that enabled us to have another successful year.

Businesses, foundations, and individuals have provided financial support throughout the course of the year. This support helps us to fund our scholarship program, our heavily-used transportation program and additional areas that would otherwise be reduced or eliminated. 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

### Staff

Suzanne Bear .....	Executive Director	Shannon Mikulecky, CTRS .....	Recreation Specialist
Jennifer Reyes, CTRS .....	Superintendent of Rec.	Lauren Ruiz, CTRS .....	Recreation Specialist
Kelly Damron .....	Senior Operations Manager	Jean Gross .....	Business Manager
Jessie Ritter, CTRS .....	Support Staff Manager	Barbara Saunders ....	Public Information Manager
Mary Knudson, CTRS .....	Inclusion Manager	Judy Ruemmele .....	Development Officer
Erin Pool, CTRS .....	Program Manager	Mary Ann Minelli .....	Front Office Assistant
Tracy Gillingham, CTRS .....	Recreation Specialist	Stella LiPomi .....	Liponi Liaison
Sean Tovey, CTRS .....	Recreation Specialist	Claudia Werner .....	Registrar/Admin. Assistant



## Our Mission

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*Improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by providing quality recreational programs. Through advocacy and awareness, we promote a successful leisure lifestyle by supporting and abiding by the M-NASR Core Values.*

### M-NASR's Board of Directors

Bret Fahnstrom, President ..... *Golf-Maine Park District*  
 Mark Schneiderman, Vice President ..... *Skokie Park District*  
 Tom Elenz, Treasurer ..... *Niles Park District*  
 John Hecker ..... *Des Plaines Park District*  
 Jan Hincapie ..... *Village of Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation*  
 Gayle Mountcastle ..... *Park Ridge Park District*  
 Brian Sullivan ..... *Morton Grove Park District*



### M-NASR Annual Calendar of Events

M-NASR Love Fest Fundraiser ..... February  
 End-of-the-Summer Celebration  
 for Participants ..... August  
 M-NASR Holiday 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

*Volunteer...  
to lighten  
our load*

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

*Sponsor...  
to help cover  
our costs*



# 2010 FAST FACTS

# of M-NASR registrants (duplicated) .....	3,636
# of people served (unduplicated) .....	959
# Programs for Youth/Teen .....	70
# Youth Summer Day Camps .....	8
# Youth/Teen Special Events .....	25
# Programs for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities .....	84
# Special Events for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities .....	51
# Programs for Adults with Physical Disabilities .....	49
# Special Events for Adults with Physical Disabilities .....	33
# Special Events for all residents .....	7



**No public transportation provider meets the unique needs of many M-NASR participants, so we provide an accessible transportation service. One-third of our registrants routinely rely on the service, which is heavily subsidized with donations.**

# Total one-way rides ..... 15,939

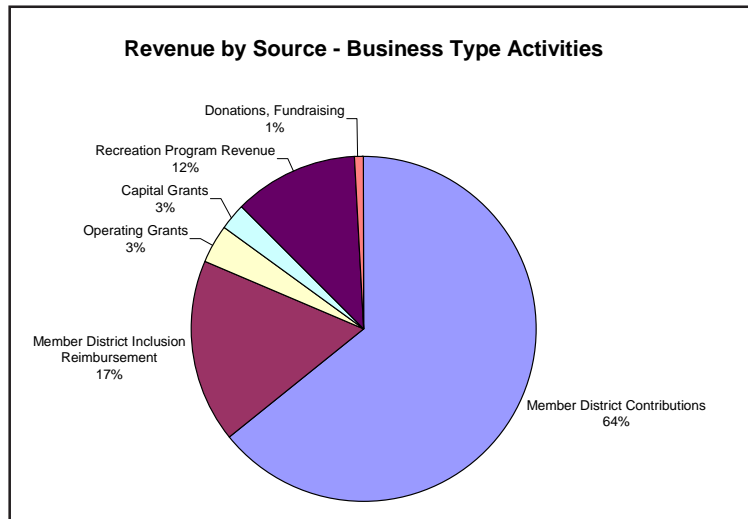
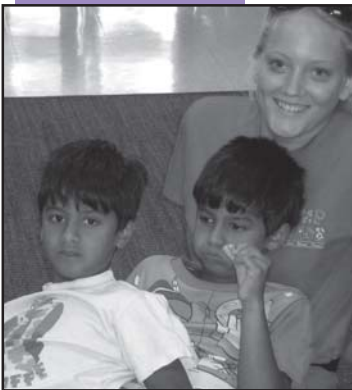


**We give financial aid to those living on incomes near or below the poverty line. This service is funded with donations.**

# of registrations given financial aid ..... 611  
 Total amount given in financial aid ..... \$42,420

**We help people with disabilities participate in traditional recreation programs.**

Inclusion companions assigned ..... 249  
 Total Inclusion registrations ..... 638



## Participant Spotlights

“A big smile lights up her face when she sees the big white bus pull up to our house,” says Riley’s mom. That bus belongs to M-NASR and provides very important transportation to bring Riley to our summer day camps. Her parents learned about M-NASR programs through their member park district, Des Plaines, and have enrolled Riley in numerous programs for the last three years. She particularly loves our swimming programs and has shown considerable physical improvements from participating in them. Additionally, her parents note that Riley is not intimidated to attend M-NASR programs; they appreciate that she is able learn at her own pace and she greatly benefits from being in a group with her peers. Riley arrives at our programs with a “hop in her step” according to her parents, and our Staff are delighted to interact with her, as well. We hope to see Riley at many programs in the future, and we will all continue to watch her grow and prosper.



With a life-long love of food as well as a Ph.D. in nutrition, it shouldn’t surprise you that Gus would be enrolled in any cooking or food-related programs that we offer. Additionally, he



enjoys going on day trips to museums or shopping malls. Among his many achievements, Gus was recently named “Most Inspirational Participant of 2010” at M-NASR’s Recognition Night. He proudly displays his award on a prominent shelf for all to see. Not one to sit back and watch life go by, Gus has successfully obtained three patents in the food-related field. He’s a self-motivated person and found inspiration and love of foods from observing his mother and grandmother. We have been lucky enough to enjoy his

culinary talents as he shares some of his favorite recipes at our cooking programs. Gus speaks very highly of our Staff and says, “They do a fantastic job and have wonderful talent; I don’t know how they do it.” We say that having participants like Gus, who thoroughly enjoy our programs, makes our job so satisfying. Thank you for letting us serve you.

Approximately 15 years ago, a young girl, Becky, started participating in M-NASR programming. Even at that tender age, she knew that she loved the excitement and camaraderie that came along with our programs. Over the years, she’s been a part of M-NASR activities such as Buddy Baseball, Martial Arts and social events including White Sox, Bulls and Blackhawks games, to name just a few. She even holds the distinction of being the first female participant in our power lifting program! She has won three gold medals at the District level and can even dead lift 175 pounds! When Becky is not busy with M-NASR programs, you can find her hard at work at Panera Bread where she has been employed for four years. She also spends her summers working in the concessions area at Mystic Waters Family Aquatic Center in Des Plaines. We look forward to seeing Becky, as well as many other folks, at M-NASR programs.



## M-NASR...Always Improving!

Safety is our number one priority and we are always seeking ways to maintain or improve this aspect of our Agency. When it comes to safety, we involve everyone connected to M-NASR from the Executive Director all the way to our volunteers. In order to educate our Staff, M-NASR offers a wide variety of trainings each year. These trainings include areas such as seasonal orientations, first aid/CPR, defensive driving and behavior management, to name a few.

For our full time staff to maintain their professional standing as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS), they must complete CEUs annually. These are obtained at seminars such as Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA), Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Association (ILTRA) and Mid-West Symposium. M-NASR's administrative staff are involved as part of our safety team. They also participate in trainings for first aid/CPR, crisis management plan, fire safety, ergonomics, reasonable suspicion of drugs and alcohol and many more. Our part time staff and volunteers participate in our seasonal orientations where they are involved in fun yet effective ways to incorporate safety into our programs. They also have the opportunity to take classes through M-NASR's Academy for Superb Recreation. Some of these classes include lesson planning, coping with emergency situations, customer service and providing a safe environment.

As you can see from the above examples, everyone must be involved to ensure that M-NASR's number one priority is met; a safe environment leads to exceptional programs.

## Inclusion Services

Inclusion creates 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 2010, M-NASR helped 249 individuals to participate in their municipality's traditional recreation programs.

### Member Park District 2010 Total Inclusion Participants

Des Plaines	33
Golf-Maine	3
Lincolnwood	7
Morton Grove	20
Niles	18
Park Ridge	63
Skokie	105
Total Participants	249

### Member Park District 2010 Total Inclusion Registrations

Des Plaines	119
Golf-Maine	7
Lincolnwood	28
Morton Grove	40
Niles	75
Park Ridge	112
Skokie	257
Total Registrations	638

## M-NASR Contributors

### ORGANIZATIONS

2nd Chance, The Chance	ITT Bell & Gossett	Park Ridge Youth Baseball
Cole Walker Foundation	John Crane Incorporated	Rudy's Cycle & Fitness Center
Allstate Giving Campaign	Kiwanis Club of Des Plaines	Signs Plus
American Legion Post #134	Kiwanis Club of Skokie Valley	Skokie Athletic Association
Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation	Knights of Columbus	Sunshine Through Golf Foundation
Bredemann Chevrolet and Toyota	Council 4338	Talsky Tonal Chiropractic
Brightspark - Educational Tours	Liponi Foundation	Tone Products, Inc.
Chicago Cubs Baseball	Lucky Magees	United Displaycraft
Chicago White Sox Baseball	Minerva Insurance	Village of Lincolnwood
City of Des Plaines	Morton Grove Foundation	Village of Skokie
Costco - Niles	Morton Grove Moose	Walmart #2816
Daniel F. and Ada L.	Lodge #376	White Eagle Banquets
Rice Foundation	Niles Township	and Restaurant
Good Impressions	Optimist Club of Des Plaines	Woodmen of the World Lodge #144
Henrietta Lange Burk Fund	Park Ridge Juniors & Foundation	Zia's Trattoria

## M-NASR Contributors

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### INDIVIDUALS

Ms. Florence Andrews  
Jeffery and Joanna Apfel  
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Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Wroblewski  
Mr. Bill Youngquist  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Zdeb

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Tom Artz  
Julianna Berlin  
Eli Faloon  
Yakkov Faratci  
Grace Fegert  
Maddie Fegert  
Tali Finnestone  
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Gabe Romano  
Pat Ruth  
Sharon Sloan  
Don Trinite  
Doug Wagner  
Fiona Ward  
Phil Yatvin

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Grainger CHDC  
Loyola Academy  
Maine Township Gifted Lyceum  
Niles West High School  
Student Athletes  
Sisters Steppin' Up



6820 West Dempster Street  
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053  
(847) 966-5522  
[www.mnasr.org](http://www.mnasr.org)