



2025 Year in Review



Our Staff





Hired **9 New**
Full-time Staff
Members

4 Specialists

2 Coordinators

3 Managers

Team Advancement **New Staff Hires**

Caroline Cudney Inclusion Coordinator
Karly Melendy Inclusion Coordinator
Patrick Paulson Recreation Specialist
Abigail Updike Recreation Specialist
Jamie Blake Registration and Finance Specialist
Lexi Smith Marketing Specialist
Sara Carey Manager of Human Resources
Pat Hurst Manager of Programs and Operations
Emily Meyer Manager of Programs and Special Events





Promoted/Moved Within

Andrea Griffin

Executive Director

Victoria Gonzalez

Superintendent of Recreation

Andi Criswell

Manager of Inclusion Services

Nick Eckelberry

Manager of Finance

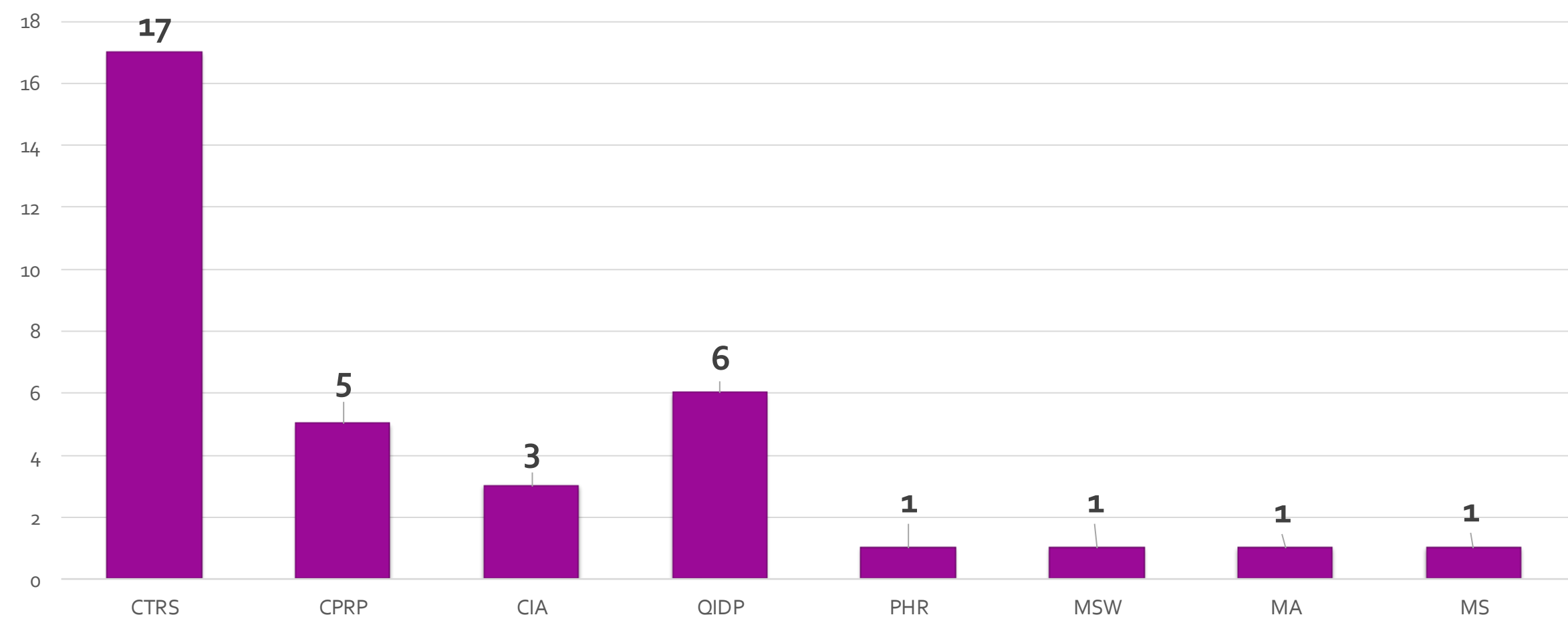
Kaila Robinson

Manager of Collaborative Services

Danielle Olson

Administrative Coordinator

Staff Certifications



Full-Time Longevity

2 Staff | 20 + Years

1 Staff | 15 - 19 Years

1 Staff | 10 - 14 Years

3 Staff | 5 - 9 Years

29 Staff | 0 - 4 Years

36 Full-Time Staff

Staff Training

- IPRA Supervisors Symposium
- IPRA State Conference
- PDRMA Online Workshops
- Illinois Transition Specialist Conference
- American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Annual Conference
- PDRMA Risk Management Institute
- Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Summit
- IAPD Legislative Conference and Legal Symposium
- Behavior Supports: what providers need to know
- IPRA Diversity Transition conference
- Illinois Crisis Prevention Network
- After School Network
- Risk Management Institute
- Transition Conference
- ATRA Conference
- Midwest Symposium Leadership Conference
- Cyber Security
- CPI
- CPR
- Difficult conversations with Parents
- Aggressive Inducer Training
- Bite Protocols and Behavior Recap
- Customer Service Training
- Reimagining Behavior Support
- What is Dementia?
- De-escalation strategies and Positive Interactions
- Promoting the Health, Security and Well Being of Older Adults
- Awareness to Action: equipping individuals with disabilities with violence prevention.

Local, State and National Involvement

Andrea Griffin | Executive Director

- Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation,
- Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce
- American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Mentorship Committee
- Mount Prospect Junior Women's Club

Rachel Hubsch | Superintendent of Recreation

- President | National Women in Leisure Services
- Club Administrator | Rotary Club of Schaumburg Hoffman Estates
- American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Leadership and Quality Internships Committee

Local, State and National Involvement

Anne Kiwala | Superintendent of Development

- Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove
- Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Chicago Chapter
- IPRF Board of Trustees
- SBA Diversity Alliance

Tom Draper | Superintendent of Communications and Technology

- Youth Services Chair | Arlington Heights Rotary Club

Nick Eckelberry | Manager of Finance

- Kiwanis Club of Streamwood



Human Resources



Human Resources

Full-time staff received training on the following :

- Sexual Harassment
- Safety Trainings
- Payroll Training
- Stress Management
- Back Safety
- Ergonomics
- Statement of Admissions
- Active Shooter
- Mental Health First Aid



Recruitment

Attended the following job fairs:
Stevenson High School Job Fair
Teen Job Fair
Lake Park High School Job Fair
D211 Senior Job Fair

Hired **257** part-time staff
and supporting **606**
part-time staff



Programming

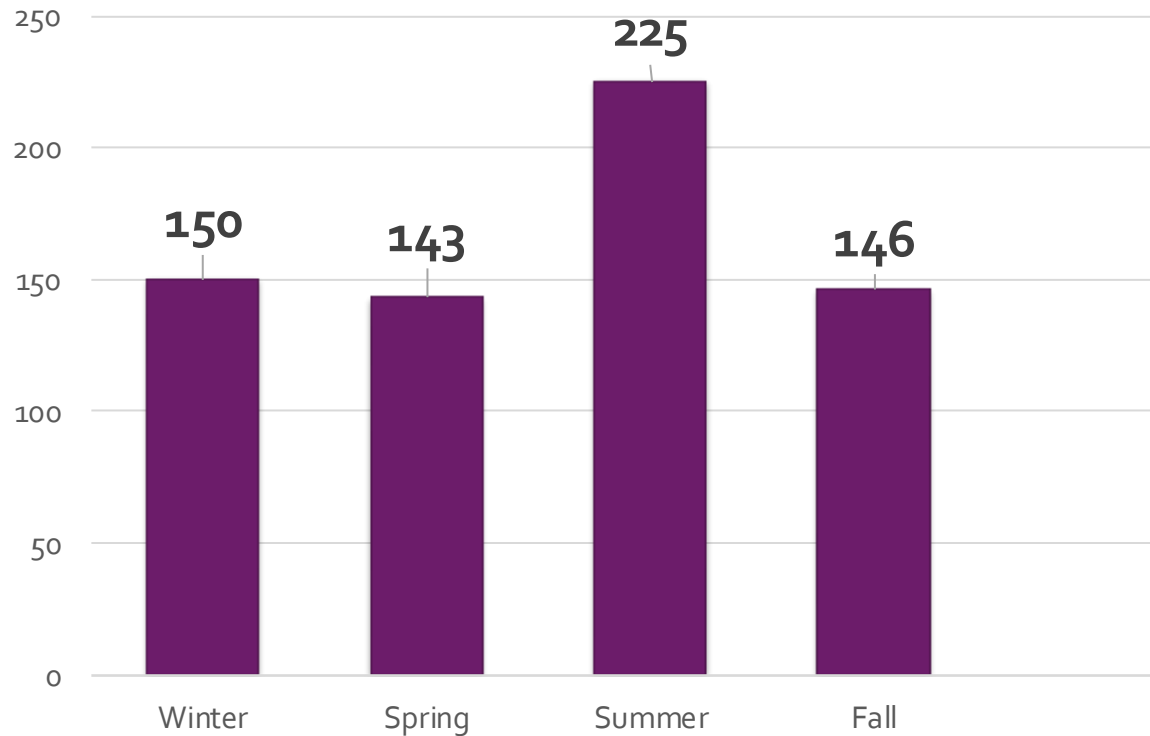




10,07
Program Registrations
9

Inclusion Highlight

Individuals by Season



Supported

1949

Inclusion Requests

General Recreation Therapy Programs

These programs support life skills such as **cooking, health and wellness, technology and socialization**

350 individuals made up
nearly **1,400**
registrations



Trips

34 individuals were able to experience an overnight vacation among peers in either **Seattle, Washington** or **Madison, Wisconsin**.



Social Clubs

Social Clubs saw **1279 Registrations** across six different clubs with 16 clubs each.

21% Increase in Registrations





PURSUIT Community Adult Day Program

Supported **189 Clients**

Gave back to the community by volunteering **2,520 Hours** to Community Partners and Neighbors

Offered first ever **PURSUIT Winter Break Camp**

Athletics

752 Athletic Registrations

182 athletes across **16 different sports** attended over **32 local and state tournaments.**

Earned 204 Medals



Day Camp

269 campers with
1,213 total
registrations

4% increase from
2024. Highest
registration numbers
in history.



The Summer Camp Breakdown

- **3 Cooperative camps** with school district 15 and 54 to provide recreation after the extended school year program (ESY)
- **5 - 9 week camps**
- **4 - 5 week camps**
 - Camps utilized 4 schools, 2 churches and 2 park district facilities - Rolling Meadows and Bartlett Park Districts.
- **2 Specialty Camps ran for 5 weeks.**
 - 1 tailored to campers with extensive personal care and medical needs.
 - 1 tailored to campers who are looking for outdoor recreation adventurous opportunities. This ran at NSSEO's Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center.



Fully Involved Fire Academy

In collaboration with the Hoffman Estates Fire Department allowed participants to explore the world of firefighting while fostering personal growth, skill development, and social inclusion through therapeutic recreation



Outreach

Outreach

Attended **36**
outreach events

Sponsored Events at:

Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
South Barrington
Inverness
Hoffman Estates
Hanover Park



Cooperative programs and services hosted with:

- Buffalo Grove Park District – Broadway Buddies
- River Trails Park District - OCR
- Clearbrook
- Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies: Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Mt. Prospect, Streamwood and Hanover Park
- Walk on Farms





Communication and Technology



Marketing Efforts

Publications

- Winter/Spring
- Day Camp
- Summer
- Fall
- Specialty Spaces

Now Newsletters

- Transitioned to Monthly Newsletters

Online/Mobile:

- 130,000 Website Views
- 10,800 Monthly Average

Social Media

- 9,400 Facebook followers
- 1,256 Instagram followers



Kevin T. Kendrigan

The Legacy Behind NWSRA

The Kevin Kendrigan video was created to honor the founder of NWSRA, preserve history and celebrate the lasting impact of his vision. Through stories and reflection, it highlights how Kevin's dedication continues to inspire inclusion and opportunity for people with disabilities.



NWSRA and the Buffalo Grove Park District were awarded **IAPDs Partnership Award** for the collaboration between the two agencies, on the annual PURSUIT Program Art Exhibit, held at the Raupp Museum.

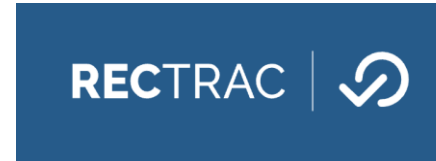
Technology

Successfully transitioned all remaining coordinators and specialists from desktop computers to laptops with docking stations, enhancing mobility and flexibility in daily operations.

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Officially completed our standardization of network equipment with the replacement of some infrastructure at our Buffalo Grove and Wheeling Programming Spaces.

Implemented



Work in Progress - Coming Soon



NWSRA.org

Media Lab

The completion of the Media Lab marks an exciting step forward in inclusive technology and creativity. Designed with accessibility in mind, the lab provides opportunities for participants to create, learn, and engage with cutting-edge media tools in new and meaningful ways.

Funded entirely through SLSF





In 2025 the SLSF Team:

- SLSF staff attended over 300 networking events outside of regularly attended community groups.
- SLSF staff participated in 19 civic organizations and volunteered at 21 community events.





2025 Highlights

**Hosted 6 Golf
Outings and 2
Seated Events**

**Sold out 3 golf
outings, highest
revenue coming
from Buffalo
Grove Golf Classic**

**Over \$133,000 in
approved grant
funding**

**Secured 50
models for
Fashion Show**

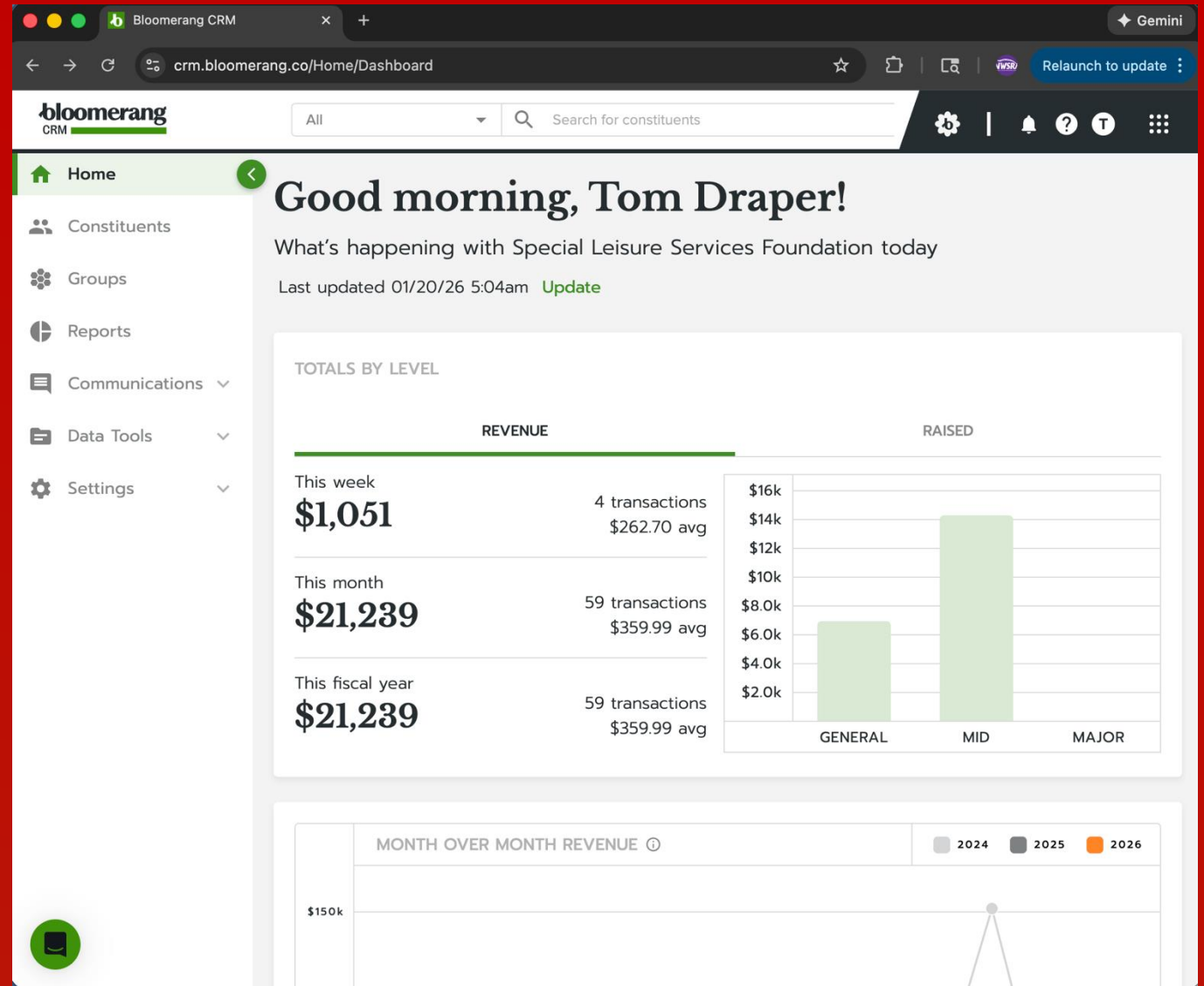
**Celebrated the
opening of the
Accessible
Greenhouse**

**4 Collaborative
Events with
Community
Organizations**



Implemented Bloomerang

Bloomerang CRM gives us a clearer picture of our supporters, improves efficiency, and helps us build stronger connections that support long-term growth and impact.





Accessible Greenhouse at the Wheeling Park District Completed Summer 2025



General Program Support | \$69,090

Horseback Riding, Bowling, Behavior supports, Entrance fees,
Music Instructors



Transportation Maintenance and Support | \$90,000



Scholarships | \$91,095

103 individuals

— EST. 1974 —



Athletics Support | \$68,750

Tournament Fees, Ski Rentals, Powerlifting Facility Space Rental, Officials



CELEBRATE ABILITY
NWSRA
NORTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

SLSF
MAKING AN IMPACT FOR NWSRA