

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATE ABILITY
NWSRA
NORTHWEST SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

SLSF
MAKING AN IMPACT FOR NWSRA

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude and pride for everything that Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) was able to accomplish. This past year marked an important transition, bringing new leadership and renewed momentum as we continue to build on a strong foundation.

Since its founding, NWSRA has remained committed to providing meaningful recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities. What began as a bold vision has grown into a vibrant and supportive community of participants, families, staff, volunteers, partners, and donors.

At the heart of this work is therapeutic recreation — a purposeful approach that supports physical, social, emotional, and cognitive well-being through engaging and inclusive experiences. Our Certified Therapeutic Recreation Professionals (CTRS) design programs and services with these principles at the core, ensuring each opportunity is both meaningful and impactful. Watching participants grow, build relationships, and achieve their goals over time is what makes this work so rewarding.

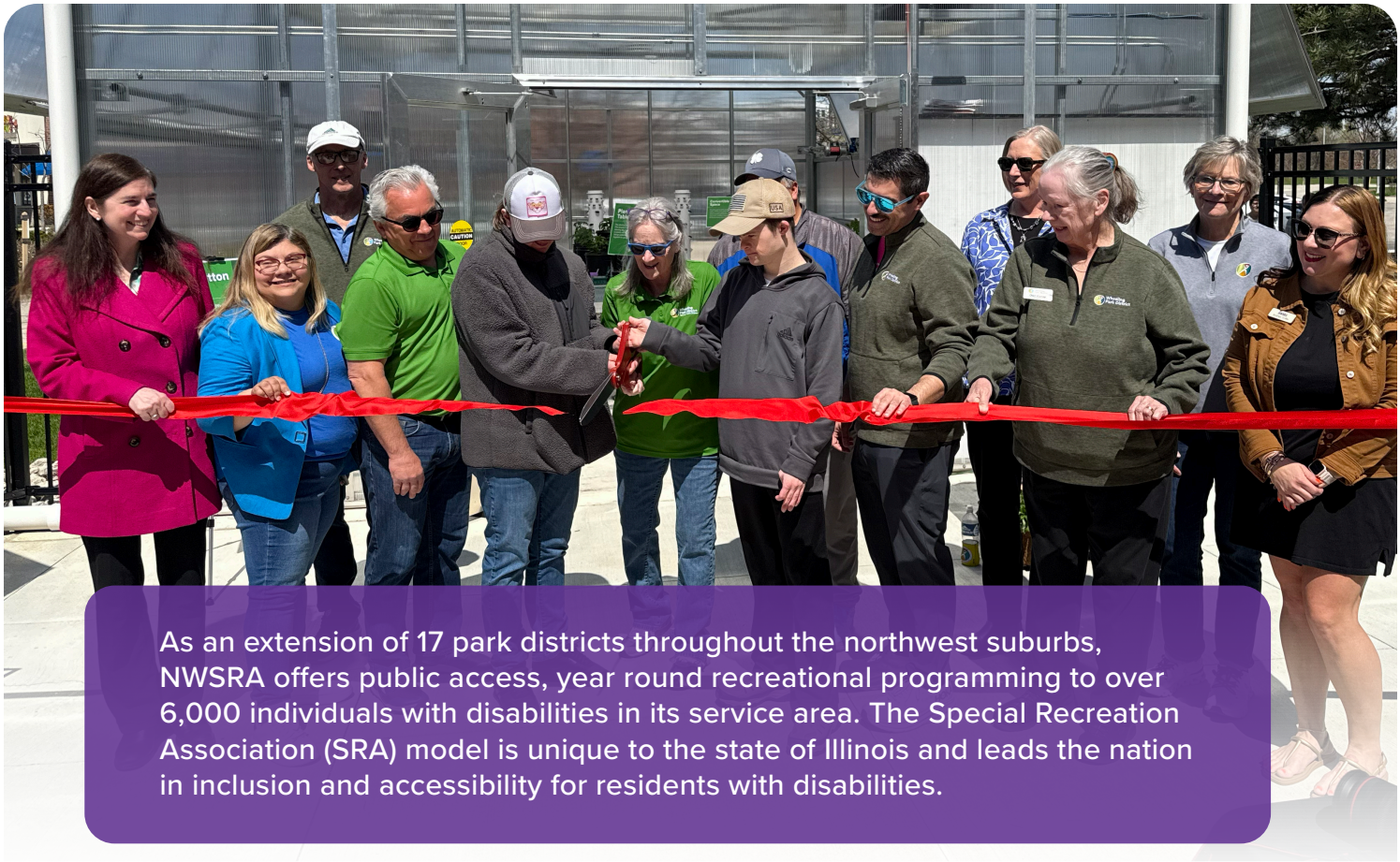
Together with the Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF), we are expanding access to inclusive programs. From sports and social clubs to therapeutic recreation and summer camps — we are ensuring individuals of all abilities have opportunities to connect, thrive, and belong.

As you explore this Annual Report, we invite you to reflect on the impact made over the past year and the many lives touched through our programs. We also look ahead with a shared sense of purpose. With a strong foundation and a clear vision, the future of NWSRA is full of possibility.

Thank you for your continued support and for believing in the power of recreation for all.

Andrea Griffin | CTRS, CPRP
Executive Director





As an extension of 17 park districts throughout the northwest suburbs, NWSRA offers public access, year round recreational programming to over 6,000 individuals with disabilities in its service area. The Special Recreation Association (SRA) model is unique to the state of Illinois and leads the nation in inclusion and accessibility for residents with disabilities.

Mission

Providing 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

Values

- Teamwork
- Respect
- Enthusiasm
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Diversity

NWSRA Board of Directors | 2025

Craig Talsma | Chair | Hoffman Estates
Jim Jarog | Vice Chair | Mt. Prospect
Kevin Romejko | Treasurer | Bartlett

Steve Bessette Hanover Park
Jan Buchs Wheeling
Ben Curcio Elk Grove
Robert Dowling Inverness
Bret Fahnstrom River Trails
Christina Ferraro Prospect Heights
Carrie Fullerton Arlington Heights
Diane Hilgers Salt Creek
Jeff Janda Streamwood
Tony LaFrenere Schaumburg
Jay Morgan South Barrington
Ben Rea Palatine
Erika Strojinc Buffalo Grove
Nick Troy Rolling Meadows

In 2025

Programming Set New Standards



10,079

Program Registrations



Supported

1949

Inclusion Requests



Adult Day Programming Served

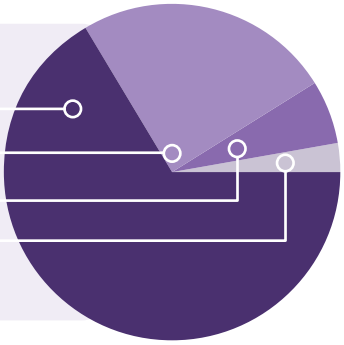
200

Individuals

2025 Financial Overview

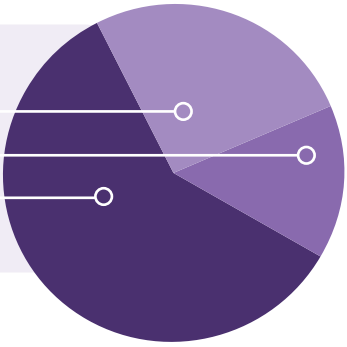
Revenue

Member Contributions	$4,516,881	66.6 %
Program Services	$1,673,717	24.7 %
Grants	$398,523	5.8 %
Other	$197,408	2.9 %
TOTAL REVENUE	**$6,786,529**	



Expenses

Programs (supplies and staff)	$1,763,292	26.4 %
Inclusion (supplies and staff)	$983,473	14.6 %
Administration	$3,949,006	59.0 %
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$6,695,771**	



Capital Expenses

Expenditures from Capital	$504,098

Profit/Loss

Net Profit (Loss)	($413,340)




SLSF
MAKING AN IMPACT FOR NWSRA



Special Leisure Services Foundation (SLSF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation, was formed as the fundraising arm of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), to provide additional funding needed to maintain quality services, create innovative programs and facilitate future growth.

SLSF works with individual donors, granting organizations, businesses and community organizations collaboratively to ensure the necessary funding is available to open doors of opportunity for individuals with disabilities through NWSRA recreational programs.

Mission

We exist to support children and adults with disabilities through philanthropy for Northwest Special Recreation Association

Vision

Maximizing all philanthropic opportunities to build a future that is diverse and inclusive by opening doors through innovative services and community opportunities

Values

- Relationships
- Integrity
- Social Equity
- Sustainability

SLSF Board of Trustees | 2025

Al Crook | Chair
Anthony Gattuso | Vice Chair
Kevin Romejko | Secretary & Org. Treasurer

Linda Ballantine
Tom Campone
Amy Charlesworth
Bret Fahnstrom
Christina Ferraro
Dennis Hanson
Jim Houser, Jr.
Terri Oates
Tom Perkins
Rafal Piontkowski
Erika Strojinc
Jonathan Salk

SLSF in Action

Supporting NWSRA



SLSF Provided the Following Funds to Support NWSRA

General Programs
$69,090

Transportation Maintenance
$90,000

Scholarship
$91,095

Athletic Support
$68,750

2025 Event Impact

Event Registrations 1433

Removing Barriers through Philanthropy

Celebrate Ability Gala

Raised
110,232

Gold Medal Fashion Show

Raised
$75,053

Welcome to the Fabulous Palatine Hills Golf Classic

Raised
$37,033

Bridges of Poplar Creek Golf Outing

Raised
$23,463

Buffalo Grove Golf Classic

Raised
$51,128

Moretti's NWSRA Golf Classic

Raised
$54,128

Women's Golf Outing

Raised
$42,574

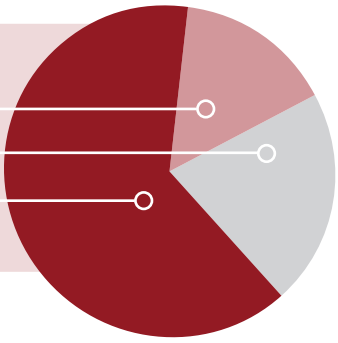
Arlington Classic Golf Outing

Raised
$45,608

2025 Financial Overview

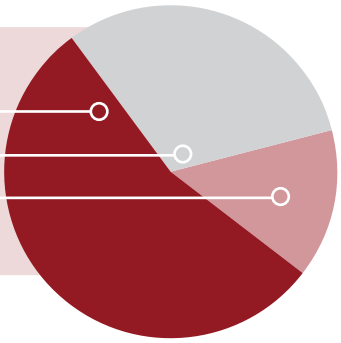
Revenue

Fundraising/Contributions	$645,147	15.3 %
Grants	$155,398	21.1 %
Investments	$213,189	63.6 %
TOTAL REVENUE	**$1,013,734**	



Expenses

NWSRA Programs	$423,940	54.6 %
Fundraising	$241,480	31.1 %
Administration	$110,664	14.3 %
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$776,084**	



Profit/Loss

Net Profit (Loss)	**$237,650**

Thank You

The mission of SLSF is only possible because of the unwaivering support of **our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. View them all here.**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