

The Exceptional Bowling League



Thank you for Supporting

Brunswick Bowling Lanes 3067 Washington Rd;
Augusta, GA; 30907/(706) 860-1668

Thursdays/Sept-May (2:00-4:00) Donations may be sent
to: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR) in Augusta
825 Greene St./Augusta, GA 30901

please indicate on check or donation that it is for the
"Exceptional Bowling League" Join us on Facebook:
(type "Exceptional Bowling League of the CSRA" in the
search bar-then click "Like" on our Facebook page)/Check
out photos in our Facebook Photos Coach Jackie Mertins
(706-733-7430 -- jmertins2@knology.net)



Dear Governor Nikiki Haley,

I am a parent of a bowler in the Exceptional Bowling League in Augusta, GA. Our league was begun approximately 55 years ago. The purpose was to provide a social and recreational outlet to adults with disabilities in the Central Savannah River Area (East Central Georgia and West Central South Carolina). The league has served hundreds of adults with disabilities during its existence. Two of the charter members still bowl with us. We have served individuals with Down's Syndrome, with Autism (to include Aspergers), those who are physically challenged, those with Cerebral Palsy, those with seizure disorders, those who are deaf or hearing impaired, those who are blind or visually impaired, those with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, and those with many other disabilities. We try to keep the league at around 45-50 members to better manage the league and utilize the bowling facility. We currently have 45 members.

Our league was sponsored by a local civic organization for most of its existence. Unfortunately due to a decline in both membership and funds, the organization had to stop sponsoring the league about five years ago. Parents and Caregivers were acutely aware of what a wonderful group this was and of its benefit to our Exceptional Bowlers. We formed a parent council to explore ways to continue the league while still providing opportunities for individuals with reduced funds to be able to participate. We were fortunate to have some wonderful individuals step forward and offer to sponsor charity golf tournaments to benefit our league and the Special Olympic Program of a local service center that serves adults with disabilities. The golf tournaments gave us the funds to continue the league. We receive a special rate from the lanes. Our league pays for half of the cost per bowler and the bowlers pay the other half. Currently our bowlers can bowl 3 games each Thursday during our league season, September to May, for the low cost of \$3.00 a day (this includes shoe rental).

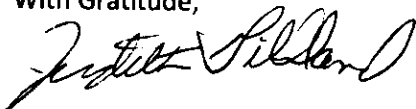
The league has benefited our bowlers in many ways. It is a wonderful social and recreational outlet. It has been responsible for some lasting friendships between bowlers. Families have also formed very strong bonds of friendship. We offer additional recreational activities by having holiday parties at the lanes and at the church where we have an account for the league. We continue to seek ways to keep our league open to some Truly Exceptional Individuals, Our Bowlers.

One parent suggested that we create and sell a cookbook. We are in the early stages of planning this fundraising project. It has been suggested that we include a celebrity section in our book, featuring recipes from business owners, sports figures, politicians, government officials and other celebrities such as yourself. We feel this would be an opportunity for us to stand out a bit from other fundraising projects.

We would like to ask you to consider submitting a recipe (or recipes) to us to be used in our cookbook. The recipes can be any of your choice. Some possible ideas include: Meats/Entrees, Salads, Soups, Appetizers, Breads, Vegetables/Side Dishes, Tailgating, Grilling, or Game Day Snacks, International Cuisine and even miscellaneous recipes. We will give credit to all who submit recipes. We hope to have a special section dedicated to recipes from celebrities. We are enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope for you to use to mail us a recipe if you should choose to support our project or you may alternately submit recipes to us via email to: judsax@yahoo.com / please type **Exceptional Bowling Recipe** in the title or subject line. I am also enclosing a business card that we developed with a photo of our league and information about the league on the reverse side. The card includes information about a Facebook page that was started by one of our parents. We post photos and interesting tidbits re: our league and our bowlers on our page.

We appreciate your considering assisting us in our fundraiser. Many of our bowlers have in the past or currently participate in Special Olympics. Some have even attended State Special Olympic and World Special Olympic Games in the areas of bowling and other sports. Our league is one more opportunity for these delightful individuals to participate in recreational and social activities. We are proud of our bowlers and hope to be able to continue the league for many years to come.

With Gratitude,



Judith Gilliland

PS: We would love to have a recipe from you and your family to include in our fundraising cookbook. We are located in a sister community to North Augusta, SC. Many of our families have friends and family that reside in South Carolina. We also enjoy shopping and visiting many areas in South Carolina. We are honored to have received recipes from: Larry Sconyers, a local business owner and former Mayor of Augusta/Richmond County Consolidated Government; Dave Haywood of Lady Antebellum; Jennie Montgomery (a local television news anchor, WJBF); Bill Kirby, a columnist with the Augusta Chronicle Newspaper; Coach Nate Teymer, GRU Women's Basketball; Coach Mike Brandt, USCA Women's Basketball; Coach Mark Richt, UGA; Coach Steve Spurrier, USC; Coach Jim McElwain, U of FL; Coach Dabo Swinney, Clemson; Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, Governor and Mrs. Nathan Deal; Senator and Mrs. David Perdue; President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter; and President and Mrs. George W. Bush, President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush, and others. We have had communication with Molly Edwards, assistant to Former Governor Perdue. We feel fairly confident that Governor and Mrs. Perdue will be sending us a recipe. We would love to add a recipe from you and your family to our cookbook. Thank you for considering supporting our fundraising project by sending a recipe. We have had personal notes from either the assistant to some of those mentioned or from the individual personally.