



Decorah, Iowa
The Decorah Newspapers
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Mentoring Bowl-a-thon Is Huge Success

There were high fives, cheering teams, strikes, gutter balls, and lots of smiles at Oneota Lanes as the Helping Services Mentoring Bowl-a-thon took place on March 15th in Decorah.

One hundred thirty-three bowlers consisting of 34 teams participated in a fun-filled day of bowling. Bowlers were youth and adults from Decorah, Ft. Atkinson, Calmar, Postville, Waukon, Cresco, and Ridgeway.

The Mentoring Bowl-a-thon goals were to raise awareness of mentoring programs in Allamakee, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties and to raise funds for events for mentees and mentors to attend. Bowlers brought in a total of \$ 4,504.28 in donations. These are preliminary figures as individuals and area businesses are continuing to donate to Helping Services for Northeast Iowa in support of local teams.

Prizes were given to the top two teams who brought in the largest amount of donations. First prize winners received gift bags with donations from area businesses. The Dreaming Eagles team consisting of Jay McGee, Dan Krambeer, Beatta Grimm, and Donald Spieker brought in \$1568.70 in donations. The Crazy Monkeys Team, bringing in \$235.00 in donations, was an active team of sixth and fourth graders consisting of Alison Schwartzhoff, Kayla Knapp, Rylee Upton, and Alex Voves. These hard workers receive a trophy for each team member donated by Oneota Lanes.

Many area businesses donated significant funding to become Lane Sponsors. Those businesses are: A & J Petersburg Agency, Bank of the West, Bluff's Inn, Culver's, Cresco Union Savings Bank, Dave Timp Construction, Decorah Clinic, Decorah's Viking Honda, Family Support Network-Helping Services, KDEC 100.5, and Marine Credit Union.

Many area businesses also contributed to door prizes. Those generous donors are: A & W/ Long John Silver's, Ace Hardware, at home AMERICA, Bookends & Beans, Calmar Courier, Cheesecakes by Denise, Decorah Athletic Boosters, Decorah Bank & Trust, Decorah Hatchery, Decorah Implement-John Deere, Decorah Memorial Company, Edward Jones Investments, Family Table, Farmer's & Merchant's Bank, Fjelstul Funeral Home, Friends End Flowers, Got Toys?, The Hairloom, Hardee's, Harmon Realty, Hawkeye REC, Happy Joe's, Hart's Tea & Tarts, LaRana, Luther College's Box Office, Luther College Bookstore, Mabe's (Cresco & Waukon),



Brony Snodgrass, Amanda Hover, Lori Hover, Jenny Hover.

Momento's Gift & Laser Engraving, Margaret's, Maurice's, Oneota Lanes, Paradise Sun & Spray, Pepsi-Cola, Pizza Hut-Cresco, Security State Bank, Sim's TV & Electronics, Story People, Subway, Times Plain Dealer, Viking State Bank, and Windridge Implement-Case.

A highlight of the day was spending time in the newly remodeled Oneota Lanes. A special thank you is extended to the staff and owners at Oneota Lanes who helped make the day enjoyable and fun. They also donated generously to the event with discounts and door prizes.



Damon Anderson, Derrick Anderson, Gene Koschmeder, and Rachel Faust.

Mentoring programs in Allamakee, Howard, and Winneshiek counties offer a mentor who spends at least 4-5 hours of month with a youth ages 5-16. Currently 50 youth are being served, with over 25 youth waiting to be matched with a mentor. Lori Hover, a mentor from Dorchester shared at the Bowl-a-thon, "Mentoring helps me fill a void now that my girls are off to college. Having my little friend to do things with is great. I make a difference in a youth's life and I feel great because I do this program!"

For more information on how you can become involved in mentoring, contact Kathy Schwartzhoff or Dan Bellrichard at Helping Services for Northeast Iowa, (563) 387-1720 or visit www.helpingservices.org