

young professionals board

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

2023 LEADERSHIP

PETER CAREY

President

ALI SAUER

Vice President

DANIELLE LEBRECK

Secretary

JAKE LEPAK

Volunteer Lead

GRANT AKEMANN

Board
Engagement Lead

SARAH LEE

SOMN Staff/
YPB Liaison

BOARD MEMBERS

NOLAN SCHOONVELD

PATRICK LARSON

GUILIA MULVEY

CAITLIN BRAMA

ALEXANDRA ANDERSON

DOM COLASANTI

MARLEENA KOSKINEN

KATIE GREER

MARGUERITE MADDEN

MISSION

Young Professionals Board (YPB) members are entrepreneurial, ambitious individuals dedicated to advancing the efforts of Special Olympics Minnesota through volunteering, fundraising, creating community awareness and engaging young professionals.



SUMMARY

“It’s had been an honor to serve as President of the YBP for the past two years. I am so proud of all we have accomplished and I am so excited to see what this group does in the future.”

-2023 YPB President, Peter Carey

2023 GOALS

The Special Olympics Minnesota Young Professionals Board (SOMN YPB) set four major objectives for 2023 with the goal of advancing the efforts of Special Olympics Minnesota through volunteering, fundraising, creating community awareness, and engaging young professionals in the Twin Cities.

1 Recruit an SOMN Athlete to join the YPB

Dom Colasanti joined the Young Professionals Board in 2023. Dom competes in skiing, swimming, and track with Special Olympics and is a representative at the State Capitol for the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota.

Pictured: Dom competes at the 2023 State Track & Field competition in Stillwater



2 Increase volunteer contribution

YPB members are expected to volunteer at two Special Olympics Minnesota events per calendar year. 13 of 14 YPB members met the volunteer requirement for 2023.



"2023 was a great year for YPB volunteering. It feels great to make such an impact on the ground level; connecting with athletes, families, SOMN staff, and friends is personally one of my favorite parts of being on the board."

- Jake LePak, YPB Volunteer Lead

3 Engage with SOMN Board of Directors through networking opportunities

The Board Engagement Lead position was created in response to YPB members' desire for more interaction with the SOMN Board of Directors. The Board Engagement Lead is responsible for coordinating quarterly networking opportunities for YPB members to interface with executive board members.

Tom Ting (*Starkey Hearing Technologies, General Counsel*) joined the May meeting for a Q&A session.

4 Raise \$25,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota

The YPB made a concerted effort to diversify fundraising events to include a cornhole tournament, BINGO event, and clothing drive. Joint events with fellow non-profit organizations increased impact and present exciting opportunities for long-term partnerships. The Blue Ocean Invitational golf event had its most successful year yet (see Page 6).

2023 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



BINGO FOR A CAUSE, BAUHAUS BREW LABS

- Partnered with Best Buddies Minnesota in a joint-venture to promote inclusion
- \$1 per pint sold donated by Bauhaus to be split by Best Buddies MN and SOMN- **\$689 raised**
- Sold out 100 bingo cards
- Event included a clothing drive for Dress for Success Twin Cities

2023 SUMMER GAMES

- 9 SOMN YPB members attended the 2023 Summer Games at Stillwater High School
- Board Member Dom Colasanti competed in various track & field events



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT, LIFTBRIDGE BREWING

- 26 teams participated, including participation from two unified teams
- **\$1,120** raised, including \$350 raffle ticket sales
- YPB President Peter Carey (and his wife Maddy) made it to the tournament quarterfinals

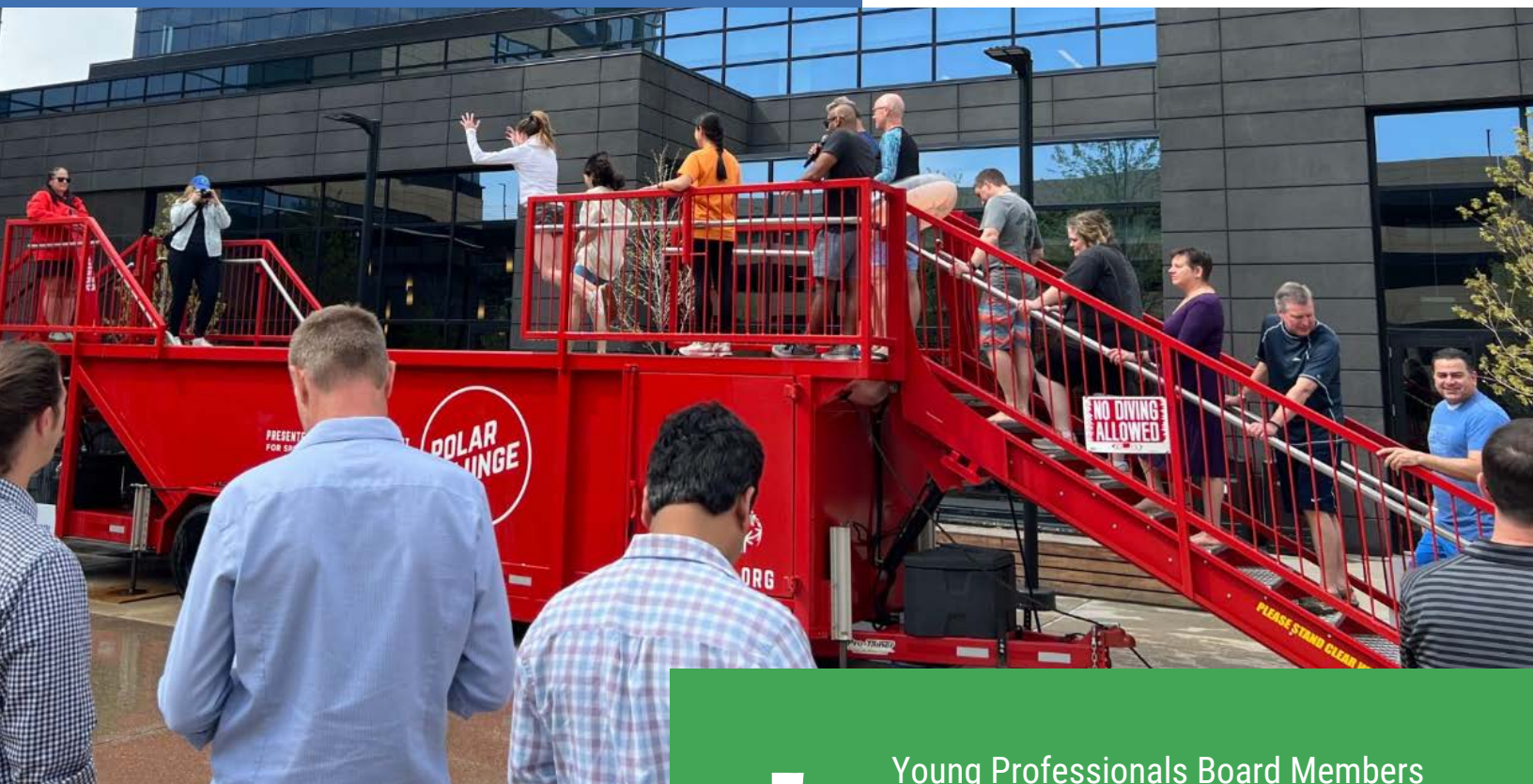




\$7,401

Total raised by SOMN YPB Polar Plungers

Pictured: YPB Members Nolan Schoonveld, Caitlin Brama, Danielle LeBreck, Peter Carey, Alexandra Anderson, and Barbara Miller take the plunge at Lake Nokomis Executive Plunge on March 3



Pictured: YPB Member Ali Sauer takes the plunge at Optum on May 10

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Young Professionals Board Members participated in the Polar Plunge, Special Olympics Minnesota's biggest fundraising event.

THIRD ANNUAL BLUE OCEAN INVITATIONAL

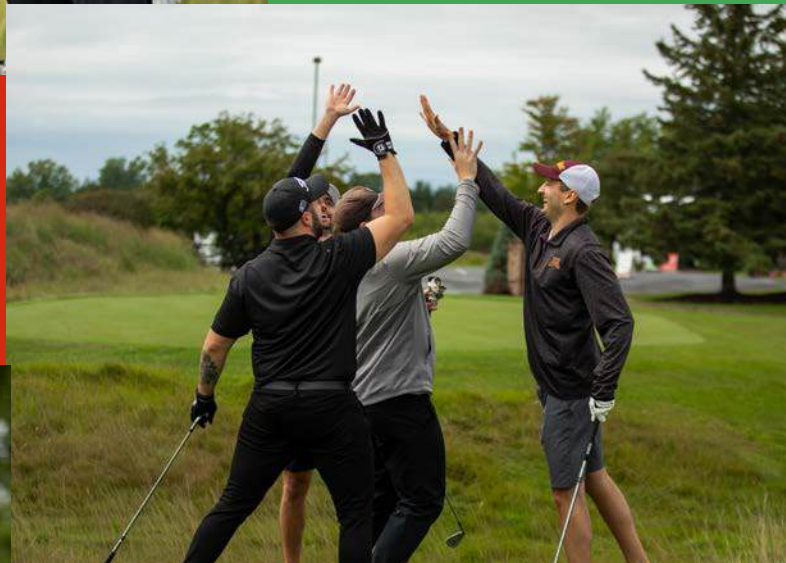
Golf Event Benefitting Special Olympics Minnesota
Stone Ridge Golf Club, Stillwater MN



\$15,086

Raised through sponsorship,
raffle ticket sales, and
donations

109 GOLFERS



\$30,000+

Raised over 3 years



2024 STRATEGY

“In 2024, we aim to continue the momentum with volunteering and fundraising. Other key priorities include: increase contributions for 2026 USA Games planning, hosting a social event for SOMN athletes and facilitating a roundtable discussion with young professionals boards around the country.”

-2024 YPB President, Ali Sauer

OBJECTIVE	GOALS	KEY RESULTS
Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host two YPB group volunteer activities • Plan signature YPB volunteer event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% YPB volunteer requirement completion
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise \$25,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota • Support Fourth Annual Blue Ocean Invitational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host quarterly fundraising events • Secure Presenting Sponsor for Blue Ocean Invitational
Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with SOMN Executive Board • Increase Executive Plunge Participation • Host national YPB roundtable discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly networking opportunity with SOMN Executive Board members
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host signature YPB social event • Support 2026 World Games • Increase Social Media presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted social media campaigns • Support inaugural SOMN Career & Internship Fair
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend YPB Bylaws • Update YPB webpage • Generate new member onboarding materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve bylaw amendments



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The YPB would like to thank numerous individuals and organizations for their support over the year. SOMN staff member, Sarah Lee, served as liaison between the Young Professionals Board and the SOMN organization which was integral to our success. YPB President, Peter Carey, demonstrated exceptional leadership over the last two years and has set a great example for the new executive committee. Jake LePak, as Volunteer Lead, coordinated numerous volunteer events, getting our board closer to the athletes and the core of the organization. Nolan Schoonveld has dedicated incredible time and effort to the success of the Blue Ocean Invitational, evidenced by impressive growth year over year. We look forward to continuing to uplift and advocate for the mission of Special Olympics Minnesota in 2024.