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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEDSRA PROGRAMS, VOLUNTEERS EARN TOP HONORS**

**Chicago, Illinois. February 14, 2009** — At the statewide Illinois Parks & Recreation Association (IPRA) conference held at the Chicago Hilton & Towers in late January, the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association, better known as **NEDSRA**, took home several awards honoring its volunteers, programs and communications. One of the conference's highlights was the presentation of the **2009 Excellence in Service Award** to the ***Booster Club for NEDSRA's Special Olympics Sports*** by the IPRA Therapeutic Recreation Section.

Through various activities, this small but dedicated group of volunteers raised more than \$27,000 over the course of 3 years for Special Olympics team uniforms, an annual Sports Banquet for all NEDSRA athletes and an annual boccia tournament. In addition, the Boosters host numerous post-season pizza parties and coordinate the creation, as well as the sales, of annual calendars filled with art by NEDSRA participants.

“It was a great surprise and truly an honor to be recognized at the state conference,” said Booster co-president Lynn Klufetos, whose son Mike is a dedicated athlete in numerous sports. “This Booster Club is just all about providing our athletes with the love and support they need to thrive, and we are all happy to do this.” On hand to received the award were Beth Corso, NEDSRA Special Olympics coordinator and Booster members Sue Martellotta, treasurer; Lynn Klufetos, co-president; Rosalie Scrivo, co-president; Janice Housley, member and Herb Grams, secretary (photo attached).

NEDSRA also received the **IPRA 2009 Outstanding Program Award** for its **A.R.T.S. program** led by Maggie Krohn. The A.R.T.S. program offers youth on the autism

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spectrum with *a creative yet structured recreational outlet* designed specifically to work with the types of behaviors associated with autistic children. NEDSRA's A.R.T.S. program continues to expand and serves as a model for many similar programs statewide.

As NEDSRA reaches out to individuals with mental and physical disabilities throughout 11 vast communities, public awareness is a challenge. Yet NEDSRA excels in keeping its communication materials fresh and relevant. As a result, the agency earned **1<sup>st</sup> place honors** in the IPRA Agency Showcase for **Best Annual Service Report Content** and **Most Improved Brochure**.

NEDSRA's values reflect those of its 11 member partner park districts and villages, several of which also earned top honors at the conference:

- The **Village of Schiller Park**, which earned the IPRA Outstanding Facility & Parks Award for its Anna Montana Water Park & Memorial Pool;
- **Wood Dale Park District, Director Greg Kuhs**, IPRA Literary Award for Top Golf Article;
- **Wood Dale Park District**, 3rd place, Division B, in the IPRA Agency Showcase Awards for Single Cover;
- **Itasca Park District**, 3rd place, Division A, in the IPRA Agency Showcase Awards for Catalog Cover Series, and
- **Lombard Park District**, 2nd place, Division B, in the IPRA Agency Showcase Awards for Most Improved Marketing Piece (Annual Service Report).

NEDSRA is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization working in concert with 11 *member partner* districts and villages to provide recreation and leisure opportunities to children and adults with disabilities. Together with those partners, NEDSRA serves the communities of Addison, Bensenville, Butterfield Park District, Glendale Heights, Itasca, Lombard, Medinah, Oakbrook Terrace, Schiller Park, Villa Park and Wood Dale.

For more information about NEDSRA programs, events and activities, visit [www.nedsra.org](http://www.nedsra.org) or call us at 630-620-4500.