



November 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Can you believe this will be our 20th Annual Bowlathon Fundraiser for We Grow Dreams? Sunday, February 21, 2027, at Parkside Lanes in Aurora will be THE place to celebrate our mission to provide job training and employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities from across the western suburbs.



So many things have changed over the years, but one thing remains the same...our commitment to working with individuals who want to learn and grow and be vital contributors to their community. We currently work with 47 team members who participate in our greenhouse programs independently, with support, or through partnerships with local organizations and school district transition programs. Our dedicated network of over 45 volunteers, including parents and family members as well as groups such as Master Gardeners, DuPage Lawyers and Ball Seed employees, work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our operations and team members continue to flourish. We have served over 320 team members since 2010.

This bowling fundraiser is special. It is the only time so many people get together in person for a fun afternoon of bowling, pizza, raffles, laughter, knowing that every dollar raised will support our program for the next year. We have had outstanding turnouts of bowlers and have been able to expand our offerings of raffle baskets, silent auction items and grand raffle prizes, thanks to donations from supporters and local businesses. As always, we are so grateful for anything and everything we receive:



- Sponsorships of cash help us to offset event costs such as t-shirts for every bowler, goodie bag contents, and registration website fees, which increase our bottom-line proceeds – we do our best to be good stewards of every dollar.
- Donations of items such as home decor, food, gift cards for restaurants, gas, entertainment, relaxation become raffle baskets or silent auction items. Bottles of wine, spirits and beer always create smiles and increase ticket sales. **EXPERIENCES** such as sporting event tickets and special events are extremely popular!!
- Contributions of larger items such as airline tickets or gift cards, vacation rental options, sport or entertainment tickets, scratch-off lottery tickets or home options such as TVs, gaming systems or outdoor patio enhancements like grills or furniture make outstanding Grand Raffle prizes.

Our staff and volunteers are committed to maintaining our property so that our plants and facilities are ready to thrive in every season. Our Team members develop valuable skills, confidence and pride in what they do and your support means we can continue our work. We invite you to consider sponsoring our event, donating an item, or joining us in person for an afternoon filled with bowling, camaraderie, and celebration!

Save the date and partner with us as we strive to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. To get involved, simply return the donor/sponsorship form or visit <https://www.bowlathon.net/event/we-grow-dreams-2027>.

Thank you sincerely for being a part of our journey—your support, whether continuing or new, has a profound and lasting impact on the lives of so many.

Gail Bettcher
2025 Bowlathon Chair
wgd Bowlathon@gmail.com



We Grow Dreams PO Box 861 West Chicago, IL 60186 (630) 293-0100
www.wegrowdreams.org