

CEO says Special Olympics affects people in positive way

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Three executives with Special Olympics Nebraska and one athlete explained the organization's importance, to Holdrege Rotary Thursday.

Chief Executive Officer Carolyn Chamberlin of Omaha said that her organization hopes to end discrimination against those with intellectual disabilities. They are proud of the progress achieved and that it affects participants in a positive way their whole lives.

She said Special Olympics Nebraska serves 7,800 people but has a goal of serving 10,000.

The Special Olympics gives everyone an opportunity to play, a video said. One young man who competes in the event, said they practice daily. A woman on the video said, "It's definitely a wonderful opportunity for anyone."

Allie Moore of Kearney, the second speaker, began with the organization in 2012. Both her parents bowled in a league and she does, too. The athlete said that Special Olympics helped her gain independence in holding a job and driving a car. "It's the ability we can inspire," she said.

Special Olympics Nebraska Regional Coordinator Lindsey Tederman said, "Special Olympics gives people the opportunity to be free." She reported that Miss Moore won a gold medal in a recent bowling tournament.

The Gothenburg woman told Rotarians Holdrege has never had a Special Olympics team. She also reported Holdrege doesn't have an athlete on the Kearney or Minden Special Olympic teams.

"It is truly a wonder-

ful, competitive organization," remarked the former editor of the Lexington Clipper-Herald. She said that Special Olympics Nebraska partners with the Nebraska School Activities Association on track, bowling and speech.

Ms. Tederman, who started working for the organization in April of 2025, suggested that Holdrege could form its own Special Olympics team.

Katie Kellar of Omaha, the vice president of development, also spoke briefly to Rotary.

Anyone who would like to volunteer, be a coach or unified/health partner with Special Olympics, should contact Ms. Tederman, the regional coordinator, at: ltederman@sone.org.

Lane Schulz had this week's Rotary program.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS DISCUSSED--Special Olympics Nebraska was discussed by four speakers at Holdrege Rotary's Oct. 8 meeting. Pictured from left are: Katie Kellar, Omaha, vice president of development for Special Olympics Nebraska; Lindsey Tederman of Gothenburg, the organization's regional coordinator; Allie Moore of Kearney, a Special Olympics athlete; Carolyn Chamberlin of Omaha, chief executive officer of Special Olympics Nebraska; and Lane Schulz, the program host.