

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McMinnville Special Games Announces Strategic Growth and Facility Expansion Focus

For the past 15 years, McMinnville Special Games (MSG) has grown from a small volunteer-led effort into one of the largest recreational programs in Tennessee serving men, women, and children with special needs.

What began with a handful of volunteers, a modest budget, and one annual event has flourished into a vibrant nonprofit organization providing consistent, meaningful opportunities for connection, recreation, and enrichment. As the needs of our community have grown, so has MSG.

Today, McMinnville Special Games offers a wide variety of programs, including basketball and kickball leagues, a cheerleading squad, a food pantry, fishing rodeos, movie nights, field trips, pool parties, and our annual Olympic event each May. In addition, the McMinnville Enrichment Center operates three days a week at no cost to families, providing a welcoming space for participants and caregivers to gather, build friendships, and enjoy structured activities.

Transitioning the Horsin' Around Program

For the past decade, MSG has also operated "Horsin' Around," a recreational equestrian therapy program made possible by generous volunteers and community supporters. The program has provided many memorable and meaningful experiences, and MSG remains deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time, resources, and heart to its success.

After careful consideration and prayerful reflection, the MSG Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to conclude the Horsin' Around program.

While impactful, the program required significant daily operational responsibilities, ongoing maintenance, insurance, and volunteer support. Due to weather limitations and participation levels, riders were able to utilize the facility an average of approximately seven days per year. After evaluating long-term sustainability, the Board determined that reallocating those resources would allow MSG to better serve a larger portion of the special needs community more consistently throughout the year.

A Renewed Focus on Growth

As MSG continues to expand, the need for space has become increasingly urgent. The current Garfield Street facility, home of the McMinnville Enrichment Center, has been outgrown. The organization is actively pursuing a larger facility within McMinnville that would better support current programming and future growth.

Two offers have already been made on a near perfect property; however, current funding levels do not yet align with seller expectations. MSG leadership remains optimistic and committed to pursuing a solution that will allow services to expand sustainably for years to come.

Community Support

McMinnville Special Games remains grounded in its mission to serve with compassion, inclusion, and faith. Community support continues to be the foundation of its success.

Those who wish to support this next chapter may:

- Pray for continued wisdom and guidance as MSG moves forward.
- Contribute financially to the Building Fund.
- Volunteer their time and talents to help strengthen ongoing programs.

“Our mission has always been about creating opportunities and belonging for our special community,” said MSG leadership. “We are hopeful and confident that, with continued community support, the next chapter of McMinnville Special Games will be even stronger.”

For more information or to learn how to support McMinnville Special Games, please contact the organization directly.

With a warm heart and hopeful spirit, we thank you for your support!

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