



MEDIA RELEASE

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Turnstone Center & YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne Partnership Receives \$50,000 Grant From The Hartford

Company surprises local athlete with custom-fit sports equipment

Fort Wayne, Ind. (April 16, 2024) – Turnstone Center, based in Fort Wayne, IN, was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from The Hartford for new adaptive sports equipment. The equipment will be used in collaboration with the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne to increase access to adaptive sports opportunities through clinics, competitions, camps, and practices throughout the community, including locations at four YMCA facilities.

The grant enabled Turnstone Center, a member of the Move United member network, to purchase adaptive sports equipment, including 30 multi-sport wheelchairs. The adaptive sports wheelchairs will be used in local programming provided in collaboration with the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, specifically at Turnstone's Plassman Athletic Center, the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA (Bluffton, IN), Jackson R. Lehman YMCA, Jorgensen Family YMCA, and Parkview Family YMCA.

The Hartford also surprised Tom Hunter, a local multi-sport athlete who participates in wheelchair basketball, sled hockey, boccia, and curling, with custom-fit sled hockey equipment, including a goalie sled, wheeled equipment bag, goalie mask, goalie stick, leg pads, goalie glove, goalie blocker, and chest/arm protector. The new equipment will allow Hunter to safely enhance his contributions in the goalie position with the nationally ranked Turnstone Flyers Sled Hockey team throughout its competition season.

"Our continued collaboration with the YMCA will help us introduce adaptive sports and active living opportunities to youth with disabilities throughout our community," said Mike Mushett, Turnstone CEO. "Thanks to The Hartford, we'll be able to specifically reach areas with previously limited access, foster inclusivity, increase awareness of adaptive sports, encourage athletes to discover their strengths, and further the Paralympic movement here in northeast Indiana."

A variety of inclusive sports programs will be offered throughout the year. Several adaptive sports will be featured, including basketball, tennis, pickleball, bocchia, and volleyball. Clinics will be held once a month at all four YMCA locations, in addition to numerous competitive opportunities that will be open to participants. Available programming can be found on Turnstone Center's and the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne's websites.

Andrew Gritzmaker, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne added, "Partnerships like these reinforce our pursuit to remove barriers to access for members of our community and to help everyone reach their full potential. Turnstone is a nationally recognized leader in adaptive sports and services. Their knowledge, passion, and partnership with the Y continues to be a driving force behind ensuring a healthy spirit, mind, and body is within reach for all."

Turnstone and the YMCA continue to expand opportunities for all by working together to provide a joint membership. Access to both facilities with a single membership provides increased access to sports, fitness, and active living opportunities for people and families with and without disabilities.

For more information about available sports opportunities, interested participants can contact Michelle Kimpel, Director of Sports and Rec at Turnstone, at Michelle@turnstone.org or Tabitha Ervin, Chief Operating Officer for the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, at Tabitha_Ervin@fwymca.org.

ABOUT TURNSTONE: Founded in 1943, Turnstone is a nonprofit with a mission to empower people with disabilities to achieve their highest potential. Turnstone pursues this mission by providing one of the most comprehensive offerings of services and programs to people with disabilities and their families under one roof in the United States. Thanks to generous support and compassionate staff, Turnstone's legacy of advocacy and innovation continues to contribute to a world that accepts and values people based on their abilities. Turnstone's scope of impact has evolved to include being a member of the United States Olympic family as one of nine United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee's designated Training Sites and home to USA Goalball through a partnership with the United States Association of Blind Athletes. www.turnstone.org | Twitter: [@TurnstoneCenter](https://twitter.com/TurnstoneCenter) | Facebook: [Turnstone Center for Children and Adults with Disabilities](https://www.facebook.com/TurnstoneCenterforChildrenandAdultswithDisabilities) | Instagram: [@TurnstoneCenter](https://www.instagram.com/TurnstoneCenter)

ABOUT THE YMCA OF GREATER FORT WAYNE: The mission of the Y is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. For over 160 years, the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne has been committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility serving Allen, Wells, and Whitley counties through eight membership facilities and three youth serving branches, YMCA Youth Service Bureau, YMCA Child Care Services and YMCA Camp Potawotami. To learn more about the Y visit fwymca.org.

ABOUT THE HARTFORD: The Hartford is a leader in property and casualty insurance, group benefits and mutual funds. With more than 200 years of expertise, The Hartford is widely recognized for its service excellence, sustainability practices, trust, and integrity. More information on the company and its financial performance is available at <https://www.thehartford.com>.

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ABOUT MOVE UNITED: Move United is the national leader in community adaptive sports, empowering 125,000 youth and adults with disabilities each year to live to their fullest potential. Move United's 225 member organizations in 45 states are united by a single mission: ensuring everyone, regardless of ability, experiences the life-changing power of sport and is fully included in their community.

Move United, an Affiliate of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to become physically and emotionally stronger through participation in 70 adaptive sports. Established in 1956, Move United offers community-based sports recreation, education, and competition that push people further, bring people closer and leave no one on the sidelines. Join our MOVEment at www.moveunitedsport.org.