



MSDB Seeking Donations for Bowling Alley

Great Falls, MT— 9/10/24 — MSDB is asking for community support to refurbish our existing two-lane ADA accessible bowling alley. Because bowling is challenging for children who are very low vision, we need specialized assistive equipment that is not available in public bowling alleys. Many parents of years past remember bowling during family learning weekends and how it brought them closer together. Our current facility is not usable, and this new equipment is needed for generations of MSDB families to come.

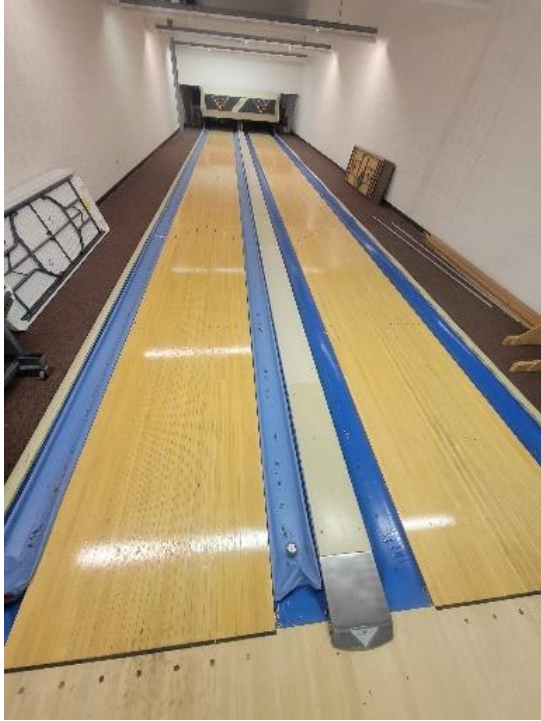
Having immediate access to the bowling alley on campus not only eliminates the need for field trip buses and permission slips, it also eliminates the possibility of students damaging local bowling alleys. In winter, there are fewer sports that can be played due to our frequent inclement weather. It is also a wonderful game that generations of families can play together in their own hometowns. Bowling is a sport that is relevant for very young children all the way through adulthood. See the attached map with our students' hometowns.

Our gym was built in 1983, and the bowling alley was much loved by students and their families. Since then, our school has grown exponentially, especially over the last five years. In fact, the number of students has doubled in that time. With aging equipment and lack of state funds to replace them, we have not been able to enjoy the bowling alley for well over a decade.

Amount left to be raised: \$40,000. The Zeller Knowles Foundation and another beneficiary are offering a matching gift up to \$20,000.

End Goal Date: October 1, 2024

Amount of project budget: \$134,000. **This total does not include the Malmstrom 341st Missile Squadron removing the nonworking parts.*



Population this project will serve and the services or programs this project will offer.

The population served by this project will be 1,200 families across Montana who rely on MSDB. These families are affiliated with MSDB because they have a child who is blind/low vision or deaf/hard of hearing. Our Family Learning Weekends serve many purposes, one of which is helping parents communicate more effectively with their children. Play is an important part of family dynamics, and our Mustang Center gym is the place where they can safely swim, workout, and play basketball in the gym. Further, after they learn how to bowl in a supported environment, most of them will even be able to enjoy their hometown bowling alleys for years to come.

We at the MSDB Foundation humbly ask for your support of this project. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you would like to support this project at MSDB please mail or drop off a check to MSDB Foundation 3911 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59406-6576 or give online <https://www.justgiving.com/montanaschoolfortheblindanddeaffoundation>

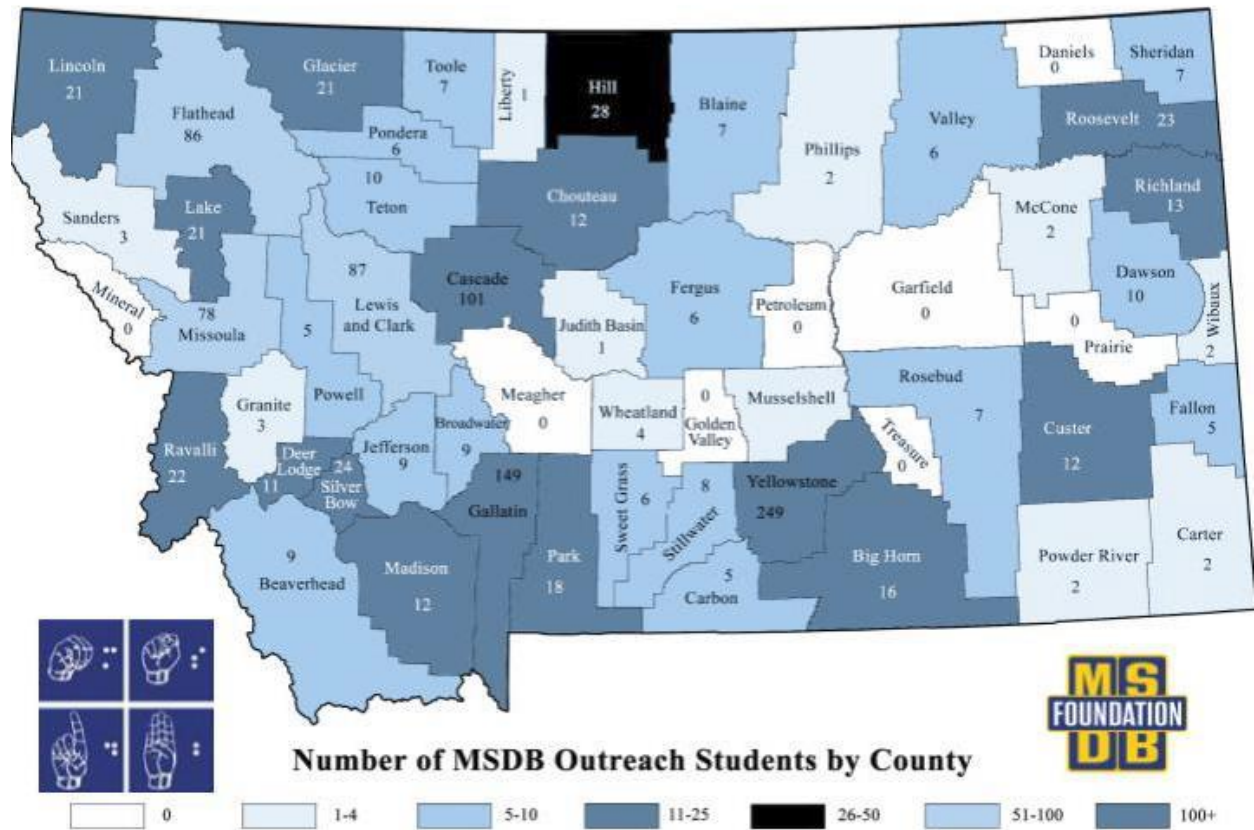
The Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting the school. The Foundation provides funding for programs and equipment not covered by state funding. Our reach spans across Montana, and we help students from almost every county. MSDB is a preK-12 school serving more than 1,200 youth and their families in their own hometowns. This number includes 50 students living on campus during the academic year. The total number served has almost doubled over the last five years.

The purpose of MSDB is to promote and provide free and appropriate educational and social-emotional growth opportunities to all children (ages newborn to age 21) who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deafblind throughout the state of Montana. These opportunities support students in identifying who they are and what they need to achieve success. The school is situated on a 10-acre campus located in Great Falls. We are the only school of this type in the state, so we truly serve as the hub for the families we serve.

For more information, media only:

Paul Furthmyre, Superintendent
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pfurthmyre@msdb.k12.mt.us
msdbmustangs.org

MSDB is truly a statewide school. We hope other stations will pick up this story because there this is so much more than Cascade County. In fact 99% of students are from somewhere other than the Great Falls area.



WHY BOWLING IS GOOD FOR KIDS

Bowling is social.

Extracurricular activities give kids the chance to learn some of the “soft skills” that they wouldn’t otherwise get from reading a textbook or doing homework. Socialization is important for child development and bowling is the perfect way for your kids to meet people and develop those social skills.

Bowling is affordable.

As any parent knows, keeping your kids entertained doesn’t come cheap! Some sports, hobbies, and artistic disciplines cost a lot of money, from horseback riding and violin lessons to football pads and dance recitals.

Fortunately for families looking for *affordable kids’ activities*, bowling is a relatively *inexpensive sport*.

Bowling is active.

Another *benefit of bowling for kids* is that it’s active. It’s never been harder to get kids moving than it is today, with the lure of computers, tablets, video games, and streaming services providing a never-ending list of reasons to stay firmly planted on the couch.

However, bowling is a FUN way to be active! While bowling is no substitute for high-intensity cardio workouts like running or swimming, it’s still better than sitting around at home. In fact, bowling can burn from 150 to 300 calories per hour.

In addition to burning calories, bowling builds muscles, especially in the arms! Bowling balls are heavy, so bowling regularly will help your child strengthen their biceps, triceps, and other arm, shoulder, and back muscles.

Bowling builds brains!

Among its many other wonderful qualities, bowling is also good for the brain. Bowling frequently can help your child develop crucial hand-eye coordination and depth perception. It can also help kids practice their math skills through scorekeeping. Even with automated counting, kids still end up counting pins and judging angles to figure out the best move.