

# Tootsie Roll

Since 1998, the Knights of Columbus (KofC) – Incarnate Word Council 9981 is an advocate for disabled children's medical care, therapy, education, and athletics by donating 100% proceeds of its annual Tootsie Roll Drive to help ensure the delivery in both residential and respite care. The KofC helps give these children a voice by raising awareness in the community. The organizations on this page benefit directly from Incarnate Word Parish KofC.



In 2022, Chesterfield and Creve Coeur's restrictions on street solicitation decreased drive-by donations by \$12,500 per year. As a result, organizations that benefit from these collections must either limit services or make up for this loss. Can you help us make up the lost donations in 2023?

Cardinal Glennon KofC Developmental Center provides skilled professionals and resources to assist hundreds of children with disabilities to grow, learn and live. Jack is one patient helped by this Center. Shortly after his 3rd birthday, concerned that he wasn't making a lot of progress, his pediatrician suggested that Jack be evaluated by the KofC Developmental Center at Cardinal Glennon. Jack was diagnosed with autism spectrum Level 2 and received therapy at the Developmental Center for 7 months.



*"The difference between Jack seven months ago and Jack today is ASTOUNDING. We would not be where we are if we didn't have Knights of Columbus"*

The Incarnate Word School One Classroom Inclusion Program helps children with Down Syndrome to become capable students while



teaching their classmates to respect and encourage those with limitations. Donations to the One Classroom Program provide additional staff, careful research, curriculum planning, and faculty training to make inclusive education a reality for students. At IW, the Inclusion Program hire para-educators needed to ensure an aide is assigned to each child. After their first year, the parent of a child in the One Classroom said, "There's nothing like the love we have in our parish."



Family Forward assists families who have children with severe disabilities. They have locations in St Charles and Brentwood. Family Forward Children's Homes provide 24-hour long-term residential care and short-term respite care for parents and their children (ages 0-21) with developmental disabilities and significant medical needs.

The Academy of St. Louis, located at St. Joseph' parish in Manchester, provides a K-12 school experience that helps children with learning and behavioral issues mature into capable, educated people able to continue education and careers. The school enables students to resolve many cognitive learning disabilities and behavior problems. The staff are real caring mentors for our kids. Two success factors at Academy of St. Louis are small enrollment (25) and a student/staff ratio of 3:1.



Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) is a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Thousands of athletes participate in 16 Olympic-type sports throughout the state, including right here in the St. Louis Metro Area. Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with their fellow athletes, their family and friends and communities across Missouri. Council 9981's support helped SOMO build a first-class Training for Life Campus in Jefferson City to support the athletes and families.

Special Olympics  
Missouri

