



Eunice Kennedy Shriver  
1921-2009  
"Together we carry on her vision"

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Sep. 26, 2009  
Lansing

#### [Miles for Medals](#)

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Bay City

#### [Regional Soccer Tournament](#)

Sep. 26, 2009  
Grand Rapids

#### [World's Largest Truck Convoy \(Grand Rapids\)](#)

Sep. 26, 2009  
Grand Rapids

## NorthStar Girls Soccer Teams Practice with Special Olympics Michigan Athletes

Working with Special Olympics Michigan athletes is part of club wide community service for NorthStar Soccer Inc. soccer club players in Traverse City, Mich. The club practices at the Keystone Soccer Practice in Grand Traverse County. Players dedicate one practice a week to work with athletes from Area 2 (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau Counties). "We love it! It's absolutely fabulous working with the athletes," said Coach Darryl Rogers.

NorthStar was founded in 1994 on the belief that working for something greater and beyond themselves gives young people a tremendous life experience. Each NorthStar team participates in team-based community service projects. The service is an essential part of the NorthStar mission to utilize soccer as a vehicle to teach and reinforce the lessons and rewards associated with the pursuit of excellence. Their mission is much bigger than soccer

In 2007 the NorthStar club announced a partnership with Special Olympics Michigan athletes in Northern Michigan, to bring the joy of the game to athletes with intellectual disabilities. They held their first event on January 30, 2007 and it was a great success. NorthStar coaches, and more importantly NorthStar players, staffed the event and were touched and amazed by their experience. "We are looking forward to creating a summer event that brings Special Olympics athletes from the region to have the same fun time and provide a deep and powerful experience for all," said Coach Jim Furstenberg. It was Furstenberg's vision to make a partnership with Special Olympics Michigan a reality.

The NorthStar club now has 3 senior teams (players 14 and older) working with Special Olympics Michigan athletes every Monday. NorthStar players act as coaches and fellow players. The athletes get the opportunity to train with, play with and learn from young women who are good soccer players. The athletes learn and develop soccer skills by observing and playing as teammates and opponents;



Northstar 95 soccer players and coaches with Area 2 Special Olympics Michigan athletes on September 21, 2009.



Northstar 95 soccer team practices with Area 2 athletes on September 21, 2009



Northstar 95 soccer player Kayla Hepler practices with Area 2 athlete Katie Sonnemann

**Miles for Medals**

Sep. 26, 2009  
Roscommon

**World's Largest Truck Convoy (Alma to Mt. Pleasant)**

Sep. 26, 2009  
Alma / Mt. Pleasant

**World's Largest Truck Convoy**

Sep. 26, 2009  
Heartwood School,  
Mason

**Southwest Regional Soccer Tournament**

Sep. 26, 2009  
Caledonia

**Ovid Carriage Days**

Sep. 26, 2009  
Ovid

**Picnic Party**

Sep. 27, 2009  
Sterling Heights

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and get one on one coaching.

The NorthStar players echo the same sentiment – the joy of working with athletes who just love to play. The girls enjoy seeing athletes grow and advance in their skills. The girls also learn to appreciate the sport at its purist form and what is really important.

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