

# Special Olympics Kansas

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Stanion Wholesale Electric raises \$85,025 for Special Olympics Kansas

Mission, KS. Stanion Wholesale Electric Co. recently completed its 15<sup>th</sup> Charity Golf Classic to benefit Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS). Stanion, its valued employees, customers and vendors came together to enjoy a fabulous day of fall weather and great golf, raising an impressive \$85,025. That brings the grand total of proceeds donated from the past 15 tournaments to \$1,186,084.00.

Rodnel Tuner, SOKS athlete from Topeka, provided a welcome to the players at their reception the evening before the tournament. Rodnel talked about the impact Special Olympics has had on his life. After being in 8 foster homes in 5 years, Rodnel was adopted. His adopted family enrolled him in Special Olympics Kansas, which gave him a sense of belonging and an opportunity to compete. Rodnel was also present during the tournament and served as “5<sup>th</sup> “putter” for the teams on Hole #1 at Falcon Lakes Golf Course in Basehor, KS.

“The value of the 2017 Special Olympics Golf Classic has been proven once again by the outstanding support we received from our vendors and customers” said Bill Keller, President of Stanion Electric. “Many of our participating donors have supported this event all 15 years it has been held! We also see new individuals and companies join in the cause every year. Everyone in our company is proud to be a part of the golf classic, which raises funds to support the great work of Special Olympics Kansas. The sponsoring donors and the staff of SOKS, along with the other volunteers, always make every part of this event very meaningful for the participants. It is an honor for our company to host the golf classic, to raise awareness of Special Olympics Kansas.”

John Lair, President and CEO of Special Olympics stated, “It is always a delight to work with Stanion Wholesale Electric organization and help coordinate the tournament. We have enjoyed the Stanion philanthropic philosophy and their commitment to Special Olympics Kansas. They have made an impact on thousands of athletes through the years, and we look forward to more tournaments in the future.”

**HISTORY:** In 1999, SOKS met with Bob Heitman, Stanion VP and SOKS Board Member, about hosting a golf tournament for their vendors to raise funds for SOKS. Bill Keller, Stanion President, was approached with the idea and thought it would be a good project for Stanion to become involved with and would provide an opportunity to further their relationship with their vendors. Stanion agreed to host the event on a trial basis.

The first Stanion Wholesale Electric Co. Charity Golf Classic was held in September, 2000 and raised \$81,137 for Special Olympics Kansas. With the great success of the first tournament, a tournament has been held each year with the exception of 2004, 2009 and 2010 when there was a downturn in the construction industry. Bob Heitman served as the tournament organizer on behalf of Stanion until his retirement. Otto Buche then filled his position, until his retirement. The tournament is currently organized and chaired by Mike Romme of Stanion.

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