



Knights of Columbus

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION
OF NEBRASKA, INC.

October 11 - 17, 2026



Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and Council Intellectual Disabilities Chairmen:

This packet is designed to assist you and your council with the annual **Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities**, formerly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive.

Your **first responsibility** in participating in the campaign is to **order your cases of Tootsie Rolls by August 1st**. Many councils combine their Tootsie Roll orders with other councils in their district in an effort to save on freight costs. Orders of 34 cases or more receive free shipping. Ordering requirements are outlined on the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Order Form found in this packet as well as on the website at www.nebraskakofc.org. Coordinating orders through your District Deputy is also helpful. Check your supply of canisters and/or hats as these are ordered when you order the Tootsie Rolls. **THERE IS A NEW ORDER FORM FOR CANDY IN 2024 AND COUNCILS MUST USE THIS FORM TO ORDER THIS YEAR!**

In addition, you need to **publicize the campaign** in advance and to **solicit donations** from businesses by encouraging them to buy a case of Tootsie Roll candies. Certificates of Merit are included in this packet as a way to recognize businesses who buy a case of Tootsie Rolls as well as to recognize businesses or individuals who make large donations during the drive. Showing your appreciation as Knights increases good will in your community. The certificates could also be used to recognize your council's volunteers in appreciation for their time and effort in working to make the campaign successful. And, of course, you need to follow through and actually **conduct the drive** in your community.

The Nebraska Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus has councils varying in both size and setting. If your council runs a successful Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities and you want to share what works for you along with what doesn't work, please contact the Intellectual Disabilities Director, your District Deputy, or a member of the Nebraska State Council.

Extra order forms and reporting forms are available on the Nebraska Knights of Columbus website (www.nebraskakofc.org). They are currently located in the "Programs" tab of the "Home Page" under "Intellectual Disabilities" or from the State Intellectual Disabilities Directors.

One of the goals of the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska is to serve people with intellectual disabilities in the best way possible. The money collected through the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities allows the Knights to donate thousands of dollars to serve these special people through numerous groups dedicated to addressing the needs of the intellectually disabled.

Your past commitment and generosity is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to another successful drive in 2026.

Fraternally,

Sammi and Stephen Lowery
Intellectual Disabilities Directors
Nebraska Knights of Columbus
(402) 540-1670
Sglowery82@gmail.com



Knights of Columbus

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION
OF NEBRASKA, INC.



LOCAL CHAIRMEN

2026 Timeline

Nebraska Knights of Columbus
Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities

July 2026

Select local chairman to head Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (formerly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive)

****Decide how many cases of Tootsie Rolls are needed and order them by AUGUST 1, 2026. Check supplies including vests, canisters, and hats. Order them on the Tootsie Roll order form. REMEMBER TO USER THE NEW ORDER FORM FOR 2024.**

August 2026

****ORDERING DEADLINE for Tootsie Rolls, collection canisters, etc. is AUGUST 1, 2026.**

****Be sure to mark the appropriate box requesting canisters on the NEW Tootsie Roll order form.**

Recruit area captains

Assign areas for captains

Area captains recruit volunteers

Council should discuss distribution of funds to determine a group to support

September 2026

Arrange for the local mayor or official to sign proclamation and take a photo for publicity

Finish recruiting local volunteers

Issue press release including local proclamation and photo along with campaign dates

Train and educate local volunteers

October 2026

Hold local Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities

October 11-17, 2026, are the suggested dates

Collect money and tabulate results

Issue local press release announcing local results

Thank supporting groups and businesses

*****MAIL CHECK FOR FULL AMOUNT OF THE TOTAL FUNDS COLLECTED AND THE REQUIRED REPORTING FORM TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES DIRECTORS***

Sammi & Stephen Lowery, 1301 Thunderbird Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68512. Due by JANUARY 31, 2027.



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OF NEBRASKA, INC.



Questions?

State Intellectual Disabilities Directors
Sammi and Stephen Lowery

sglowery82@gmail.com
402-540-1670

Where do I send the money and report?

State Intellectual Disabilities Directors
Sammi and Stephen Lowery

1301 Thunderbird Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68512

When do I send the report and check?

By January 31, 2027, if your council would like to be eligible for Intellectual Disabilities awards at State Convention in April.



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INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION OF NEBRASKA, INC.



Dear Friend:

The Nebraska Knights of Columbus initiated the Tootsie Roll program in 1976 to benefit children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The program's name has been changed to the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. The general public has lent its support through contributions during this annual fundraiser. This year, the Knights are expanding the appeal to business leaders to join in the campaign. You, as a business leader, are invited to help improve life's opportunities for citizens with intellectual disabilities by making a donation.

Fifty percent of the funds collected in the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities will be returned back to our community. Some of the programs and services assisted by the campaign include the following:

Residential Care
Community Living Facilities
Training Centers
Workshops
Daycare Centers
Nursing Care
Vocational Training

On-the-Job Training
Recreation and Physical Education
Social Training
Advocacy Services
Guardianship Programs
Prevention Programs
Research

You can help the Knights of Columbus raise funds for people with intellectual disabilities by making a donation to the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Grand Knight

Council



Knights of Columbus

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION
OF NEBRASKA, INC.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
VOLUNTEER FORM

I will be able to solicit for the Knights of Columbus drive
for people with intellectual disabilities and am available on

Thursday From _____ to _____

Friday From _____ to _____

Saturday From _____ to _____

Sunday From _____ to _____

Location Preferred

Name

Address

Phone Number

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
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(Request to businesses for permission to solicit on site)

Type in duplicate on your Council's stationery or letterhead

Dear

As you may have heard, the annual Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities will be conducted October 11th through 17th. The campaign was formerly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive.

This fundraiser is for a most worthwhile cause--people who are intellectually disabled. We are asking for your cooperation in this endeavor by allowing members of the Knights of Columbus and their volunteers to use your facility and/or grounds in the solicitation of funds for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Please acknowledge your support of the campaign and your permission for Knight volunteers to solicit funds on your property by returning a signed copy of this letter.

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus and Nebraskans with intellectual disabilities, thank you, and may God bless you.

Fraternally,

(name)

Chairman
Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Solicitation request by Knights of Columbus for the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (formerly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive).

Date Approved: _____

Company Name: _____ By: _____



Knights of Columbus

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION
OF NEBRASKA, INC.



News Release

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO SEEK FUNDS FOR NEBRASKANS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Helping citizens with intellectual disabilities will be the theme for the fund drive conducted by _

_____ Knights of Columbus in _____.
(Name of Council) (City)

This is the Nebraska Knights' annual fund-raising drive conducted for citizens with intellectual disabilities.

It will be held _____ according to _____, Grand Knight.
(Date) (Grand Knight's Name)

In this statewide drive, Tootsie Rolls® are given as a token of thanks for donations to the cause.

The local council has selected _____ as chairman of the area drive.
(Council Chairman's Name)

The Knights of Columbus will be aided in their solicitation by members of _____,
(Scout Troop Number)

_____, and _____.
(Name of Ladies' Auxiliary) (Other Community Groups)

All funds from this drive will be spent on the needs of people with intellectual disabilities in this area as

well as those throughout the State of Nebraska. Nearly \$8,000,000 has been raised by the Knights of Columbus.

Your local Knights of Columbus invite you to join in their efforts to help Nebraskans with intellectual disabilities.

Support their statewide Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities on _____.
(Date)



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INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION
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A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the quality of life is important to all members of our community, including children and adults with intellectual disabilities;

AND WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus is a Charitable and Fraternal Organization that promotes the dignity and welfare of citizens with intellectual disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I _____, Mayor

of the City of _____, do hereby proclaim

the week of _____ as

SUPPORT CITIZENS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES WEEK

in our fair city, and call upon all of our citizens to support the Knights of Columbus in this most worthwhile and humanitarian effort for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City.

Mayor



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OF NEBRASKA, INC.



TO GRAND KNIGHTS, FINANCIAL SECRETARIES, DISTRICT DEPUTIES, AND COUNCIL TOOTSIE ROLL CHAIRMEN:

In 1976 the Nebraska Knights of Columbus began the Tootsie Roll Program to benefit children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The general public has supported this program through contributions during the annual fundraising drive.

This year's Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, formerly called the Tootsie Roll® Drive, will be held on October 11-17, 2026. All forms needed for the drive and the report forms to be sent to the Intellectual Disabilities Directors are included in the packet that was distributed at the Leadership Training Seminar in Grand Island. Half of the money raised from the drive will be returned to the councils to be given to a qualifying charity of their choice. The checks will be made out to the charity and then sent to the council for presentation to the charitable group.

The State Council's Intellectual Disabilities Foundation of Nebraska, Inc. used the state's half of the 2025 funds collected for donations to the following groups:

Special Olympics of Nebraska	\$ 6,000.00
Ollie Webb Center	\$ 2,500.00
Madonna Ability Alliance – Omaha	\$ 10,500.00
Villa Marie School - Waverly	\$ 19,500.00
S.M.I.L.E Inc.	\$ 9,600.00
Sheltering Tree	\$ 2,500.00
D.U.E.T. Foundation	\$ 2,500.00
Buckboard Therapeutic Riding	\$ 10,000.00
Camp Scott	\$ 10,000.00
Mosaic in Southeast Nebraska	\$ 1,000.00

Some funds are kept in reserve for special projects throughout the year. This annual Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities helps support many different organizations in the state. Thanks to the generosity of many Nebraskans and the hard work of dedicated Knights, nearly \$8,000,000 has been distributed since 2001. Keep up the good work!

Fraternally,

Sammi and Stephen Lowery
Intellectual Disabilities Directors
Nebraska Knights of Columbus
1301 Thunderbird Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68512
(402) 540-1670
sglowery82@gmail.com

P.S. The report form and your council's check must be returned to me by JANUARY 31, 2027 in order for your council to be eligible for an annual award at State Convention in April.