



***“Pins & Balls” Bowling League of Dreams
August, 2010 – December, 2010***

With the help of a \$2,000 grant from Texas Women’s League, a non-profit foundation to benefit charities in Fayette County, Texas, the Anchor Club of La Grange and the Pilot Club of La Grange were able to repeat a very special project known as the “Pins & Balls” Bowling League of Dreams. A group of approximately 75 mentally and physically disabled adults and senior citizens living in group homes or private homes within Fayette County were treated to four Saturday afternoon bowling outings, compliments of the Pilot Club of La Grange and the Anchor Club of La Grange.

Anchors and Pilots jumped in to become true bowling partners, helping the participants to enjoy their very own personal way of getting the ball down the alley and then celebrating their successes loud and boisterously!

We truly made a difference in the lives of these special needs friends! Our activity helped fill the void of entertainment and socialization opportunities in our small community which we considered necessary to provide an acceptable quality of life for them. The participants were able to improve their motor skills and mobility, and the interaction of the bowlers with each other and with the Anchors and Pilots helped to improve their social skills as well as their own self esteem. And above all, it was just a TON OF FUN!

At the end of the 4 weeks of the League of Dreams, an awards party and celebration was planned and carried out for the participants, compliments of the La Grange Pilots and Anchors. This year the Awards Party became a fun Christmas party on the afternoon of Sunday, December 12, 2010. Lots of food, laughing, and even dancing completed an afternoon of recognition for those who excelled in the sport. With the Texas Women’s League Grant, the Pilot Club of La Grange funded the costs of bowling, the rental of shoes, a souvenir T-shirt for all participants, and with the contribution of the Anchor Club, totally funded the awards party.

Of more importance, however, were the rewards reaped by the Pilots and Anchors from interaction with these special needs friends – a deeper understanding of the effects of brain-related disorders and just knowing that we brought a bit of joy and fun into these folks’ lives.

It was very encouraging when the bowling alley in Schulenburg offered a 50% discount on the fees for shoes and games, dropping the \$6 per person cost to \$3/bowler. This was the result of their admiration for our commitment to this special needs population in our county.

Budget Needed to Underwrite the “Pins and Balls” Bowling League

Four (4) Bowling afternoons for 75 participants @ \$3/person, \$225 x 4 weeks	\$1,000.00
T-Shirt for Each Participant	1,000.00
Rental for the City Rec Center, donated by the City of La Grange (\$50.00)	00.00
DJ for Dance and Singing Music	100.00
Hot Dogs, w/trimmings, drinks,& paper goods, donated by Westwood Cinema 6 (\$100)	400.00

TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR PROJECT \$2,500.00

Note: Desserts provided by Anchors and Pilot members