



Dear Business Owner,

In the fall of 2012, the full-time coaches of the Belvidere Park District (BPD) met regarding their Special Olympics team. They had witnessed the impact that these sports were making on the kids and adults who participated in the sports offered at the time. The Pirates athletes showed such pride and confidence in their skills while gaining valuable social interaction between peers. Participation was booming! The team's growing needs were not being met by the very small activity fees charged to each athlete for participation. Out of this need, the Hug an Athlete 5K was developed. The event is not only to raise funds, but to also bring awareness about these important activities happening right in our own backyard. This year marks the 13th year of the BPD Special Recreation Annual's "Hug an Athlete" 5K Run/Walk/Roll.

Today, the BPD Pirates boasts 75 athletes participating in up to eight different sports: volleyball, basketball, softball, bocce, track & field, snowshoeing, bowling, and flag football. All proceeds from the event will be directly applied towards scholarships for athletes in need, sports equipment, uniforms, the annual athlete banquet, and other program related needs. We have had an outpouring of contributions over the years through support from businesses such as yours. Without which, the Hug an Athlete 5k would not be a success! We are in need of that support again this year. On behalf of BPD Special Recreation, I would like to ask for your assistance with our annual campaign.

The race will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2026, in Doty and Belvidere Parks with race kickoff at 1:00pm. Runners, walkers, and rollers (individuals who utilize a wheelchair) will receive a "swag bag" for participation. The swag bags will include a t-shirt, promotional materials, and goodies/giveaways from our sponsors. Participants will also receive post-race refreshments to rehydrate and refuel at the completion of the race.

Today, I am seeking your assistance through monetary contributions, donations of race amenities, items for our swag bags and through volunteers. I ask that your organization consider contributing to this local endeavor in one or multiple ways. Please review the sponsorship levels on the next page and consider helping in any way possible. Our website, www.huganathlete5k.org will give you additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Cramer

Special Recreation Supervisor, CPRP

Please detach and return to Sean Cramer no later than Feb. 6, 2026 for inclusion on event t-shirts:

6581 Revlon Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008,

Email: scramer@belviderepark.org, or fax: 815-544-4648. Call with questions, 815-547-5711 x 601.

Company Name: _____		Date: _____				
Address: _____						
Contact Name: _____		Phone: _____				
Sponsorship						
Level:	Diamond	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze	In-Kind
(Please Circle)						

Donation Amount Enclosed: Yes, \$_____ No, Will Receive By: _____

We are happy to pick-up donations. Please let us know a time that works best and a pick-up location.

Please make checks payable to: Belvidere Park District