



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

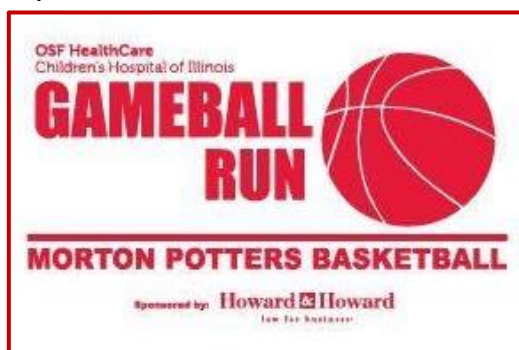
Feb. 15, 2021

Gameball Run 2021 produces another record

It was another record-setting effort for Morton's Gameball Run, as participating schools generated \$135,114.86 for Children's Hospital of Illinois. The check presentation took place on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Not even a pandemic could slow this year's fundraiser, which had to be adaptable almost up to the last minute as the weather also proved to be rather uncooperative.

In all, more than \$741,000 has been raised locally over the last nine years for the place where medical miracles happen.



"Morton Gameball Run epitomizes what teamwork is truly about," said Stacy Litersky, who co-chaired the event with Dana Hobson and Tracy Heer. "We are so fortunate to live in a community where generosity runs wild and our schools value the lessons of community, giving and promoting philanthropy.



Our Miracle Children pose at the check presentation

"It is an honor to be a part of something so special that continues to grow each year because of the compassionate and committed group of volunteers, coupled with such a generous community, that values our commitment to supporting OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois."

As always, the Run included the MHS boys' basketball teams, employees of Morton District 709, and students contributing \$25 or more to the cause. Often, Gameball Run is a family affair, with parents participating alongside their children. Beyond that, the event would be impossible to pull off so successfully without the support of the community at large. In 2021, 45 sponsors contributed between \$250 and \$3,500 each.



Morton teams stand up for Children's Hospital, once more

The whole point of Gameball Run, of course, is to provide assistance to the wonderful medical facility, located in Downtown Peoria, that in turn gives so much back to the children in need of treatment and the families in need of support. Each year, the elementary schools in District 709, along with Morton's Bethel Lutheran School, choose a child or children to get behind.

This year's Miracle Families are the **Smallenbergers**, with son Henry (Bethel Lutheran); the **Chans**, with son Hudson (Lincoln Elementary); the **Whites**, with twins Collins and Bryant (Grundy Elementary); the **Collins** family, with daughter Anna (Lettie Brown Elementary); and the **Gabberts**, with twins Kane and Ogden (Jefferson Elementary).

Please continue to follow us on our [website](#) and on [Facebook](#). Gameball Run 2022 will be here before we know it!

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