



**Columbus Charities
Tootsie Roll Program
GoFundMe
2020-2021**

Brothers,

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, most councils are not able to hold Tootsie Roll drives. As a result, our Special Olympics Washington support, as well as other benefactors, will not receive funds from Columbus Charities Program. Our State donations to Special Olympics Breakfast of Champions and Special Olympics Breakfast with Champions (annually \$25,000 for the past five years), where we are the Community Award Sponsor, donation is in jeopardy. Many councils donate to Special Olympics Washington through this program, as well.

We as Knights of Columbus Washington have enjoyed publicity and visible exposure as a result of this program. In addition, Special Olympics and 85 other benefactors have received hundreds of thousands of dollars through this program. Many of you that are receiving this message have contributed to the program's success in the past. I do not want to offend anyone but an explanation of the program must be posted below.

We are trying something new this year, to try to continue this most worthy program. It will be very difficult to credit a council with donations for their local 80%, but we will try. I wanted a notation box somewhere on the platform, but was unable to do that.

We are asking for donations to the Tootsie Roll Program from businesses, councils, individuals, etc. to donate to Columbus Charities Tootsie Roll Program. Undesignated funds will go to Special Olympics Washington and KC Help (Hospital Equipment Loan Program).

Some of our members have been home-bound during this pandemic and might want to donate through this portal.

That explanation is below, along with a link to GoFundMe. Paste that link to your browser and see, and/or donate through this portal.

Please send this message out to all members, parishioners, friends, family members, other denominations, etc. and we will see where this goes. I am trying to save this program for 2020-2021 and need your help.

Anyone who has a Facebook, I ask you to post this so it gets out to the public and has a chance in meeting our goal. Hopefully this program will return to normal next year.

The Tootsie Roll Program “Helping People With Disabilities”, sponsored by Washington State Knights of Columbus through Columbus Charities 501 (c) 3 non-profit, holds annual Tootsie Roll Drives at various locations (Walmart, Fred Meyer, Safeway, local grocery stores outlets, etc.) collecting donations. The program is traditionally held September 15th-October 30th, however is not limited to that period.

A tootsie roll is given to everyone whether they donate or not, however this year that will not be possible. Due to the COVID pandemic, the Tootsie Roll Drive 2020-2021 Program will not be held in most locations. To continue to provide benefactors with much needed funds, we are asking for donations through this GoFundMe outlet in support our Tootsie Roll Campaign.

All funds collected benefit over 85 local and national organizations with the greatest recipient being Special Olympics Washington. All funds collected go to the disabled, less minimal product and printing cost of approximately six cents on the dollar, less with no product required. Eighty percent of these funds are available for local council distribution while the remaining twenty percent is specifically designated to Special Olympics Washington.

Traditionally, over \$130,000 annually has been collected in our annual campaign. Special Olympics Washington receives approximately \$38,000 each year because of the program. Knights of Columbus are the Community Volunteer Sponsor of the Year and have provided \$25,000 each year to the Special Olympics Washington Breakfast of Champions in Seattle and Spokane. That ability is now in jeopardy.

Fifty-eight councils statewide participated last year and raised over \$133,000. This year, with COVID, we are asking Councils, parishioners, local support, family members and individuals to contribute to this non-denominational program.

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- PROVIDE YOUR NAME (FIRST AND LAST NAME)
- IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO DESIGNATE A COUNCIL, FUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS WASHINGTON AND KC HELP (Medical Equipment Loan Program for those in need)
- THE GOFUNDME PORTAL WILL ISSUE A DONATION EMAIL MESSAGE TO YOUR PERSONAL ADDRESS. IF YOU NEED FURTHER DOCUMENTATION, COLUMBUS CHARITIES 501 C 3 WILL PROVIDE A LETTER. PLEASE SEND REQUEST TO STATESECRETARY@KOFC-WA.ORG AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
- TOOTSIE ROLLS MAYBE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST THROUGH THE LOCAL COUNCIL, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

PLEASE SHARE THIS CAUSE WITH FRIENDS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, CONGREGATION AND FAMILY FOR THIS MOST WORTHY NON-DENOMINATIONAL PROGRAM!

COPY AND PASTE THIS LINK TO YOUR BROWSER.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/tootsie-roll-program?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

Thank you,

Kim Washburn
WSC State Secretary
Vice President Columbus Charities