

BREAKING

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[http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/central/oreem/kids-on-the-move-celebrates-years/article\\_d4b6b151-37e2-5353-ae0-66d5a1ed01e5.html](http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/central/oreem/kids-on-the-move-celebrates-years/article_d4b6b151-37e2-5353-ae0-66d5a1ed01e5.html)

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FEATURED

## Kids on the Move celebrates 30 years

Karissa Neely Daily Herald Jul 31, 2016



Grant Hindsley

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Derek Beckstrand of Intermountain Healthcare competes in an inflatable obstacle course at the Kids on the Move event at the r

Kids on the Move has lived up to its name for 30 years, and its founders hope it will continue to do so for another 30.

"We went through huge changes all the time, that's one of the reasons we named it Kids on the Move — we were always moving, moving one building to another, one phase of a building to another, adding more children and more programs," said co-founder Brenda Winegar.

"We named it right."

Kids on the Move, also known as KOTM, is celebrating its 30-year anniversary this month. It was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in August 1986, according to the group's website.

KOTM began in 1984 because two mothers of children with disabilities, Winegar and Karen Hahne, didn't agree with what doctors told them about their children.

"Doctors told me just love my son, but not expect much from him," Hahne said of those early years. "Every life has value, everyone can contribute.

"Now my son is 32 and works at the Orem Library, has served two missions, and is in the cast of 'South Pacific' at the SCERA. All this from a kid they said not to expect much from."

With determination and a learn-as-you-go attitude, Hahne and Winegar built a program that started with nine kids, and has now served thousands of children and families.

"When we first started, I was so nervous. I'd never done anything like this. It was pretty scary," Winegar said. "But we just had this strong feeling, we knew it needed to happen."

"I had no intention of starting a program, but I did," Hahne said of those first years. "Parents needed the information and resources, and once the momentum started we just tried to keep up with it."

In those early years Hahne was in her early 40s, an older mother for the time. But she had the contacts and the vision of helping many families with disabled children for many years to come. And over the decades, seeing families succeed, seeing "families keeping their children instead of institutionalizing them," kept them going.

Both Hahne and Winegar will tell you of the many miracles they saw over their time at the helm of KOTM.

“We just kept pushing ahead, and there was always a miracle. It’s always been a miracle story,” Winegar said.

“We found a community of people who care, and had miracles happen all the time. I hope the miracles will still occur,” Hahne said.

The two mothers started KOTM with the intention of helping their two children with Down syndrome. But within just a few years of its debut, they expanded their scope and services to empower parents of all children with disabilities. Only six years ago, KOTM added its autism services to answer the growing need for early intervention services and support in the county.

Both women are now retired from KOTM, but their hearts are still with the program, and they both hope it will continue as long as there are families who need support for raising their children.

“We were both really sad when we left — it was like leaving pieces of ourselves behind. But we knew it had to keep going,” Winegar said. “We just hope it will keep that same principle — parents and families are so important, and they just need the right tools to succeed.

“When you empower parents to work with their children, it makes such a difference.”

Kids on the Move will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a carnival from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 19 on the park grounds just north of its building at 475 West 260 North in Orem.

KOTM invites all former and current families serviced at KOTM, community members interested in learning more, along with all staff members, legislative and civic leaders, community partners, donors, board members and friends.

KOTM requests that attendees RSVP by Aug. 15 to ensure enough food and fun is prepared. RSVP at [kids@kotm.org](mailto:kids@kotm.org) or by calling (801) 221-9930.

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## Karissa Neely

Karissa Neely reports on Business & Community events, and loves telling people's stories.

## Currents

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Today's top pics: Rare triplet cubs born and more

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**Your daily 6: Trump troubles grow, bears join humans to swim, and a hunt**

Your daily  
6: Trump  
troubles  
grow,  
bears join  
humans to  
swim, and  
a hunt for  
serial killer

## for serial killer

Bears join  
humans in  
water at  
Lake  
Tahoe

## Bears join humans in water at Lake Tahoe

Today In  
History,  
Aug. 4:  
Jesse  
Owens

## Today In History, Aug. 4: Jesse Owens

White Sox  
beat  
Tigers 6-3,  
snapping  
Detroit's  
streak at 8

## White Sox beat Tigers 6-3, snapping Detroit's streak at 8

Freeney  
arrives to  
bolster  
Falcons'  
pass rush

## Freeney arrives to bolster Falcons' pass rush

Mets  
slugger  
Cespedes  
put on DL  
with  
quadriceps  
injury

## Mets slugger Cespedes put on DL with quadriceps injury

Comic book containing Superman's debut sold for \$956,000

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