

# My Joyful Heart launches sweet dreams pillow drive

## STAFF REPORT

Roughly 1,000 children are enrolled in the My Joyful Heart charity program in Mokena – an organization that aids disadvantaged children throughout the Chicagoland area.

Working with schools located in impoverished

areas, the charity learns of children living in circumstances in which the family cannot afford life's basic necessities. School faculty and/or staff members can then recommend these children for enrollment into the program for assistance.

"The children enrolled in our program range in age from infant through 22 years old, with the older ones having special needs," said Diane Carroll, My Joyful Heart founder and executive director. "Every child in the program is disadvantaged in one way or another; some are in special education, many are from single-parent households and many are homeless."

Necessities and gifts offered to the children in need are personalized and are not delivered just once or twice a year.

"We want the kids to know we are thinking of them and supporting them all year

round, not only during holidays," Carroll said. "Many of the children we serve are in need of clothing from underwear to outerwear, and in some cases, may not even have a toothbrush."

For this reason, the charity is launching its Sweet Dreams Pillow Drive by collecting new standard size bed pillows and pillow cases with the goal of receiving 1,000 of each by Nov. 1 in an effort to give a new pillow and case to every child enrolled in the My Joyful Heart program.

Supporters are encouraged to help the charity achieve its goal in a variety of ways, including starting a pillow drive, donating a pillow and pillow case, or donating toward the purchase of these items.

For more information, contact (815) 806-1700, email [information@myjoyfulheart.org](mailto:information@myjoyfulheart.org), or visit [www.myjoyfulheart.org](http://www.myjoyfulheart.org).

# Senior spelling bee set to test word abilities

## STAFF REPORT

This Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee competition is a state-wide program that gives Illinois adults age 50 and older an opportunity to showcase a lifetime of knowledge, and to celebrate years of experience through spelling abilities.

This year's competition will take place at 1 p.m. May 5 at The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center, 10847 W. La Porte Road, in Mokena. Registration and check-in

opens at 12:30 p.m.

Local winners and runners-up will advance to the regional semi-final. The state final will be held at the Illinois Building at the 2015 Illinois State Fair on senior day. Transportation and expenses for those who advance are the responsibility of the winners, and preregistration is recommended.

For more information, call the Mokena Community Park District at (708) 390-2401 or visit [www.mokenapark.com](http://www.mokenapark.com).