



# Annual Report 2015

est. 1934

**SOAPBOX  
DERBY®**

Gravity Powered | STEM Driven

[soapboxderby.org](http://soapboxderby.org)

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# President's Note

It's an exciting time at the world headquarters of gravity racing!

Last year we celebrated the 78th running of the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby as more than 500 champs from around the world were treated to the most racing in the history of the event as the new SUBWAY® Challenge race and DQ Rally Challenge allowed gravity racers to test their skills during the week leading up to the World Championship race.

We've seen tremendous growth in our STEM-based Education Program. We doubled the number of locations hosting our Gravity Racing Challenge STEM Team Competition and saw a 58% increase in the number of teams participating.

A \$742,356 National Science Foundation grant was awarded to The University of Akron to provide funding to partner with the Derby and 8th grade Akron Public School classrooms to formally design, integrate and evaluate the impact of curriculum around Soap Box Derby Mini-Cars.

For the second year in a row more than 70 events were held at the world famous Derby Downs Track including corporate outings; Grandparents Day presented by the City of Akron and Fallsway Equipment Company; Senior Day presented by Cleveland Clinic Akron General and the City of Akron; United Way Corporate Derby Challenge; and Kids Day presented by Move It Now.

As we continue to grow and reinvent an organization that began in 1934 we want to thank the many volunteers, community leaders, corporations, foundations and individuals - especially our title sponsor for the All-American race, FirstEnergy – whose generous contributions ensure the continued success of the Derby.

*Joe Mazur*  
President & CEO

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# About Us

The STEM-based education program is in more than 500 classrooms in the United States.

## The Derby

The Derby dates back to 1934, when the first All-American race was held in Dayton, Ohio. The All-American program has grown to more than 1,336 races and more than 100 racing districts throughout the world each year.

The Soap Box Derby's two youth initiatives are the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby racing program and the STEM-based Education Program, which provides educational opportunities for K-12 youth through Soap Box Derby racing. The education program is in more than 500 classrooms in the United States and includes the Gravity Racing Challenge STEM Team Competition, Soap Box Derby mini car program and Soap Box Derby STEM camps.

## Mission

The Soap Box Derby is an international non-profit organization whose mission is to build knowledge and character, and to create meaningful experiences through collaboration and fair and honest competition.



## Our Staff

President & CEO

Vice President

Kit Production

Race Programs Coordinator

Resource Development Manager

Shipping

Events Manager

Region 8 Program Coordinator

Education Program Director

Programs Coordinator

Marketing Manager

Accountant

Joe Mazur

Bobby Dinkins

Duane Burkhammer

Lynne Collier

Alexis Cozadd

Jim Crawford

Morgan Garner

Frankie Gilmore

Linda Hubbell

Heather Pulley

Doreen Thorne

Cindi Zagar

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## Our Board

Chair - Kevin Thomas

Vice Chair - Carla Sibley

Treasurer - Alan Brubaker

Secretary - Gregg Mervis

Michael Callahan

Jason Dodson

William J. Ginter

Todd Guillian, CFP®

Bill Lowery

Chris Ludle

Mark D. Mroczynski

Dominic Rizzo

Pat Roberts

Tony Troilo

Bob Troyer

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## Honorary Board Members

Bobby Cooper

Jack Engelke

Brian Graham

Paul Jackson

Bobby Nickoli

Marty Sullivan

Michele Tomer

Thomas Welsh

# Our Impact

## Our Core Values

- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Mentoring
- Volunteerism
- Commitment to community
- Youth education and leadership development
- Family engagement and enrichment
- Honesty, integrity and perseverance





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We are fortunate to have more than 3,000 volunteers that support all of our events around the world.

## Volunteers

Volunteers have been the foundation of the Soap Box Derby since its beginning. We rely heavily on our volunteers to ensure the success in all of our race locations.

We were fortunate to have more than 450 volunteers for the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship and a total of more than 3,000 volunteers that support all of our events yearly around the world.

Our volunteers have come from many places such as the City of Akron, FirstEnergy, Time Warner Cable, UPS, Cleveland Clinic Akron General and local high schools.







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### President's Youth Volunteer Service Award 2015

The award was established to recognize youth under the age of 21 who have made a positive impact on the Soap Box Derby program by volunteering and mentoring on the local or national level.



**JORDAN PRUDEN**  
Bowling Green, Ky.



**AARON ROHRBAUGH**  
Culpeper, Va.



**TAKATERU YAMAMOTO**  
Japan

### Hall of Fame Inductees 2015

Candidates may be considered for induction into the Soap Box Derby Hall of Fame on the basis of significant contributions to the program by dedicating years of service to the organization, or as an ambassador, promoting the betterment of the sport and its participating young persons, or by supporting the youth racing program through financial or sponsorship contribution, enabling the continued growth of the youth racing program.



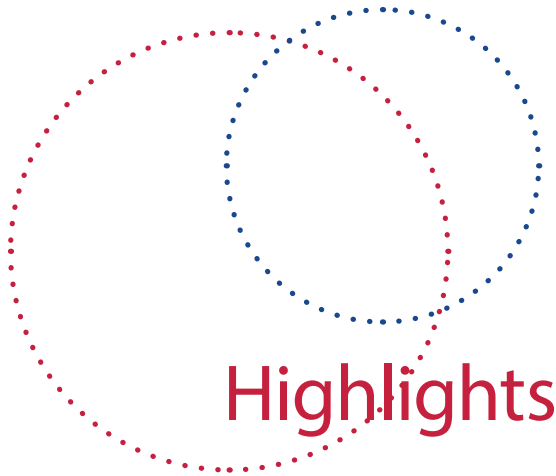
**BOB COOPER**  
Akron, Ohio



**FRAN SEABECK**  
North Canton, Ohio



**BUD SEABECK**  
North Canton, Ohio



# Highlights

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While our focus has been on the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby, we have expanded our programs and now offer more opportunities to our racers, our community and our race locations.



## Races

- 78th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby
- Mayor's Cup Race presented by Accenture
- Gravity Racing Challenge STEM Team Competition presented by Time Warner Cable
- DQ Rally Challenge
- SUBWAY Challenge
- United Way Corporate Derby Challenge
- Gravity Racing Challenge STEM Team Competition in seven locations



## Special Days

- Kids Day presented by Move It Now
- Autism Day
- Senior Day presented by the City of Akron and Akron General
- Grandparent's Day presented by the City of Akron and Fallsway Equipment Company
- Soap Box Derby STEM Summer program



## And More

- Advancing with the three-year strategic plan
- Hall of Fame inductees
- New President's Youth Volunteer Service Award
- Corporate events

# By The Numbers



around  
the world

106  
RaceDistricts

1,336  
Races

3,500  
Racers

7  
World Champions

78 YEARS  
of tradition

30 MPH  
down the track

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4.5 Million dollars of economic impact yearly

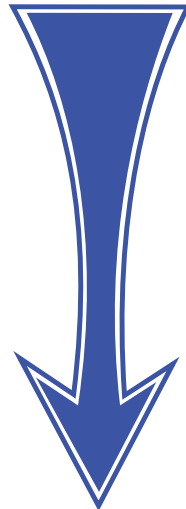
75

EVENTS  
in 2015

7

GRC  
Locations

989 FT



of gravity

500

SCHOOLS  
teaching STEM

237

EDUCATION TEAMS  
competing in GRC



1,659

STUDENTS  
Engaged

[soapboxderby.org](http://soapboxderby.org)



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## Assets

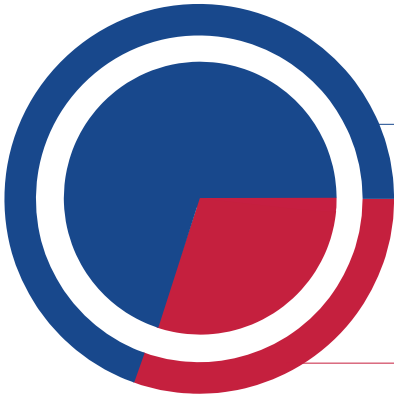
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$229,177
Account Receivable	19,765
Other Assets	280,602
Inventories	169,209
Property and Equipment, net	2,083,648
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Total	2,782,401

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## Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$216,742
Long Term Liabilities	611,899
Total Equity	1,953,760
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Equals	2,782,401

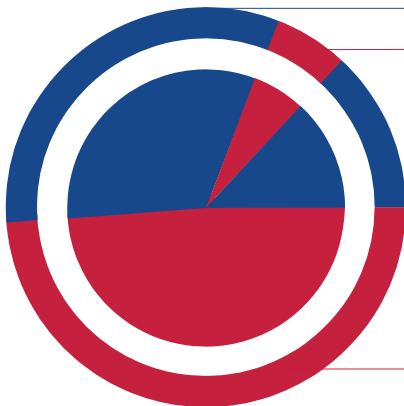
## Operating Expenses



**82%**  
Program Expenses

**18%**  
General and  
Administrative

## Operating Income



**32%**  
Sales

**6%**  
Other Revenues

**13%**  
Racing Revenues

**49%**  
Support Revenues

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# Our Partners

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## Foundations

Akron Community Foundation  
Akron Destination Marketing Fund  
ASCVB's Partnerships in Motion Destination Development Grant Program  
Betty V. and John M. Jacobson Foundation  
Boggess Memorial Foundation  
Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund  
Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation  
City of Akron  
City of Akron Neighborhood Partnership Program  
Cohen Community Foundation  
FOP Lodge 139  
GAR Foundation  
GAR Fund 2 of Akron Community Foundation  
George Stevens Fund of Akron Community Foundation  
Greater Akron Lodging Council  
John A. McAlonan Fund  
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust, Key Bank, Trustee  
Laura R. and Lucian Q. Moffitt Foundation  
Leadership Akron Class 30 Philanthropy Project  
Lehner Family Foundation  
Lloyd L. and Louis K. Smith Memorial Foundation  
Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation, Inc.  
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation  
PNC Foundation  
R.C. Musson & Katherine M. Musson Charitable Foundation  
Read Family Fund of Akron Community Foundation  
Summit County CDBG Grant Program  
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation

The Maynard Family Foundation  
The Richard M. & Yvonne Hamlin Foundation  
The Sisler McFawn Foundation  
W. Paul Mills and Thora J. Mills Foundation  
Welty Family Foundation

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## Partners

FirstEnergy  
Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems  
Pilot Flying J  
The City of Akron  
Time Warner Cable  
Accenture  
Myers Industries  
Cleveland Clinic Akron General  
SUBWAY®  
Dairy Queen  
GPD Group  
Fallsway Equipment Company  
AAA  
Key Bank  
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP  
Roetzel & Andress  
FirstMerit  
AkroChem  
Swensons  
Jones Group Interiors  
Thomarios Construction  
Harwick Standard  
SC Fastening Systems  
ComDoc  
RadAir Complete Car Care and Tire Centers  
Golden Corral  
Hitchcock Fleming & Associates  
Papa John's  
Park Ford  
Taylor Made Jewelry  
Spaghetti Warehouse  
Akron Beacon Journal  
WBNX-TV  
Malco Industries  
NORKA Beverage Company  
Precision Garage Door  
WhiteSpace Creative

Best Western Plus  
- West Akron Inn & Suites  
Baymont Inn & Suites  
Hampton Inn Akron South  
Hilton Garden Inn Akron  
Holiday Inn Akron West  
Holiday Inn Express Akron South  
Quality Inn & Conference Center  
Radisson Akron/Fairlawn  
Residence Inn  
Akron South/Green  
Kohl's  
AKA Media  
Skycasters  
Presta Products  
Greater Akron Chamber  
AdSource Media  
Fleming's  
Tri City Communication  
Woodland Mulch  
Piedmont Plastics  
Akron Civic Theatre  
Joslyn Manufacturing  
Camping World  
Rubber City Radio Group  
Keep Akron Beautiful  
Marous Brothers Construction  
Bill Liimatainen  
Ohio Valley Scale  
Crain, Langner & Company  
Akron RubberDucks

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## Individual Donors

Alan Brubaker  
Sally Fell  
In honor of Eddie Johnston  
Danielle Kimmell  
Will Looman  
Bill Lowery  
Gregg Mervis  
In honor of Fred Mohler  
Ken Morrow  
Charles Olegar  
Dominic Rizzo  
Carla Sibley  
Kevin Thomas  
Bob Troyer

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# THANK YOU FOUNDATIONS, PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Thank you for your support!

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## SOAP BOX DERBY

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