

Thank You

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2019, we are grateful and humbled by the generous support of Speed For Need's mission to raise awareness and foster inclusion of those with special needs through participation in athletic events.

2019 was a year of marked growth in equipment, events, and impact. We expanded our fleet of racing chairs to nine and we purchased an additional trailer to accommodate multiple events outside of Charlotte. We participated in 38 events with 102 track commanders and countless volunteers. And we had the opportunity to engage and collaborate with diverse groups with shared interests.

Our Track Commanders are at the heart of everything we do. But we could not perform our mission without your financial support and myriad hours of volunteered time. So many people have selflessly contributed to Speed For Need - we cannot thank you enough for enriching the lives of our Track Commanders and their families through participation in athletic events.

Looking forward, we are on firm footing to engage with a diverse special needs community through shared fitness events. We are just beginning to see the different ways Speed For Need can have broader, deeper impact. So if you haven't already, come join us at an upcoming event and ask yourself, Who Pushes Who?

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Young

Co-Founder &
Executive
Director

Will Farr

Co-Founder &
Chief
Financial
Officer

Jon Downie

Director of
Operations

Rick Gambs

Director of
Community
Outreach

Scott Johnson

Director of
Logistics

Mission & Principles

Who Pushes Who?

The mission of Speed for Need is to raise awareness and foster inclusion of those with a special need through participation in fitness events, supported by the men of F3 Nation.

We push Track Commanders (riders with a special need) in customized racing wheelchairs to help them participate in and complete fitness events such as 5ks, 10ks, or marathons - experiences that they would not be able to have on their own.

Track Commanders lead the way in every Speed for Need event. The synergy created between the Track Commanders, drivers, runners, and spectators helps:

- ▶ Encourage and enable inclusion
- ▶ Raise awareness of various special needs and social causes
- ▶ Connect Track Commanders and their families with F3 Nation and the broader community

Our Track Commanders are the reason we exist. They motivate us and others to step up, engage, and be servant leaders.

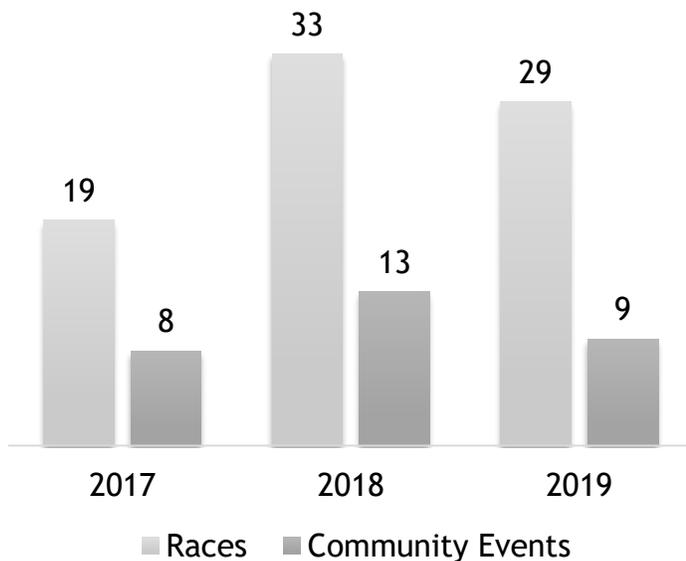
Our Core Principles:

- ▶ Participation in Speed for Need Events are always free of charge to Track Commanders
- ▶ Participation in a Speed for Need Event is available to all those unable to complete a race on their own accord
- ▶ All Track Commanders will be met and fitted in a racing chair by an experienced F3 Nation driver, prior to the event, in order to ensure the highest level of safety
- ▶ The primary driver of the racing chair is a trained, responsible, member of F3 Nation, or has been approved by Speed for Need leadership

Stats

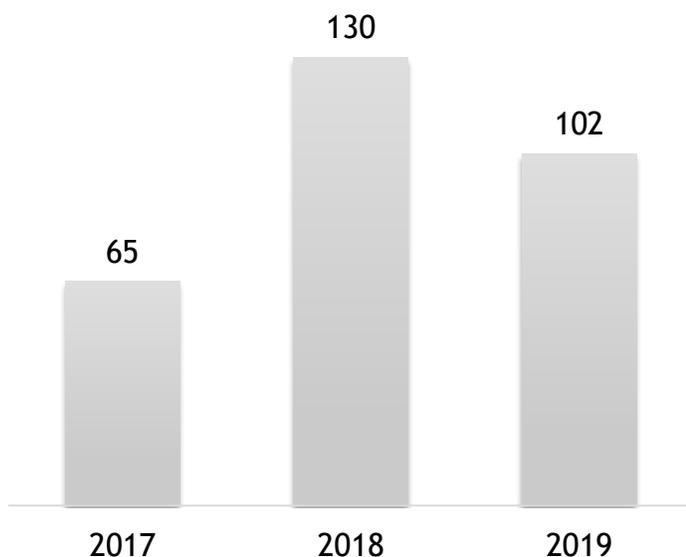
Since our inception in July 2017, Speed For Need has been privileged to run with nearly 300 TCs in 81 Races. We have also led or attended 30 community events. And none of this would be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers!

Races & Community Events



- ▶ We are proud to partner with various types of organizations from other non-profits to running companies to schools and beyond. We love connecting people as we raise awareness and foster inclusion of those with a special need.

Track Commanders



- ▶ SFN seeks to engage with Track Commanders of various ages and abilities.
- ▶ Whatever the special need, we strive to accommodate their desire to participate in athletic events in the spirit of inclusion.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

American 4 Miler - July 4, 2019



Celebrating Speed For Need's two year anniversary in Charlotte with seven veteran Track Commanders

On July 4, 2019 Speed For Need celebrated its two-year anniversary at the Charlotte American 4 Miler. We recognized the generous support of F3 nation and the broader community that has embraced Speed For Need's mission to raise awareness and foster inclusion of those with a special need through participation in fitness events. We also counted our participation in nearly 70 races with more than 250 track commanders riding in a fleet of 9 racing chairs and 2 trailers across 3 states! It has been a privilege to connect with so many inspirational track commanders and families who do not to let impairment define them.

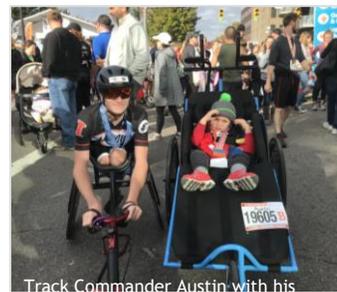
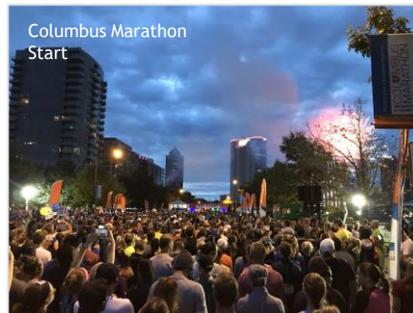
Speed For Need continues to have a unique opportunity to engage with a diverse special needs' community through shared fitness events, and we are just beginning to see the different ways we can have broader, deeper impact.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Columbus, Ohio Fundraiser & Marathon - October 2019

In October, Speed For Need travelled to Columbus, Ohio to attend a fundraiser hosted by Tommy Gallo, chef/owner of Gallo's Kitchen & Bar. We shared our story and our mission to foster inclusion and raise awareness of those with special needs through participation in athletic events, like the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon. That night we met Austin, a kindergartener and cub scout who loves to play sled ice hockey and t-ball and join his dad, Kyle and sister, Claire on runs. Austin's energy is contagious! No doubt living with spina bifida presents its challenges, but Austin and his family have not let disability slow them down!

We were honored to be invited to run with Austin and Kyle in the Columbus half Marathon, our first long-distance trip from Charlotte. As SFN grows and seeks to have broader impact, we have an eye on expansion to locations like Columbus.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

ChristmasTown 5k - December 5, 2019

Seven Track Commanders and the men of F3 Gastonia lit up the streets of McAdenville

Man, this year has flown by. Seems like it was just a few months ago when Speed For Need rocked the Christmas Town 5k. I've been a part of several SFN events, but there's just something special about this one. It's under the lights of the famous Christmas Town spectacle shown every year for well....ever since I can remember. Not is it that but being the season it is and the environment it's held, provides F3 PAX the opportunity to give a gift to those with special needs. That gift isn't just rolling through a town showing the largest Christmas light display around on the coolest wheelchairs ever made, but it's the gift of love, support, and encouragement to those and their families. Millions of children experience and live with some type of special need. These children truly are special. They deserve awareness, attention, and support everyday. This is where Speed For Need steps in. To be able to see the joy, excitement, and hope in these kiddos' eyes is what drives the program.

Leading up to this year's event, Pizza Man had reached out to the region asking for Qs to help lead and organize the run. YHC knew I'd be participating in the run and hadn't heard if anyone had spoken up so I offered. Pizza Man in turn said Dr. Seuss has also offered and that we would plan a co-Q with some guidance and assistance from Pizza himself. Little did I know there was so much to do and organize for such an event. Thanks to Pizza Man for all the preparatory work which left Seuss and I the responsibility of getting our track commanders fitted and buckled in their chairs. We were to make sure our pushers were assisted and of course make sure all have fun.

At around 5:30 pm, we all gather up to lay hands on one another, the track commanders and families for a word prayer for safety and enlightenment during the race. The track commanders were all saying how they were going to win and how we better push them fast as we can push across that line. With a lot of mumblechatter and fellowship, we mosey the group up to the starting line. While waiting for the signal, we all feel a couple rain drops. This rain was supposed to hold off. It's just 25-30 minutes we are asking for. Anyway, the bottom dropped, and it left us asking whether to call it for the track commanders. After speaking with the parents and the kiddos themselves, it was confirmed to proceed with the race. So, here we go, drenched by the rain, but filled by the spirits of these guys in the chairs. As usual, Evan is the talkative one and declares he will never be beaten in a race. He is off almost at a sprint and leaving the rest of us to make up some ground. It wasn't long for Owen, Colton, Megan, Sarah, and Nathan are hot on his heels. Nehemiah, close behind, is settling in on a good pace. The first mile was over just like that and the track commanders were locking in their paces. No need for water at the halfway point for these guys. Let's keep at it. I must admit, out of every 5k run I've ran, this one is the toughest due to the all the hills. This wasn't an issue for our racers though. They plowed right through it like a jog on a flat track. The neighborhood citizens were cheering them on from every house on the track. This was boosting them into that second wind and boom, we are at the home stretch. At this point, I wasn't sure who was leading, but I know everyone of them were winning! As the racers cross the finish line, victory was being proclaimed. Each track commander put it on the line and conquered the mission. Great work guys. Evan, Colton, Nathan, Owen, Sarah, Megan, and Nehemiah were all awarded their Speed For Need medals and the victory party began.

I believe I speak for all of the Gastonia Region PAX who participated in this event when I say, these experiences are a blessing to be a part of. There's nothing more fulfilling than being able to bring joy to the track commanders in these races. Many of the PAX who participate are actual runners. Some are not, but when it comes down to "Who Pushes Who" in a race, I believe the track commanders are the ones pushing. I know they push me and it's why I continue to participate. Thank you to all who came out to run, push, setup, or just hang out.

MW and Dr. Seuss out!

Event Photos



Event Photos



Organizations & Event Leaders

Speed For Need is grateful for partnership and collaboration with many like-minded nonprofit organizations and for the leadership of our event “Qs” who organize and execute our participation in each event, from registration to race. Thank you all!

Partner Organizations

The Susan G Komen Foundation Charlotte

The 24 Foundation

St Jude’s Hospital Charlotte

The Isabella Santos Foundation

Teal Diva

The Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research

Go Jen Go Foundation

Down syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte

Special Olympics of South Carolina

Operation Sweet Tooth

Run For Holland

The Rare and Undiagnosed Network of Charlotte

The Caring Place

YMCA Miracle League

Belmont Police Department

Leo’s Pride

The Exceptional Foundation

Gaston County Family YMCA

The Park Church

F3 Nation

Females in Action (FiA)

Event Qs

FiA Anchors

F3 Borland

F3 Don Ho

F3 Dr Sues

F3 Exit 54

F3 Fire Hazard

F3 Gapper

F3 General

F3 Glass Joe

F3 Gypsy

FiA Hotpants

F3 Hot Wheels

F3 JRR Tolkien

FiA Mainline

F3 Medicine Woman

F3 Nash

F3 Orlando

F3 Pizza Man

F3 Ponytail

F3 Red October

F3 Rubbermaid

F3 Shut-In

F3 Sir Topham Hat

F3 Sister Act

F3 Smokey

F3 Swimmers

F3 Thumb’s Up

F3 Wexler

F3 Whoopi