



# Long Live MC Gala

**SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2025**

*Mitchell, South Dakota*

Presented by



DAKOTA WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY

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# EVENT SCHEDULE

## COCKTAIL HOUR

5:30pm - 7:00pm | *Raffle Ticket Purchasing closes at 6:50pm*

## OPENING KEYNOTE

7:00pm - 7:30pm | *Salad services served at 7:00pm*

## LIVE AUCTION

7:30pm - 7:45pm | *Presented by Jayke Glanzer*

## KEYNOTE CONTINUED

7:45pm - 8:10pm | *Entree services begin at 7:45pm*

## AWARD CEREMONY & CLOSING REMARKS

8:10pm - 8:35pm | *Dance floor opened at 8:35pm*

## AFTER PARTY

8:35pm - 9:30pm | *Goodroad performance & open bar until 9:15pm*

# SPECIAL GUESTS

## KICKIN' BRASS BAND

*Musical Guest*

## TRISTAN TEICHMEIER

*Keynote Speaker*

## PRESIDENT DAN KITTLE

*Keynote Speaker*

## TY HOGLUND

*Keynote Speaker*

## JAYKE GLANZER

*Auctioneer*

## KINDRA DECKER

*Keynote Speaker*

## JASON SPICER

*Keynote Speaker*

## ADAM DEJONG

*Keynote Speaker*

## MASON DECKER

*Keynote Speaker*

## CHRISTINE MAUSZYCKI

*Honorary Award Recipient*

## ROSS CIMPL

*Honorary Award Recipient*

## GOODROAD

*Musical Guest*

# BETTER SOUTH DAKOTA



Our 501(c)(3) was initially formed in August of 2022 as a nonprofit foundation under the name of **Long Live MC**, in memory of **Emmanuel "Manny" Christopher**, who was tragically lost to suicide in January of 2021.

Though initially founded to remember Manny, we felt a responsibility had been given to us to touch as many lives as possible.

Therefore, in December of 2024, after just two years since our inception, Long Live MC made the transition to rename to **Better South Dakota**.



We know that our mission will take work, so we have established **three programs** under our main charitable purpose to help us strive for our goals on a daily basis.

**Counseling Program** - Highlighting our “early intervention” mindset, we aim to address counseling program needs at K-12 educational institutions with a **\$10,000 grant** to our program recipient.

**Scholarship Program** - Providing hope and opportunities are our passions. Our **Emmanuel Christopher Memorial Scholarships** allow us to give back to students to follow their educational dreams.

**Faith Program** - Our team is proud to represent our faith. We follow through with this through **partnerships with churches** and **faith organizations** to help locals in the community and let them know that they are not alone.

# OUR VISION. SOUTH DAKOTA'S FUTURE.



While our mission is to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention in South Dakota, we specifically aim to **identify** and **empower** South Dakota's youth to navigate mental health challenges through **faith** and **education**.

In 2025 alone, we have given back **\$20,857** to the state through counseling awards, scholarships, faith organization partnerships, suicide prevention grants, other supporting non-profits, and community members in need.

Since our original inception as Long Live MC in August of 2022, we have given back a total of **\$38,400** to the state.



Our leadership team and board now consists of pastors, doctors, educators, and business professionals. More importantly, each and every member had a personal connection with Manny, strengthening our passion to enable our state with the best mental health support as possible.

Our vision is a future where all South Dakotans have access to the mental health resources they need, and where our youth feel empowered and supported.

We thank you for being a part of our story, and ask for you to **stay with us** as we continue this journey.



# LONG LIVE MC



What began as a small movement in memory of a friend quickly gained traction in the community of Sioux Falls. After just a few short months, LLMC started **awarding scholarships, hosting mental health seminars, and giving back** to the local area through giveaways and partnerships.

With LLMC now fully transitioned to Better South Dakota, the team has aspirations to **push the limit** to how much good can truly come from such an initial tragedy. With eyes set forward, Better South Dakota now aims to help the entire state while continuing to spread Manny's story.



Manny was born in **Nairobi, Kenya** to Christopher and Blandina Yuyada. The family is originally from South Sudan but relocated to Nairobi as refugees and settled there for a time, before immigrating to the United States in 2000. Sioux Falls, South Dakota is where he grew up and began his life.

He furthered his education at Dakota Wesleyan University where he played football and graduated in 2020. He **shined** as a leader on and off the field. Additionally, he was pursuing a master's degree in Business at Dakota Wesleyan University. He made immediate connections and left a positive impact on all those around him. He was friendly, funny, strong-willed and **fearless to voice his opinions**, whether popular or unpopular.

Manny died of suicide on January 24th of 2021 at just 23 years old.

Manny leaves behind a legacy of competitiveness, a relentless work ethic, a passion for always putting others first, and an energy and joyfulness that are irreplaceable.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> of 2021, Manny was awarded a **posthumous master's degree** from Dakota Wesleyan University.

# OUR TEAM

## Co-Founders



**Denet Christopher**  
*Development Director*



**Tristan Teichmeier**  
*Operations Director*



**Patrick Christopher**  
*Financials Director*

## Board Members



**McKenzie Erickson**  
*Programs Director*



**Nicholas Boanca**  
*Marketing Director*



**Cierra Von Bergen**  
*Creative Strategist*



**Matt Lyons**  
*Project Manager*



**Omar Sharif**  
*Development Strategist*



**Poni Christopher**  
*Faith Program Co-Lead*



**Kindra Decker**  
*Counseling Program  
Lead*



**Brennen Schmitt**  
*Faith Program  
Co-Lead*



**Tyler Van Voorst**  
*Faith Program  
Co-Lead*



**Mason Decker**  
*Scholarship Program  
Lead*

# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Quenton Walls**  
2025 Business

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$2,500*

**Cody Winslow**  
2025 Football

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$2,500*

## Past Award Winners

**Shawn Rogers**  
2024 Business

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$1,000*

**Jaiden Walton**  
2024 Football

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$1,000*

**Graham Sanders**  
2023 Business

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$500*

**Emmanuel Akot**  
2023 Basketball

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$500*

**Adam DeJong**  
2023 Football

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$500*

**Esther Garcia**  
2022 Business

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$500*

**Blaze Lubbers**  
2022 Basketball

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$500*

**Romeon Greve**  
2022 Football

Scholarship Recipient  
*Award Amount: \$500*

# FEATURED STORY

## Team Colleen

Colleen Whealdon-Haught was smart, fit and dedicated to the disciplined lifestyle of an avid cyclist. In May 2005, however, everything changed when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Through treatment, remission, and the return of the disease, Colleen, her husband George, and her friends formed Team Colleen, a nonprofit cycling team that raised over \$60,000 for cancer research.



Her passion to pursue cycling despite her disease was a testament of her grit, fortitude, and will, similar to Manny's. Her efforts even earned the interest of Lance Armstrong, who met with Colleen in the fall of 2009.

On Oct. 4, 2009, Colleen passed away.

We highlight Colleen as our Featured Story to honor the legacy she left.

We thank Varhola and her family for the opportunity to share her story.



# AUCTION ITEMS

## Item #1 - Royal River Package

**Includes:**

- 1 Night Stay at Royal River Casino & Hotel
- \$120 Play Credit
- \$30 Meal Voucher



*May be redeemed for either a 1 King Bed or 2 Queen Bed room.*

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## Item #2 - Adam DeJong Autographed Jersey

**Includes:**

- Signed and Framed Jersey
- Game-Worn
- Detailed with Accolades



## Item #3 - Adrian Peterson Autographed Ball

**Includes:**

- Signed and Cased Football
- Professionally Authenticated
- Adrian Peterson Framed Photo



# AUCTION ITEMS

## Item #4 - Grand Falls Package

**Includes:**

- 1 Night Stay at Grand Falls Casino & Resort
- \$100 Play Credit



*If chosen stay is over \$200, you will be responsible to pay difference upon arrival.  
May be redeemed for either a 1 King Bed or 2 Queen Bed room.*

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## Item #5 - Lululemon Bundle

*Sponsored by The Vault Clothing Co.*

**Includes:**

- Foldable Yoga Mat
- Dual-Pouch Wristlets
- Hair Ties & Hair Clips



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## Item #6 - Jason Spicer Autographed Jersey

**Includes:**

- Signed and Framed Jersey
- Game-Worn
- Detailed with Accolades



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## Item #7 - Ty Hoglund Autographed Jersey

**Includes:**

- Signed and Framed Jersey
- Game-Worn
- Detailed with Accolades



# TABLE SPONSORS



# PARTNERS & SPONSORS



ETHAN WIESE



CIMPL COUNSELING LLC



Supamill



The Knipe  
Family

The Olivera  
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**South Dakota**  
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