

PACER PARTNERS

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Connecting families, friends,
donors, and staff of PACER



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There are so many exciting aspects of PACER's Annual Benefit — the uplifting stories, headline performers, and the amazing Live Auction, for example — but none more than the legendary Silent Auction. With more than 1,000 unique items on display, and a room full of enthusiastic bidders, there is nothing quite like it. For that, attendees can thank countless dedicated volunteers, including Nancy Kaysen.

“People love the quality of the items and how they are displayed, and we are very proud of what we offer,” said Nancy, who has been part of the Silent Auction committee for several years. “The room is so well organized and beautifully prepared. People love it!”

Although there is plenty of hard work involved, the committee enjoys the camaraderie that goes along with it. The 2015 Silent Auction Co-chairs were Lee Hoffman, Marilyn Lipschultz, Don McNeil, Jennifer Rowland, Raleigh Segal, and Rishia Zimmermann. “We have so much fun and we laugh so hard at times,” Nancy said. “The people are so genuine, and everybody is here for the same reason — to help kids be the best they can be.”

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT PACER'S Silent Auction shines thanks to special volunteers



Nancy Kaysen (second from left) with Benefit Co-chairs Mary Holmes, Jessica Broyles, Noelle Sheehan, and Colleen McGough Wood at PACER's 2015 Benefit.

Volunteer Spotlight continued on page 2

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Many individuals, companies, sports teams, and celebrities donate to the auction year after year, thanks in no small part to the enthusiasm and expertise of volunteers. “I just can’t say enough about the work Nancy has done over the years along with other members of the Silent Auction committee,” said PACER’s Executive Director Paula Goldberg. “She is always so positive and full of energy!”

Nancy and her husband David first connected with PACER when their two boys were struggling in school. Nancy attended PACER workshops to learn about special education and how to advocate for her children. Nancy volunteered at school, eventually launching a college and career resource center there while still working as a dental hygienist.

“It is overwhelming as a mother to watch your children struggle, but PACER offers a great support system,” Nancy said. “Because of PACER, I knew everything I needed to know to ensure that my kids received the education they needed. Other parents started asking me for help and I told them all the same thing: Call PACER!”

The boys are now successful men in their 30s. Sean owns a thriving production design company in Los Angeles. Gavin is a celebrity chef who has the nationally-acclaimed restaurant ‘Spoon and Stable’ in Minneapolis



Nancy Kaysen and her husband David.

where you’ll find a special drink on the cocktail menu, ‘Nancy’s Cosmo.’ “They have one ready for me whenever I come in,” Nancy said with a laugh.

Preparations are underway for PACER’S 34th Annual Benefit on April 30, 2016 in Minneapolis, and attendees can count on another marvelous Silent Auction. “It takes a tremendous amount of work for many months to ensure that the Silent Auction at the Benefit is fabulous,” Paula said, “and we could not do it without people like Nancy Kaysen.”

THANK YOU!

We are so excited about PACER’s Annual Benefit coming up on April 30 at the Minneapolis Convention Center! We would like to thank everyone who helps to make the Benefit a huge success, from the volunteers and silent auction donors to our many corporate sponsors. With your help, PACER is able to make a positive difference in the lives of children with disabilities and children who have been bullied. You may order tickets online at PACER.org/benefit or call (952) 838-9000. Thank you for being a Champion for Children. We look forward to seeing you there!

Paula Goldberg, PACER’s Executive Director

SPRING 2016

PACER’s Annual Benefit featuring Idina Menzel, April 30

Don’t miss this spectacular event featuring Tony Award-winning icon Idina Menzel! Tickets to the Benefit include the performance, as well as silent and live auctions. Visit PACER.org/benefit to purchase your tickets today.

SUMMER 2016

EX.I.T.E. Camp for Girls, August 2016

Middle school girls with disabilities can begin applying in January 2016 for this fun science and technology camp at PACER Center. Visit PACER.org/stc for more information.

The 11th Annual National PACER Symposium About Children & Young Adults with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Aug. 9

The 2016 event will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Aug. 9. Details will be available soon at PACER.org/symposium.

FALL 2016

PACER’s Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying, Oct. 1

This family fun event kicks off National Bullying Prevention Month in October. More details will be available in 2016 at PACER.org/bullying.

Unity Day, Oct. 19

On Unity Day, schools, communities, and individuals across the world will wear orange in a giant show of support for bullying prevention. To learn more, visit PACER.org/bullying.

Generous donations made to PACER in honor of a friend or loved one who has passed away can make a world of difference for children and families. In the case of the late David Goldberg, there has been an outpouring of support for PACER through the David B. Goldberg Endowment Fund.

David passed away suddenly on May 1, 2015 while vacationing in Mexico. He was the son of PACER Center co-founder and Executive Director Paula Goldberg and the husband of Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook. “David was an amazing person,” Paula said, “but it has been overwhelming to see the support of his friends and colleagues and how he helped so many people.”

David was a highly successful entrepreneur for several innovative, web-based companies, and was a respected and beloved leader in Silicon Valley, California. He cared passionately about people and ideas and had an amazing ability to relate to individuals from all walks of life. The memorials in his honor speak to the high regard in which he was held.

Planning for named endowments

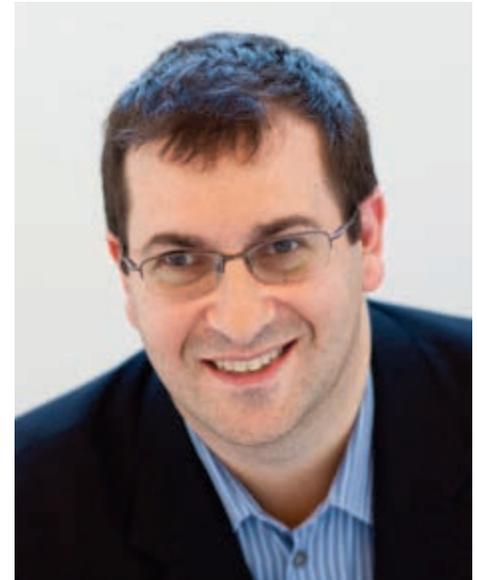
Many long-time PACER supporters have also created named endowment funds. For more than 30 years, Derm Rowland was a loyal PACER supporter, and his wisdom and generosity played a key role in the organization’s success. Before he passed away in the fall of 2012, Derm and his wife Helen made provisions in their will for PACER to receive a gift from the proceeds of their estate.

When Derm died, the Rowland family requested that PACER receive memorial contributions in his honor. His legion of friends and family knew of Derm’s passion for PACER and made generous gifts on his behalf to the Derm Rowland Endowment Fund.

In Memoriam: Honoring loved ones through a gift to PACER



Derm Rowland



David Goldberg

Many ways to support PACER

There are a variety of different ways to support PACER financially through planned giving. By designating PACER in one’s will, or as a beneficiary of retirement plan assets or insurance policies, individuals can ensure that PACER’s good work continues long-term. “When people name PACER in their estate plan, or create a named endowment in honor of a loved one, they are expressing what is important to them,” said Lisa Lane, PACER’s director of development. “Every gift is crucial so that children and families can continue to receive much-needed assistance at no cost.”

Memorials to the David B. Goldberg Endowment Fund or the Derm Rowland Endowment Fund may be sent to 8161 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis, MN, 55437. These funds help PACER continue to serve children with disabilities and their families and children who have been bullied. For more information on giving to PACER, please contact Lisa Lane or Paula Goldberg at (952) 838-9000.

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Month

Schools and communities worldwide unite together against bullying

It was a sea of orange all October as people around the world celebrated PACER's National Bullying Prevention Month. From New York and California to New Zealand and Taiwan, more schools, communities, and corporations than ever before were together against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.

"We are overwhelmed by how much the National Bullying Prevention Month has grown since PACER initiated it in 2006," said Paula Goldberg, PACER's executive director. "We are proud to be leaders in changing the culture so that bullying is no longer considered an accepted childhood rite of passage."

Disney Interactive kicked off National Bullying Prevention Month on Oct. 1 with the release of its public service announcement, "You are Braver, Stronger and Smarter Than You Think" in support of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center. The inspiring two-minute video has been seen by 2.4 million viewers.

On Oct. 20, YouTube sensation Bethany Mota visited PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center in Minneapolis, Minn. Bethany, who has 10 million YouTube subscribers, shared her personal story with local media of overcoming bullying. That evening, she spoke to hundreds of fans at Together Against Bullying Day at the Mall of America, an event co-sponsored by PACER Center, the Minnesota Vikings, HopeLine from Verizon, and Mall of America.

On Unity Day, Oct. 21, Disney Interactive employees in the United States wore orange and held events to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. TLC



YouTube sensation Bethany Mota speaks to her fans about bullying prevention at Together Against Bullying Day at the Mall of America.

Network turned its logo orange and TLC talent, including Stacy London and Monte, wore orange and posted positive messages on social media. Other Unity Day highlights include:

- Nearly 9,000 Unity Day posters were sent to schools and organizations around the country.
- CustomInk sold more than 4,000 T-shirts through its 5th annual Be Good to Each Other campaign.
- A dentist's office in Minnesota offered orange rubber bands for braces all month long.
- A school in Illinois handed out orange "kudos" to kids caught doing random acts of kindness.
- An entire community in Colorado placed orange ribbons on every tree.
- A school in Wisconsin hosted a unity football game with a school in their conference.
- Students at a school in Maryland wore orange moustaches to show they are against bullying.



Viktor the Viking high-fives his enthusiastic fans at Together Against Bullying Day at the Mall of America.



Hundreds came to PACER's sixth annual Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying at Mt. Normandale Lake Park in Bloomington, Minn. on October 3.

TAG You're It! Join Together Against Bullying™, Donate, and TAG it forward!

Together Against Bullying™ is a campaign for PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, inspired by Carrot Top. Donate, receive stickers to TAG your friends, and share on social media. Your support means one less student being bullied, one more person speaking out, or one more kid knowing that he or she isn't alone!

Participating in TAG is easy:

1. Go to: TogetherAgainst.org
2. Make a donation of any size and receive virtual and real stickers.
3. TAG friends, family, and coworkers and share on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, using the hashtags #TogetherAgainst and #TagItForward.
4. Visit PACER.org/Bullying to learn what you can do in your community.



"Girl Meets World" actress Sabrina Carpenter TAGs Ella Goldberg at the opening of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center office in California.

PACER opens California bullying prevention office

When PACER opened its new branch office of the National Bullying Prevention Center in Los Angeles this fall, it did so with a splash worthy of Hollywood's bright lights. More than 200 guests were on hand Sept. 26 for outstanding entertainment and inspirational stories, and to learn more about PACER's bullying prevention programs.

"It was wonderful to see so many people come to support PACER and welcome us to the community," said Executive Director Paula Goldberg. "We are grateful to Michael and Hayley Miller for hosting the event at their beautiful home in Bel Air, and we're so excited about the work that has begun in California."

The program was emceed by Miss America Kira Kazantsev. It included musical performances by Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Peter Dinklage, actress and singer Jean Louisa Kelly ("Mr. Holland's Opus"), and 16-year-old Disney Channel star Sabrina Carpenter ("Girl Meets World"). UCLA theater student Erin Barlow shared her compelling bullying story and video. YouTube sensation Bethany Mota spoke about her outreach efforts in schools and online where she has nearly 10 million teen followers.

"Erin and Bethany have very powerful stories to tell and they are doing so much to help others who have been bullied," said Julie Hertzog, director of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center. "The guests were clearly moved by what they heard, and by the work that PACER is doing to help children and teens."

Among the guests was Jimmy Pitaro, Co-Chairman of Disney Consumer Products and Interactive Media



Supermodel and entertainment personality Khadija Neumann and her daughter with Jodie Resnick from Disney Interactive and Paula Goldberg, PACER's executive director.

and President of Disney Interactive, which has been a wonderful partner with PACER in its bullying prevention and children's mental health initiatives. Movie producers Chris Moore ("Good Will Hunting," "American Pie") and Jenno Topping ("Spy," "The Heat," "Charlie's Angels") were also there, along with Bobby Shriver, a social activist. Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Dan Wilson, former lead singer of the band Semisonic who now writes and produces hits with Adele, Taylor Swift, Pink and many others, was also on hand.

PACER has begun serving the schools and communities of Los Angeles with programming and assistance and will continue to expand its reach. "People have been encouraging us to do more on the West Coast," Goldberg said. "We are very excited about the possibilities."

For more information on PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, please visit PACER.org/bullying or call (952) 838-9000.

When Jim and Linda Bendt started Pique Travel Design of Excelsior, Minn., three years ago, an important component of their business was sharing their love of travel with others through charitable giving. That quest led them to PACER Center. “We know others who have benefited from PACER’s services, and as parents ourselves, we feel very strongly about PACER’s mission,” said Linda. “We feel there is a real synergy between our organizations.”

The Bendts worked closely with PACER’s Executive Director Paula Goldberg and Liz Brown of the Benefit planning committee to design a campaign that would be accessible to families, while providing substantial support to PACER’s programs for children.

Every time a PACER supporter takes advantage of Pique’s unique approach to travel planning and books a trip (7+ days at a 4-star experience or better) and mentions PACER, the company will donate \$100 to bring PACER Center’s KIDS AGAINST BULLYING® puppet show to a school or preschool in the Twin Cities. “We hope to generate funds for PACER all year long through this special promotion,” said Linda. “Whether someone is booking a trip to Florida or Italy, they can make a difference.”

Additionally, Pique generously donated a 7-night luxury rainforest and reef package for two in Belize, which was auctioned off during PACER’s 33rd Annual Benefit. “This year’s raffle was the most successful to date,” said Paula. “Jim and Linda are amazing partners and we are very grateful for their generosity.”

Linda says working with PACER has been an incredible experience. “We love what PACER stands for,” she said.

A travel agency with an important mission



Every time a PACER supporter takes advantage of Pique’s unique approach to travel planning and books a trip (7+ days at a 4-star experience or better) and mentions PACER, the company will donate \$100 to bring a PACER puppet show to a school or preschool in the Twin Cities.

“We’re hoping that it’s a mutually beneficial relationship for many years to come.”

To learn more about Pique’s generous support of PACER, e-mail JimB@PiqueTravel.com or call (612) 801-1332.

Be a Champion for Children: Donate to PACER Center and PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center

With your support, we can continue to expand our important services for parents of children with disabilities and our bullying prevention resources for all children and young adults.

Make a donation at PACER.org or call (952) 838-9000.



Giving Thanks for PACER

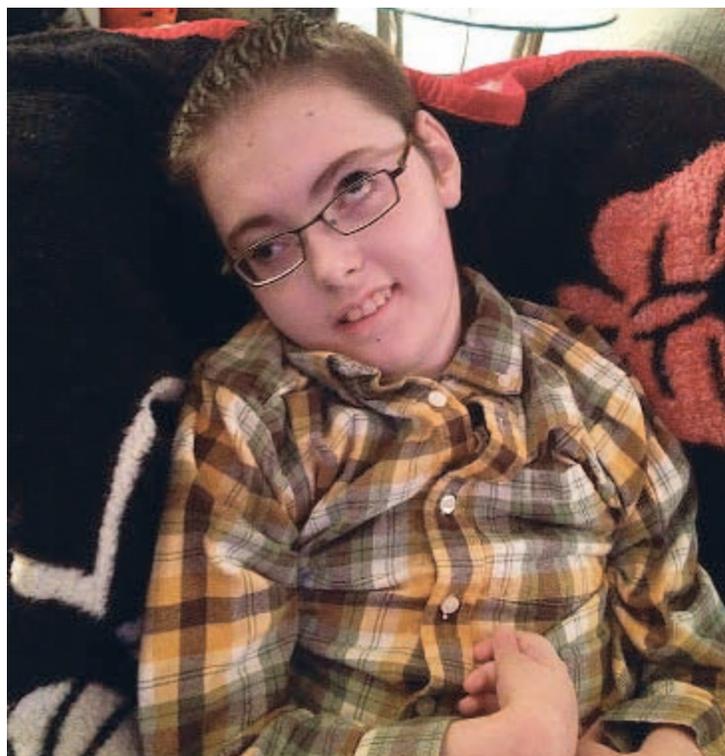
Ask Colleen McGough Wood about her 13-year-old grandson Jake and her face lights up with pride and joy. “He’s an amazing boy who loves to bike, swim, and snow ski. His favorite food is prime rib,” she said.

While Jake sounds like a typical teenager, his life is truly extraordinary. Early in her pregnancy, Colleen’s daughter had a uterine stroke, which caused Jake to have two rare birth defects of the brain — schizencephaly and septo-optic dysplasia. Doctors cautioned the family that Jake may not survive, and if he did, he would face severe challenges. However, with lots of love, faith, and support from PACER Center, today Jake is surpassing every expectation doctors had for him. “He’s our little miracle,” said Colleen.

Coming to terms with Jake’s disabilities and seizures was not easy for the family. They turned to a trusted doctor for advice and he directed them to PACER Center.

Colleen was impressed by all of the services PACER offered. “From advocacy to assistive technology consultations, PACER has opened up so many doors for Jake,” said Colleen. “I’m very grateful our doctor told us about this amazing organization.”

To thank the doctor for all he did for their family, Colleen invited him to the 2002 PACER Annual Benefit featuring the legendary singer Aretha Franklin. Colleen enjoyed the entertainment and bid on several items in the silent auction. Two days after the event, PACER’s Executive Director Paula Goldberg called Colleen to ask if she’d be interested in volunteering. “It was a no-brainer,” said Colleen. “I’ve been a Benefit Committee co-chair ever since.”



Colleen McGough Wood’s grandson Jake.

For 13 years, Colleen has selflessly given of her time and energy to help plan PACER’s Annual Benefit, which takes months of hard work. Colleen is quick to dismiss her contributions and says she’s the lucky one. “I’m on the receiving end of a lot of love and support, and I get more than I give back to PACER,” she said. “You’re not going to find better people than the PACER volunteers and staff. They are amazing.”

Colleen’s family continues to rely on PACER’s services for Jake. Two years ago, Colleen brought Jake to PACER’s Simon Technology Center (STC)

to see if he could communicate using a simple switch. Working with an assistive technology specialist, Jake learned how to make choices and speak in short phrases using a switch that he operates by moving his head. “PACER opened up another whole new world for Jake,” said Colleen. “I’m part of one of the real families that benefits from PACER’s services and I’m so grateful that I have the opportunity to give back.”

“PACER is such a big blessing to families like mine.”

-Colleen McGough Wood



EX.I.T.E. Campers explore science, technology, engineering, and math

Nearly 30 middle school girls with disabilities discovered just how much fun science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) can really be at the 13th Annual Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering (EX.I.T.E.) Camp this past summer at PACER Center. Amazing volunteers from Accenture, IBM, Green Girls Robotics, 3M, Medtronic and Target, along with special guests including KARE 11 meteorologist Belinda Jensen, and sponsors Xcel Energy Minnesota, Boston Scientific, Donaldson Company and ECMC, made this year's camp an incredible experience for everyone.

**Learn more
about the Simon
Technology
Center at
PACER.org/STC**



Simon Technology Center Tech Expo celebrates the superhero in everyone

Heroes big and small enjoyed this year's Simon Technology Center (STC) Tech Expo and Family Fun Day that celebrated the hero in us all! The event featured opportunities for families to try the latest assistive technology, enjoy a musical performance by ROCK BAND from Laura Baker Services Association, tie-dye shirts, blow giant bubbles using technology, enjoy wood-fired pizza courtesy of Thyme to Entertain, and more. This day was made possible by many fantastic volunteers and vendors, including Cadan Assistive Technologies, MN STAR Program, BlueSky Designs, Inc., Busy Buddies, Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, Switched Toys, State Services for the Blind, University of Minnesota MnDRIVE, Triumph Technologies, and the Brain Balance Center.

PACER's Raise a Glass event brews up support for children

The spirit of giving was strong at “Raise a Glass – A Toast to PACER” on November 20. Attendees were treated to samples from the best local brewers and winemakers in Minnesota, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music, and the satisfaction that comes from helping children.

The annual event, supported by the Friends of PACER, was organized by a group of young professionals committed to supporting PACER's programs for children and families. Proceeds raised this year will support PACER's Simon Technology Center, which works to make assistive technology more accessible to children and young adults with disabilities; and PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, which actively leads social change so that bullying is no longer considered an accepted childhood rite of passage.



Far left: Chris Mortenson, Nathalie Mortenson, PACER's executive director Paula Goldberg, Raleigh Segal, and Jon Segal.
Left: Jonathan Fogel shows off the prize he won at the event.



PACER's Young Professionals Advisory Board members (back row, from left) Rachel Kruzel, Alex Levin, co-chair Ben Schless, co-chair Robert Short, Madison Knapp, John Samec, and Ben Saxon; (front row) Jackie Saffert, Jenna Hanson, and co-chair Ashley Speltz. Not pictured: Danny Goldfarb, Joseph Goldfarb, Raleigh Miller, Molly Simon, and Rick Strobel

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Tin Whiskers
Insight Brewing
Milk & Honey Ciders
The Freehouse
NorthGate Brewing

Nordstrom Opening Gala raises funds for PACER Center

It was a night of fashion, food, and fun as Nordstrom celebrated the opening of its newest Minneapolis-area store in Ridgedale Mall this past September. The sold-out gala raised funds to support PACER's Inspiring Opportunities project for children with mental health and emotional or behavioral disorders.

Guests were treated to cocktails, gourmet delights, desserts, live entertainment, and presentations of men's and women's fashion throughout the evening. They also had the opportunity to shop the 140,000 square-foot store before the official opening.

"We are so grateful to Nordstrom for their generosity," said Paula Goldberg, PACER's executive director. "Their substantial gift will enable us to help serve many more children with mental health needs and their families."



Don McNeil, Julie McNeil, Paula Golberg, Rishia Zimmern, and Andrew Zimmern



Back (L to R): Blake Nordstrom, Erik Nordstrom, Alan Page, Jamie Nordstrom; Front: Scott Gage, Paula Goldberg, Diane Sims Page

Shop Amazon to support PACER!

Are you buying gifts from Amazon this holiday season? Begin your shopping trip at smile.amazon.com and you will be supporting PACER Center with every purchase!

AmazonSmile is a wonderful charitable program that lets you donate a portion of the cost of your purchase to PACER. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know — same products, same prices, same service — but with a generous twist. It's quick, it's easy, and it's a

great way to support children and families this holiday season and beyond. When you visit smile.amazon.com for the first time, you will be asked to select a charity. Simply pick PACER Center and every time you log in, your eligible purchases will result in a donation!

Be sure to bookmark the website smile.amazon.com the first time you shop so you'll have it handy all year long.

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Partners Editor Angela Ardolf | *Partners Contributing Writer* Grant McGinnis | *Masthead Design/Layout* Jenna Hanson



Give the gift of ‘Frozen’ this holiday season!

Give a very special gift this holiday season — tickets to see Idina Menzel live at PACER’s 34th Annual Benefit! The voice behind Elsa in Disney’s global box office smash *Frozen*, and powering the multiplatinum Oscar-winning hit “Let it Go” will perform live in Minneapolis. The Tony Award-winning star of *Wicked*, *Rent*, *Glee*, and *If/Then* will headline Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Reserve your tickets today by calling (952) 838-9000.

**PACER’s Annual Benefit, featuring Idina Menzel
Saturday, April 30, 2016 | Minneapolis Convention Center**

Silent Auction | 6 p.m.
Live Auction, Program & Performance | 8 p.m.
Patron Party | Following the Performance

Performance will be ASL interpreted.

Tickets on sale now! | PACER.org or (952) 838-9000