



March 25, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**SPECIAL OLYMPICS D.C. ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Washington, D.C. – The Board of Directors of Special Olympics D.C. announces the appointment of Mr. Kraig Makohus as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization.

Makohus comes to Special Olympics D.C. with more than 20 years experience working with individuals with intellectual disabilities to improve their quality of life and opportunities through work in the areas of residential, vocational, employment and recreational services, including leadership positions with Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania.

Most recently, Makohus spent the last five years with Special Olympics Pennsylvania, where he was charged with building and leading their efforts in Western Pennsylvania, with a focus in the Greater Pittsburgh market. This market, though rich in Special Olympics programming, had little visibility or fundraising presence. Makohus was instrumental in leading tremendous growth through the development of an active Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics committee, the creation of highly visible fundraising events and strategies, and cultivating and securing corporate partnership, raising nearly \$2,000,000 during this period. He was also responsible for Strategic Partnerships for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, which included government affairs work and the development and implementation of a four-year statewide growth strategy focused on school-based Special Olympics Unified Sports.

Special Olympics D.C. Board Chair Steve Saxon said “On behalf of the entire Special Olympics D.C. Board of Directors, we are very pleased that Kraig has agreed to join our movement to empower people with intellectual disabilities through sports and Special Olympics programming. Kraig brings a unique blend of experience, fundraising capability and devotion to the needs of our athletes that is quite impressive.”

Kraig holds an MBA from Waynesburg University and a BA in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

About Special Olympics D.C.

Special Olympics D.C. provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. Founded in 1971, Special Olympics D.C. currently serves nearly 1,600 athletes and fights inactivity, intolerance and injustice through its work in health, education, and inclusive sports programming. Learn more at www.specialolympicsdc.org and follow on Twitter at @ SpecOlympics_DC and Facebook at facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsDC.

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