



2014

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us as our community gathers to celebrate unity, fitness, the joy of sports, and the strength of the human spirit. These Games are a celebration of a journey for the athletes, a journey that has prepared them for their sport and for them to achieve their personal best. For far too long, people with intellectual disabilities have faced inactivity, intolerance, and injustice. These Games are more than a sports competition; they are a moment in time that shows society that people with intellectual disabilities have talents and gifts that should be celebrated each and every day. It is a time where we acknowledge that through Special Olympics, achieving our own personal best is true success. These Games are another opportunity for the athletes to declare, "I am a champion who will be included!"

Every day around the world, we create opportunities of acceptance and inclusion through our sports, health, education and community building programs. We strive to build communities full of joy and wellness, instilling in young people the benefits of playing unified – uniting athletes with and without intellectual disabilities as teammates. Today and throughout these Games, enjoy the moments of accomplishment, the moments of sheer play, but also consider how you can create opportunities of accomplishment every day for our athletes, how you can stretch to achieve your personal best.

These Games will have a thousand powerful, life-changing moments. I encourage you to relish your moments of inspiration, of community, and of joy, and share your favorites with your friends and family, so even more people can learn about the power of Special Olympics. Snap some photos and share them on your Facebook, Instagram, or other social media outlet. We would also love to hear from you directly. Share your most powerful Special Olympics story on our website: www.specialolympics.org/share.

Each and every one of you can be a champion for acceptance and inclusion. Thank you for your support, and let the Games begin.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Janet Froetscher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janet" being more prominent than the last name "Froetscher".

Janet Froetscher
Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Inc.