



May 2012

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the global Special Olympics family, thank you for being a fan of our athletes!

You are here today at these Games as an athlete, family member, volunteer, Board, staff, coach, official, or fan. Your role is vital for our movement as you are helping to transform attitudes, create accepting communities, and empower others to share in the amazing experience of Special Olympics.

Together, our movement believes in creating a world where every person, regardless of ability, is accepted and welcomed, and where every individual contributes to the strength and vibrancy of the whole. Sports is a universal language which unites people on and off the playing field, and its lessons are relevant to all of us – families, youth, educators, medical professionals, and governments leaders. As millions of individuals are touched by the Special Olympics movement, traditional barriers of race, ethnicity, education level, social status, religion, and economic background disappear and the human race as a whole prevails.

Your continuing support and participation in Special Olympics is vital for us to make positive change in the world through sport. The extraordinary moments of accomplishment that will take place at these Games are only possible because of our family of devoted fans, for whom we are enormously grateful.

As you enjoy the amazing experience of Special Olympics for the next few days, I encourage every one of you to take your story – your moments of excitement, courage, inspiration, and acceptance – and share them with every person you meet.

Good luck athletes, and let the Games begin!

Best Wishes,

Timothy P. Shriver, Ph.D.
Chairman & CEO