



**Special
Olympics**

Annual Report



*“Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt.”*

Special Olympics Athlete Oath

In 2006, Special Olympics not only continued the impetus of the successful five-year growth campaign to increase the number of athletes to 2.5 million, but also gained momentum in enhancing the quality of athlete experience. Special Olympics was the only sports organization in the world to hold the number and magnitude of global sporting events that it did in 2006, including six major regional competitions—a first in Special Olympics history. That is in addition to the more than 21, 000 competitions around the world that are held each year.

Special Olympics can play an important role in everyone's life. Through sports, Special Olympics athletes change people's perception of their abilities. And when communities interact with athletes, stereotypes of people with intellectual disabilities give way to acceptance and positive attitudes. Changing attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities is a top priority for Special Olympics.

The Mission

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities, giving them ongoing 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.





Extending the Reach of the Movement

Day in and day out, Special Olympics strives to reach greater numbers of people with intellectual disabilities with its quality sports programs and other initiatives. During 2006, the number of athletes in the Special Olympics movement grew 12 percent to reach 2.5 million. The movement's growth during this period can be attributed largely to gains made in Asia Pacific (India) and East Asia (China), while regions with more mature Programs (North America and Europe/Eurasia) remained, overall, relatively flat. The Latin America, Africa and Middle East/North Africa regions experienced moderate growth and increased by 18 percent, 10 percent and 4 percent respectively.

Programs outside North America are contributing more and more to the movement's athlete base. Overall, 44 percent of Special Olympics' athletes come from the Asian countries represented by the East Asia region (26 percent) and the Asia Pacific region (18 percent). North America now represents only 21 percent of the athlete total.

In November 2006, Special Olympics New York announced the official launch of the New York City Urban Initiative. The initiative is the first step in Special Olympics' overall Urban Strategy to create model urban programs that unite government leaders, corporate leaders, entertainers, the cultural communities and athletes to bring change through Special Olympics.

2004-2006 Athlete Growth by Region

Regions	Total Athletes 2004	Total Athletes 2005	Total Athletes 2006	Variance	Percent Variance	Regional Distribution
Africa	32,364	74,449	81,884	7,435	10%	3%
Asia Pacific	163,343	308,347	467,128	158,781	51%	18%
East Asia	424,278	580,399	660,014	79,615	14%	26%
Europe/Eurasia	358,363	426,919	426,063	(856)	0%	17%
Latin America	141,164	206,673	243,319	36,646	18%	10%
MENA	71,073	107,447	111,424	3,977	4%	4%
North America	547,800	552,499	544,581	(7,918)	-1%	21%
Total	1,738,385	2,256,733	2,534,413	277,680	12%	100%



Improving Access to Health Care for People with Intellectual Disabilities

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® initiative continues to grow. Healthy Athletes' objective is to improve athletes' ability to train and compete in Special Olympics, which in turn improves their overall health, fitness and well-being. Volunteer health care professionals and students offer athletes free medical screenings in seven different disciplines in a fun, welcoming environment at Special Olympics competitions. In 2006, volunteers conducted 600 Healthy Athletes screening events, with nearly 135,000 athletes receiving at least one screening.

The MedFest® program, now in its third year, also continued to expand. This program serves persons with intellectual disability who have not been able to participate in sports training and competition through Special Olympics. They are provided a free pre-participation physical examination by volunteer doctors. More than 20 MedFests were held in 2006, including U.S. urban areas and the Africa, Latin America and Asia Pacific regions. These events accounted for more than 15,000 new athletes enrolled in Special Olympics worldwide.

The new Sports Health Improvement Program (SHIP) was introduced in 2006. This initiative is being piloted through generous support of a New York State Health Department grant. The concept incorporates medical screening (MedFest), physical therapy assessment (FUNfitness), health education in nutrition, fitness and other wellness activities (Health Promotion and sports skills assessment).

Special Olympics also initiated a Cardiac Assessment Study with the Living Heart Foundation which will conduct cardiac screening events to detect undiagnosed "silent" heart disease. Over a two-year period, Special Olympics will accumulate clinical information to assist in developing policies and designing programs to address sports-related risk factors for Special Olympics athletes. Such information does not currently exist.

Getting an Early Start through the Young Athletes Program



In 2006, the two-year pilot of Special Olympics' Young Athletes™ program was evaluated. The Young Athletes program, designed for children between the ages of 2-7 to promote motor and social development in the context of sports activities, was implemented in nine U.S. states and 11 countries outside the United States, with 2,000 children. Preliminary findings show the extraordinary promise of Young Athletes, which will be expanded in 2007.

Children in the Young Athletes program improved in all areas of development:

- 75% of teachers reported improvement in children's motor skills
- 71% of teachers reported improvement in children's cognitive skills
- 65% of teachers reported improvement in children's social/emotional skills
- 62% of teachers reported improvement in children's communication skills
- 69% of teachers reported improvement in children's adaptive behavior
- Families in the Young Athletes program (as reported by 20 parents) showed positive changes in family dynamics.

With the Young Athletes program, Special Olympics has a global opportunity to engage children with intellectual disabilities before they're eligible for competition (8 years of age) through developmentally appropriate play activities; welcome family members of children with intellectual disabilities to the Special Olympics network of support; and raise awareness about the abilities of children with intellectual disabilities through inclusive peer participation, demonstrations and other events.



Worldwide Competition

Special Olympics believes that sports training and competition not only empowers people with intellectual disabilities, but also drives increased public awareness of the abilities of persons with intellectual disabilities and growth of the Special Olympics movement.

In 2006, Special Olympics held regional competitions around the world with the support of community, corporate and government leaders. These Regional Games provided unique opportunities to advance society's understanding of athletes' abilities and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities. In addition to sports competition, the Games offered free health screenings to athletes through Special Olympics Healthy Athletes; Family Forums to share ideas and resources; Youth Summits to broaden understanding between young people with and without intellectual disabilities; symposia to share the latest research into attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities; and much more.

The successful inaugural **USA National Games** held in Ames, Iowa, with more than 3,000 athletes from all 50 U.S. states, began a new Special Olympics tradition in North America. In addition to competition in 13 sports, the USA National Games included the National Research Symposium on Intellectual Disabilities, highlighting subjects ranging from health and fitness to attitude change and the impact of the Special Olympics movement. With the theme of "Compete, Empower, Unite," participants in the discussions included Special Olympics Program leaders, policymakers, health care practitioners, Special Olympics athletes, and academic experts in public health, education and employment. The first USA Games were an extraordinary example of how Games can be leveraged to catapult the movement to new levels of awareness and develop and solidify strategic relationships.



Held in Rome, Italy, the **European Youth Games** marked the first Special Olympics event focused on young people between the ages of 12 and 21. The aim of the Youth Games was to encourage young people with and without intellectual disabilities to break down barriers and forge new friendships to help build a more welcoming and inclusive society. The Games were the largest event for young people with intellectual disabilities in Europe in 2006, with more than 1,400 Special Olympics athletes between the ages of 12-21 from all 57 national Programs in the Europe/Eurasia region competing. The event reflected the fact that the theme of promoting full integration of young people with and without intellectual disabilities is receiving high priority across Europe. The Youth Games achieved a new level of awareness with policymakers in Europe of the contribution Special Olympics can make toward a society of acceptance and equal opportunity for young people with intellectual disabilities.



The first **Latin America Regional Games** were held in El Salvador, with 600 athletes from 17 countries participating. The Games' legacy included bringing together government officials and business and community leaders to develop a specific long-term strategy for ensuring that every citizen with intellectual disabilities across El Salvador will have access to a local Special Olympics Program. Elías Antonio Saca, President of El Salvador, Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver signed a declaration establishing a shared commitment to improve the lives of the people of El Salvador with intellectual disabilities through the promotion of the Special Olympics movement (below left.) With the full support of the President and first Lady of the Republic, Special Olympics El Salvador is taking a leadership role to help change attitudes and promote acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.

The first **Special Olympics International Cricket Cup** was held in Mumbai, India, marking the official launch of cricket as an official sport for Special Olympics. Ten male, three female, and two Unified Sports® teams competed. The Cricket Cup was kicked off with a historic Law Enforcement Torch Run, in which Wasim Akram, one of Pakistan's all-time greatest cricket players, carried the torch across Pakistan and handed it to Indian actor and Special Olympics ambassador Akshay Kumar. The exchange took place at the tightly secured Wagah border, the first time authorities have allowed such a high-profile event to take place on the spot which has been the scene of conflict between the two countries. Hundreds of media from both Pakistan and India turned up for this Special Olympics moment, which reflected the movement's spirit of acceptance and community.

In the United Arab Emirates, nearly 1,000 athletes from 20 countries competed in 10 different sports at the **5th Middle East/North Africa Regional Games** under the patronage of his highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. Before the Games began, Sheikh Mohamed met with athletes from each country participating in the Games, and emphasized how important it is for everyone to get involved in the movement, coach and support the athletes, and help them become more active participants in their communities. The Middle East/North Africa Games focused on a three-fold message centered on the role of women in sports; human rights; and support for Special Olympics from individuals and multinationals in the Gulf region.

In addition to these regional competitions, Special Olympics also supported preparations for the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. In preparation for the 2007 World Games, China held the Special Olympics Shanghai Invitational Games with 2,000 Special Olympics athletes and coaches representing 19 countries.





Other key sports achievements included:

- Conducted the 6th Annual Special Olympics European Football Week with a record 50,000 participants from 50 countries. The growth of Football Week has been a key tool in expanding the sport for Special Olympics in Europe while promoting greater understanding and acceptance of the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities throughout Europe.
- Conducted the 3rd Annual European Basketball Week, the flagship event of the FIBA Europe – Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia partnership.
- Initiated the Special Olympics-FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Development Project in Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania. Through the support of National Football Associations, the project aims to contribute to the visibility, acceptance and well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities in Africa through participation in the sport of football, focusing on recruitment and training of coaches and athletes.
- Began a partnership between Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia and LEN (Ligue Européenne de Natation) to increase opportunities for athletes.
- Special Olympics Latin America partnered with CONMEBOL and COSAT (the South America football and tennis federations, respectively) to increase athlete participation in football and tennis in the region while increasing awareness of Special Olympics and the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities.
- To help athletes and their coaches prepare for competition, Special Olympics continues to develop a series of cutting-edge, multimedia online Coaching Guides and Sports Management Team Guides. These resources are available free of charge and provide basic background, guidance, tips and strategies for more than two dozen sports. Coaches of athletes both with and without intellectual disabilities have praised the quality of these tools and resources.

Promoting Acceptance and Inclusion

Special Olympics continues to promote the potential and achievements of persons with intellectual disabilities and to break down negative stereotypes that impede their full participation in society. Media outreach and partnerships with sponsors, celebrities, government and business leaders, as well as with world-class athletes, help Special Olympics accomplish these goals.

In July 2006, U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush hosted a special “Tribute to Special Olympics” in the East Room of The White House (left, top and center.) The formal yet intimate dinner party officially commemorated the fruition of Special Olympics’ five-year (2000-2005) growth campaign to reach 1 million new athletes, changing attitudes worldwide and creating a culture of athlete leadership. By happy coincidence, the celebration took place on the 85th birthday of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

Before the first Special Olympics USA National Games in Ames, Iowa, the United States Senate Appropriations Committee’s Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittee held a field hearing (left, bottom.) The hearing, “Crossing the Line: A Better Future for People with Intellectual Disabilities,” dealt with the status and well-being of people with intellectual disabilities. U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), who chaired the hearing, later introduced legislation, “Promoting Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2006.”

In June, Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia organized its second annual football tournament at the European Parliament to celebrate how sports can improve the public’s understanding of the gifts and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympic athletes, members of the Sport Unit of DG Education and Culture of the European Commission, and a selection of European Parliamentarians played three games of Unified Sports® football (soccer). The aim of the event was to raise awareness among Members of the European Parliament about the positive role sport can play in terms of social inclusion, and contribute to a new European attitude toward sports and persons with intellectual disabilities.

Leah Tutu, wife of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, agreed to serve as an Ambassador for Special Olympics South Africa, lending her name and integrity to the Special Olympics movement in order to ensure that every citizen is treated equally in South Africa and around the world. Mrs. Tutu committed to working with the Special Olympics South Africa Board of Directors to reach out to individuals with intellectual disabilities in South Africa to provide them with an opportunity to experience the joy and sense of well-being that participation in Special Olympics brings.





In November, the “Special Olympics for Social Harmony” forum was held at the United Nations in New York City. With support from the Organizing Committee of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Shanghai Municipal Government, the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, the United Nations Office of Sport and Development and Peace, and Special Olympics International, the forum’s objective was to create greater awareness of the global impact the Special Olympics movement and mission have on social change. Additionally, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan unveiled the “Special Olympics For Social Harmony” photo exhibition at a reception immediately following the forum.

The DVD of Special Olympics’ “A Very Special Latin Christmas – Una Noche de Paz Muy Especial” went on sale 21 November at Best Buy, Wal-Mart and other retailers. “A Very Special Latin Christmas” featured Latin music’s greatest stars, gathered for an unforgettable night celebrating the spirit of Special Olympics. Enrique Iglesias, Don Omar, Jose Feliciano, Luis Fonsi and Los Tucanes de Tijuana, among many others, donated their time and talent for a concert that was broadcast on Telemundo throughout the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central American and South America. Sales of the DVD benefit Special Olympics.

Throughout 2006, Special Olympics conducted several events to help raise awareness of its upcoming 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. In October, Special Olympics named several Hollywood stars Official Spokespeople for the 2007 World Games, including actors Colin Farrell and Eva Mendes, along with Actor and Producer Bruce Willis. Hong Kong pop star Karen Mok, and Chinese film stars Vicki Zhao and Xu Zheng were also named Official Spokespeople for the World Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics began 25 years ago in Wichita, Kansas (USA), as a flicker of hope when Chief Richard LaMunyon conceived of the idea as a way to involve local law enforcement personnel in the community with Special Olympics. Today, that flicker has become a roaring flame of stability for Special Olympics athletes worldwide. Special Olympics and law enforcement are a perfect match in a partnership that continues to grow. In 2006, 85,000 officers in 35 countries participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, raising more than US\$25.5 million for Special Olympics.



Left top: Mrs. Leah Tutu, Ambassador for Special Olympics South Africa

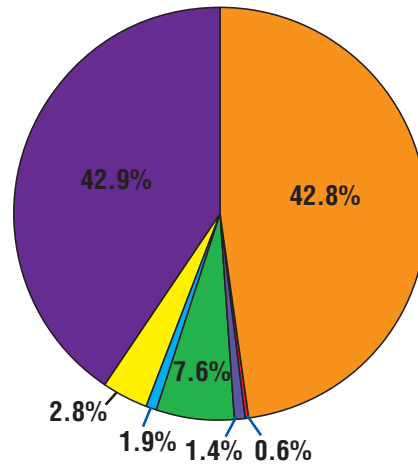
Left bottom: 2007 World Games spokespeople Colin Farrell, Karen Mole and Vicki Zhao

2006 *Financials*

	Unrestricted Undesignated	Unrestricted Designated	Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT					
Direct mail contributions	\$36,292,869	\$ -	\$36,292,869	\$ -	\$ -
Individual and corporate contributions and sponsorships	27,633,048	4,291,865	31,924,913	4,455,243	-
Program assessments	2,379,416	-	2,379,416	-	-
Royalty income	63,428	1,523,726	1,587,154	-	-
Net appreciation in Trust assets	-	6,463,168	6,463,168	-	-
Investment income	999,210	198,463	1,197,673	-	-
Other income	185,656	279,325	464,981	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	67,553,627	12,756,547	80,310,174	4,455,243	-
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS					
Satisfaction of program restrictions	-	3,103,321	3,103,321	(3,103,321)	-
Expiration of time restrictions	476,330	-	476,330	(476,330)	-
Total revenues and net assets released from restrictions	68,029,957	15,859,868	83,889,825	875,592	-
EXPENSES					
Program assistance	43,014,681	7,333,244	50,347,925	-	-
Public education and communications	10,846,196	5,239	10,851,435	-	-
Sports training and competitions	1,573,865	3,118,955	4,692,820	-	-
Fundraising	11,733,335	-	11,733,335	-	-
Management and general	3,534,013	8,859	3,542,872	-	-
Total expenses	70,702,090	10,466,297	81,168,387	-	-
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(2,672,133)	5,393,571	2,721,438	875,592	-
NET ASSETS—Beginning of year	9,803,543	59,257,131	69,060,674	2,991,102	75,920
NET ASSETS—End of year	\$7,131,410	\$64,650,702	\$71,782,112	\$3,866,694	\$75,920

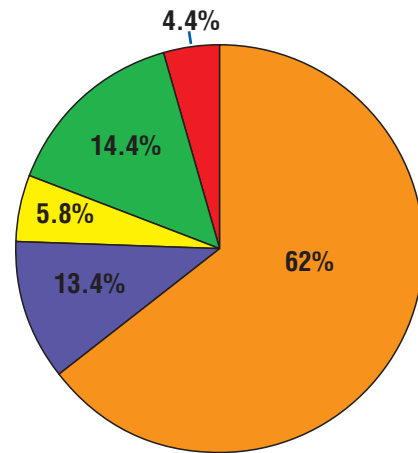
Revenue, Gains and Other Support

FY 2006 Total	FY 2005 Total
\$36,292,869	\$35,175,329
36,380,156	29,770,598
2,379,416	2,654,067
1,587,154	496,127
6,463,168	4,595,681
1,197,673	614,272
464,981	87,213
84,765,417	73,393,287
-	-
-	-
84,765,417	73,393,287
50,347,925	48,400,901
10,851,435	8,327,247
4,692,820	3,938,791
11,733,335	10,881,001
3,542,872	3,262,195
81,168,387	74,810,135
3,597,030	(1,416,848)
72,127,696	73,544,544
\$75,724,726	\$72,127,696



- Direct Mail Contributions
- Individual and Corporate Contributions and Sponsorships
- Program Assessments
- Royalty Income
- Net Appreciation in Trust Assets
- Investment Income
- Other Income

Expenses



- Program Assistance
- Public Education and Communications
- Sports Training and Competitions
- Fundraising
- Management and General



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2006 Special Olympics Programs

** Denotes Programs in Founding Committee status*

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Botswana
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Cameroon*
Chad
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(Ivory Coast)
Democratic Republic of
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Sri Lanka*
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Uruguay*
Venezuela

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Libya*
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Palestine
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Sudan*
Syria
Tunisia
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Yemen

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California (Southern)
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana

Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
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Maryland
Massachusetts
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Minnesota
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Missouri
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North Dakota
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