



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the unified revolution! On behalf of over 5 million Special Olympics athletes and millions of volunteers, coaches, sponsors, and family members in our movement around the world, I am proud to join you in celebrating these games and all they represent. By your presence, you are proving that you are ready to #changethegame and help build a more just and joyful future for everyone. I'm so grateful that you're on our team.

I know you will see great competition at the games and that you'll be inspired by some of the most hard working and dedicated and gritty competitors on earth. But I also hope you'll have a chance to learn about all that the Special Olympics community is doing to challenge the world to change. Maybe you'll see some of our youngest participants show their skills learned in Special Olympics Young Athletes. Maybe you'll meet some of our health care experts leading Special Olympics Health on the road to ending disparities and injustice. Maybe you'll hear from our athlete leaders, from our family leaders, from our unified partners who are proving that leadership is a power we all have if only we have the confidence to show it. Maybe you'll see both traditional Special Olympics competition and also Special Olympics Unified Sports where all of us are on the same team. Maybe you'll be invited to join our movement on social media and take the pledge to end the "R" word and even more, pledge "I choose to include." Whatever part of our global community you touch, I hope it inspires you to be active in the pursuit of fitness, health, inclusion, and joy. And I hope it reminds you of the one word that animates all of us every day: Unite!

Thanks for joining these games and for being a part of our joyful revolution. I hope and trust that you will have a great time at the games. And remember, in Special Olympics, everyone is challenged to get off the sidelines and be a game changer. The world needs us now, more than ever. This is our time to unite and change the game for everyone.

Go team!

Timothy P. Shriver
Chairman of the Board,
Special Olympics International