

## Charitable Gift Annuities

If you are committed to a future where every person with intellectual disabilities can achieve their potential and thrive, you may want to consider a very special way of giving—a charitable gift annuity.

A charitable gift annuity allows you to donate cash or securities worth \$10,000 or more and receive payments for life in return. The remainder of your gift will be used to support Special Olympics' athletes of the future.

Payment rates are at their highest rates in a decade, so now is a great time to consider a charitable gift annuity. Please contact us for more details and to get started today!

### Tax-Smart Giving from your IRA: Extend Your Generosity

Did you know about a special gift called a Qualified Charitable Deduction, or QCD, that allows you to both maximize your charitable giving and lower your income tax burden?

If you are age 70.5 or older, you can transfer funds from your IRA directly to Special Olympics. This is an effective way to have an immediate impact on creating a world of acceptance and inclusion.

You may give up to \$108,000 (\$216,000 for spouses) per year to all charities. You may also be able to take a one-time distribution of \$54,000 to fund a charitable gift annuity.

Your gift is a transfer of funds from your IRA to Special Olympics, so while you do not receive a charitable deduction, it does not create taxable income for you. The transfer of funds can count toward your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA.

Your gift must be sent directly from your IRA administrator to Special Olympics. Learn more at:

[www.specialolympics.org/2025QCD](http://www.specialolympics.org/2025QCD)

## A New Way to Fund a One-Time Charitable Gift Annuity

Supporters aged 70.5 or older may take a one-time qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRA to fund a charitable gift annuity. There are a few differences between annuities funded with a QCD and those funded with cash or appreciated securities. Please contact us to learn more about this opportunity.

## At Your Service

If you have included a gift in your will or trust or have named Special Olympics as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance, or other account, please let us know. We would be privileged to thank you and welcome you to The Champion's Society®.

### Special Olympics Office of Planned Giving



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When creating a gift to Special Olympics in your will, trust, or via beneficiary designation, please use the following information:

**Legal name:** Special Olympics, Inc.

**Address:** 2600 Virginia Ave NW, 11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20037

**Federal Tax ID Number:** 52-0889518

Want to include a gift to your local Special Olympics chapter affiliate? Please contact our Office of Planned Giving, and our friendly staff will be happy to provide your chapter's legal name and tax ID number.



Visit

[www.specialolympics.org/planned-giving/resources](http://www.specialolympics.org/planned-giving/resources)  
for our library of free planning resources!

# SMART PLANNING

FOR FRIENDS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Spring 2025

## The Champion's Society® Member Roy Zeidman

### Continuing a Legacy of 45 Years



**R**oy Zeidman has been a member of the Special Olympics team for 45 years. As he prepares to retire after nearly 40 years on staff with Special Olympics Virginia, Roy reflects fondly on his years of service and on how he's continuing his legacy with Special Olympics far into the future.

"After 45 years, I have not one story but many. I learn from our athletes every day. Empathy, bravery, courage, and never to be afraid to try something new.

For example, one of our athletes asks every attendee—including donors, other athletes, and venue staff—to sign a book that he authored. You see, he treats everyone the same, as a friend. If we accepted everyone the way our athletes do—what a wonderful world we would live in. Our athletes teach us EMPATHY.

Another athlete encourages us to focus on the future and move forward. If she doesn't make a great shot in golf, she says: "Can't do anything about that shot now—make sure the next shot is better." Our athletes are BRAVE in their attempts to dismiss failure and keep trying.

Or it could be another athlete who is blind and autistic. Every day when he wakes up, he faces a world that has low expectations of him and devalues him. He teaches us COURAGE when he faces these challenges with a smile.

While sport unites us, Special Olympics is also the largest provider of free healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities (ID). People with ID are statistically far more likely to experience a myriad of health issues, including a lower life expectancy. Special Olympics sporting events and

health services, including free dental care, vision screening and glasses, hearing checks, dermatology exams, podiatry and fitness programs, help make our athletes fitter and better prepared to succeed on and off the field.

While I'm proud of my 45 years of service with this organization, I realized I could make an even larger impact and further amplify my legacy with a gift via my estate plan.

I recently revised my estate plan to maximize the benefits to both Special Olympics and my other beneficiaries. I highly recommend folks consult their attorney, accountant, and our Planned Giving team to find the right gift for you.

Special Olympics is not just about the athletes. As we all participate together, our preconceived beliefs are challenged, and we open our hearts and minds to making our community more inclusive and accepting.

Making a legacy gift is an incredible opportunity to continue my journey with Special Olympics. I want to ensure our year-round programs and healthcare services remain free and available to serve the next generation of Special Olympics athletes."

### INSIDE:

- Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025
- Meet Turin Speed Skater Shane François Bentley
- Our Athletes' Podcast: Inclusion Revolution Radio



Meet Turin Games Medal-Winning Athlete:



SHANE FRANÇOIS BENTLEY

If you were to see Shane François Bentley today—gliding on the ice, defending on the soccer field, or diving into a swimming pool—you’d never guess the mountain of challenges he’s had to overcome.

At 39 years old, Shane’s life has been tough, yet his story is one of hope, resilience, and the power of perseverance.

Shane experienced health challenges since birth, and at age 3, he was diagnosed with a severe intellectual disability. He attended school, where—despite not learning to read, write, or tell time—he found his

voice. It was here that Shane’s journey with sports began—a journey that would become his greatest outlet and source of empowerment.

Shane’s introduction to sports was a turning point. He wasn’t the fastest, but what he lacked in speed, he made up for in sheer determination. He tried shot put, cross-country, soccer, and floor hockey, but it was on the ice that Shane found his true calling.

Despite early setbacks, he discovered his passion for speed skating—a sport that allowed him to harness his energy and determination in a way that few could have predicted.

Shane’s tenacity on the ice led him to represent South Africa at the 2017 Special Olympics Winter Games, where he proudly brought home silver and bronze medals in short track speed skating.

Throughout his life, Shane’s mother, Joyce, has always been by his side. Her love and dedication never wavered, and she ensured he had every opportunity to thrive.

Together, they embarked on an incredible weight loss journey to prepare Shane for his training and competition. This was more than a physical transformation—it was a testament to their shared commitment and love.

This year, Shane again represented South Africa at the 2025 World Winter Games in Turin. His story stands as a testament to the power of never giving up. He has taught the world an important lesson: that with determination, love, and support, no challenge is insurmountable.

Our Athletes’ Podcast: *Inclusion Revolution Radio* 🎧❤️

Did you know that Special Olympics athletes produce a biweekly podcast?

Inclusion Revolution Radio is an athlete-led podcast for people interested in learning more about our movement and the work that we do from the athletes’ perspectives.

It features athletes, partners, ambassadors, employees, and supporters, providing them the opportunity to share their experiences and engage in conversation



centered around the impact of Special Olympics.

Inclusion Revolution Radio aims to bring the message of inclusion to listeners around the world by building connections among people throughout the global movement. It provides an outlet to speak with those connected to the movement and provides an opportunity for athletes to talk directly to supporters of Special Olympics.

Inclusion Revolution Radio is now in its sixth season! Listen to the most recent episode and all previous episodes via the link below, and please be sure to catch new episodes every other week! Visit [www.specialolympics.org/RevolutionRadio](http://www.specialolympics.org/RevolutionRadio) to listen today!

Flame of Hope™ Ignites the Path to Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025



In March, the Special Olympics World Winter Games, the world’s largest sports and humanitarian event, brought together nearly 1,500 athletes from almost 100 delegations to compete in eight sports in an international demonstration of inclusion, acceptance, and unity.

This year, the Winter Games were held in Turin, Italy. In addition to the athletes, the games included well over 1,000 coaches and officials, more than 2,000 volunteers, and countless families and community members. Athletes competed across eight winter sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, DanceSport, figure skating, floorball, short track speed skating, snowboarding, and snowshoeing.

The Special Olympics Flame of Hope™ was lit in a ceremony at the historic Zappeion Megaron in Athens, Greece, in February and was carried to the Special Olympics World Winter Games by athletes, volunteers, community members, and, during the Final Leg of the journey, by athletes and law enforcement officers, celebrating our athletes and the unity, dedication, and support of the global law enforcement community.

The Final Leg represents the culmination of countless Torch Run events worldwide, reinforcing the commitment to creating a more inclusive world for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Games were broadcast on ABC and ESPN+, and many highlights are posted on our website, including a spotlight on Gonzolo Escobar, a slalom snowboarder from Special Olympics Chile who earned the first medal of the Special Olympics World Winter Games! If Gonzolo looks familiar beyond his snowboarding skills, that’s because he also received the official call that Special Olympics World Games 2027 will be hosted in Chile!

In addition to the sporting competitions, the Games have also provided thousands of health screenings and referrals for athletes and other participants to continue to improve health outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities. The Games also promoted Unified Sports as yet another way to break down barriers and build a more inclusive world.

Special Olympics Winter Games are only made possible because of the support and investment by community members like you. It takes incredibly complex, long-term planning; a staggeringly large team; a very deep bench of volunteers, coaches, and families and friends; and the support of the entire community to carry out the Winter and Summer Games in addition to running our national, state, and local programs every day. We could not do this without you.

Please join us in celebrating all athletes and participants of the Special Olympics World Winter Games!

“The Flame of Hope represents far more than simply the exciting World Winter Games ahead. It symbolizes the dedication of every Special Olympics athlete. It signifies the commitment of every coach. It encapsulates the dreams of every parent, every family. It illustrates the hard work of so many volunteers around the world.”

– David Evangelista, President & Managing Director of Special Olympics Europe Eurasia