

Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers

For twenty years, Special Olympics athlete leaders from around the world have been chosen to serve in a special role: a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM). These athletes are spokespeople for the movement, leading the campaign for a more inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities. Through their participation and leadership at global, regional, and local events, they challenge the mindsets of political leaders, policy makers, educators, employers, and society. During their four-year terms, each athlete has the chance to shape the future of the Special Olympics movement with their own ideas, wisdom, strength, and experience.

SSIGM are selected based on their presentation skills, interpersonal skills, and personal stories representing the movement. After a thorough training that includes persuasive speaking, they have the support of individual mentors who work with them throughout their terms as they attend events in their regions and throughout the world, give speeches, present awards, interact with potential donors and partners, and support the development of the athlete leadership strategy.

As he announced and welcomed the 2019–2023 class of SSIGM athletes, Chairman of the Board Tim Shriver said, “My dad would be so proud to have his name associated with yours. More than anything, he believed that we should tell the story of Special Olympics to the whole world, that people needed to hear and understand and come to believe in the power of the Special Olympics movement to change the world — to change hearts, minds, countries, families, communities, and to change us all. He’s handing the baton to you.”



Brina Kei Maxino
Special Olympics Philippines

“I am bubbly, friendly, and jolly. I love to deliver speeches. I enjoy being with people and talking to them.”



Ian Harper
Special Olympics Great Britain

“I’m passionate about how life changing Special Olympics is. I would sum myself up as wanting to give people with ID a chance.”



Daniel Smrokowski
Special Olympics Illinois, USA

“My biggest struggle is communication, but communication is also my biggest passion. The Special Olympics movement is at the heart of all that I do.”



Kurtis Jon Siu
Special Olympics Hong Kong

“I like art, sport and have a healthy lifestyle. I like to help others and so I am eager to be a volunteer.”



Emanuelle Dutra Fernandes de Souza
Special Olympics Brazil

“Let’s live inclusion in practice! Together we can be much more.”



Maryam Ahmad Thyab
Special Olympics Kuwait

“I am a leader. I am strong. I love sports. I love reading.”



Haseeb Abbasi
Special Olympics Pakistan

“The biggest gift I’ve received at Special Olympics is the gift of my voice. I was very shy but now have found the ability to speak publicly with confidence.”



Renee Manfredi
Special Olympics Texas, USA

“I am passionate about being a self-advocate and that we as people with a disability must be responsible for ourselves and our decisions.”

Be the Best Athlete You Can Be

Special Olympics is the recipient of the **2022 Turn the World Outward Award** from Arbinger Institute. The award is a celebration of individuals, communities, and organizations who see people as people — not as objects that can be used, blamed, or ignored. It recognizes organizations and people who go about their lives thinking about others, inspiring people to be more.

To celebrate all that Special Olympics and our supporters do to inspire people to change the world, Arbinger created a video featuring Special Olympics International Global Messengers Hanna Joy Atkinson and Nyasha Derera that perfectly captures the strength of our athletes and the impact of the Special Olympics movement.



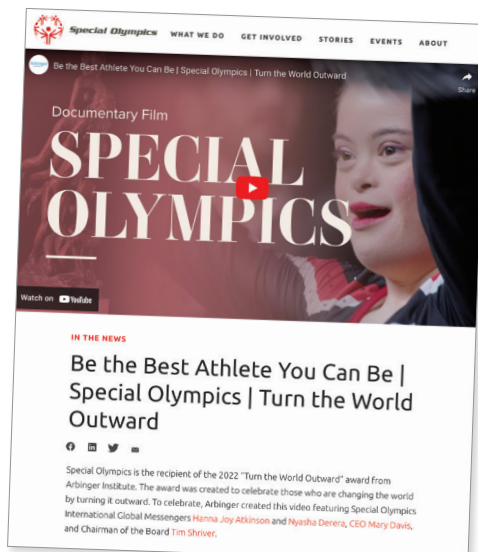
Hanna Joy Atkinson
Special Olympics Colorado, USA

"I enjoy sharing powerful messages and spreading joy to my community. I set goals and work really hard to achieve them with amazing support from my family and friends."



Nyasha Derera
Special Olympics Zimbabwe

"I am a very outgoing person and I love meeting and making new friends. I like sharing my story of triumph through Special Olympics. My dream is to be a motivational speaker."



To view this video and hear the inspiring stories of Hanna Joy Atkinson and Nyasha Derera, visit www.specialolympics.org/TurnTheWorldOutward or scan the QR code above.