



ANNUAL REPORT 2017





## OUR MISSION

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

“

Being on a team helps me to grow in confidence. I never thought I could have such high self-esteem. I can do everything, just as well as people without intellectual disabilities!”

— **Johanna Pramstaller**

Special Olympics Austria athlete and Board Member

## ON THE COVER:

Athletes Deon Grant (USA) and Takahiro Yoshii (Nippon/Japan) show their speed and skill at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria (GEPA Pictures/Special Olympics).



## MESSAGE FROM AN ATHLETE LEADER

### Train Hard – and You Can Do Anything!

My name is Johanna Pramstaller. I am 31 years old and I live in Austria. I am a foster child and I have lived at my foster parents' home since 1993. I have 4 sisters and 2 brothers, all of us are foster children. My uncle brought me to this amazing movement called Special Olympics. Special Olympics changed my life in a very special way.

Sport is very important to me, to work out in a team is so much fun. If I'm stressed out, it helps me to be clearheaded again. Also sports keeps me healthy and fit. Being on a team helps me to grow in confidence. I never thought I could have such high self-esteem. I can do everything, just as well as people without intellectual disabilities. My favorite sports I compete in are alpine skiing, swimming, athletics and golf.

Since 2011, I have been part of the Athlete Leadership program. As a spokesperson, I am honored to speak for all the athletes from Austria. Since 2015, I am also member of the board of Special Olympics Austria. I am heard and I never give up while representing all the athletes. In 2014, I was chosen to be one of 12 Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers (IGMs). I was very excited about all the upcoming tasks. When I started, it wasn't easy for me. I needed to learn English, a big challenge. But my strong will and also the support from my mentors, trainers, family and friends helped me learn fast. My most exciting experience while being an IGM was to give a speech at the Coca Cola Founder's Reception and to be on stage at the Closing Ceremony in Los Angeles in 2015. Another overwhelming experience was to be part of the Special Olympics World Winter Games in 2017 in my country, Austria. I had a big schedule for those two weeks. I gave speeches, I gave interviews, I handed out medals. It was very exciting. I was asked to be part of the Host Town Program, which brought a lot of fun. I hosted the delegation from Luxembourg. To be part of the Closing Ceremony was an honor; I handed over the flag to Abu Dhabi. They will host the Special Olympics World Games in 2019. Now I am part of the Special Olympics leadership program for Europe Eurasia. That is so much fun and also very interesting. We already made some goals and we will make more goals in the future!

If you are playing sports or training or competing, you should go for it and give everything. Train hard and do it every day. Improve and support your teammates and every sportsman you meet. Training should be fun. Never forget to warm up before working out. Special Olympics is a very big team and, of course, a family! We are all winners and we can do everything. We are unique.

*Johanna Pramstaller*

**Johanna Pramstaller**

Special Olympics Austria Board Member





“  
If you want to learn about ending  
discrimination and fear, if you want to  
see the world with new eyes — look to  
Special Olympics athletes. [They] will be  
your leaders and teachers, your guides  
and friends.”

— Mary Davis, CEO, and Tim Shriver, Chairman

## MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

# Join Our Peaceful Revolution!

2017 was filled with the power of inclusion. We celebrated milestones in the journey toward justice as we came to the brink of our 50th year. Thousands of our athletes caught the eyes of millions in World Winter Games shown around the world, while others waged the Inclusion Revolution in places far fewer people see, like the floor of a high school gym in Nebraska.

Global equality for people with intellectual differences is an unfinished project. But the athletes of Special Olympics are pushing it forward everywhere, and everywhere their message is the same: If you want to learn about ending discrimination and fear, if you want to see the world with new eyes — look to us. We will be your leaders and teachers, your guides and friends.

In March, 2,600 Special Olympics athletes gathered in Austria to compete in the World Winter Games. Rain could not dampen the spirit of the electric Opening Ceremony. The live broadcast, aired in 190 countries, shattered the media record for Special Olympics.

In July, eight athletes joined former U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama onstage at the ESPY Awards to honor our founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who was posthumously awarded the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. The award was for her lifelong devotion to enriching the lives of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) through sport. The ceremony garnered one billion media impressions, bringing unprecedented attention to our movement for the second time in 2017.

Our health program continues to charge towards our goal of improving access to quality health services for 11 million people with ID by 2020. Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®, which offers free health screenings to our athletes worldwide, hit the milestone of 2 million screenings. We also added Strong Minds, which focuses on emotional well-being to ensure athletes are healthy in body and mind.

In 2017, we celebrated 30 years of “A Very Special Christmas,” our series of holiday albums by an ever-growing roster of leading musicians in pop and rock and jazz and hip-hop. The albums’ sales continue to generate tens of millions of dollars each year for grants that benefit underfunded Special Olympics Programs around the world.

Our work was aided by the generosity of a wide range of partners and allies. In 2017, contributions from the European Union and the U.S. government helped to, respectively, fund the World Winter Games, along with our inclusive health program and Unified Champion Schools. Lions Clubs International celebrated their centennial in Schladming, Austria, by announcing a \$1 million donation to Special Olympics. Special Olympics established partnerships with UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Pan American Health Organization, and continues to have a high-impact relationship with the Golisano Foundation, the provider of much funding for life-saving health initiatives.

The progress we made in 2017 gave us hope for the journey ahead. Our 50th anniversary year will be a time to celebrate, but not a time to rest. We’re not done. Far too many of the 200 million people with intellectual differences worldwide are still forgotten, still hidden away. We won’t rest until there is equality for all.

Change cannot come soon enough. And change keeps coming.

In June 2017, we visited Papillion-La Vista South High School in Nebraska. The students there had led a revolution bringing students with and without intellectual disabilities together and creating a culture of inclusion for all.

When we arrived, the gym was packed and shaking with noise. Then came the student-leaders — some in wheelchairs and walkers, others as their Unified Sports partners.

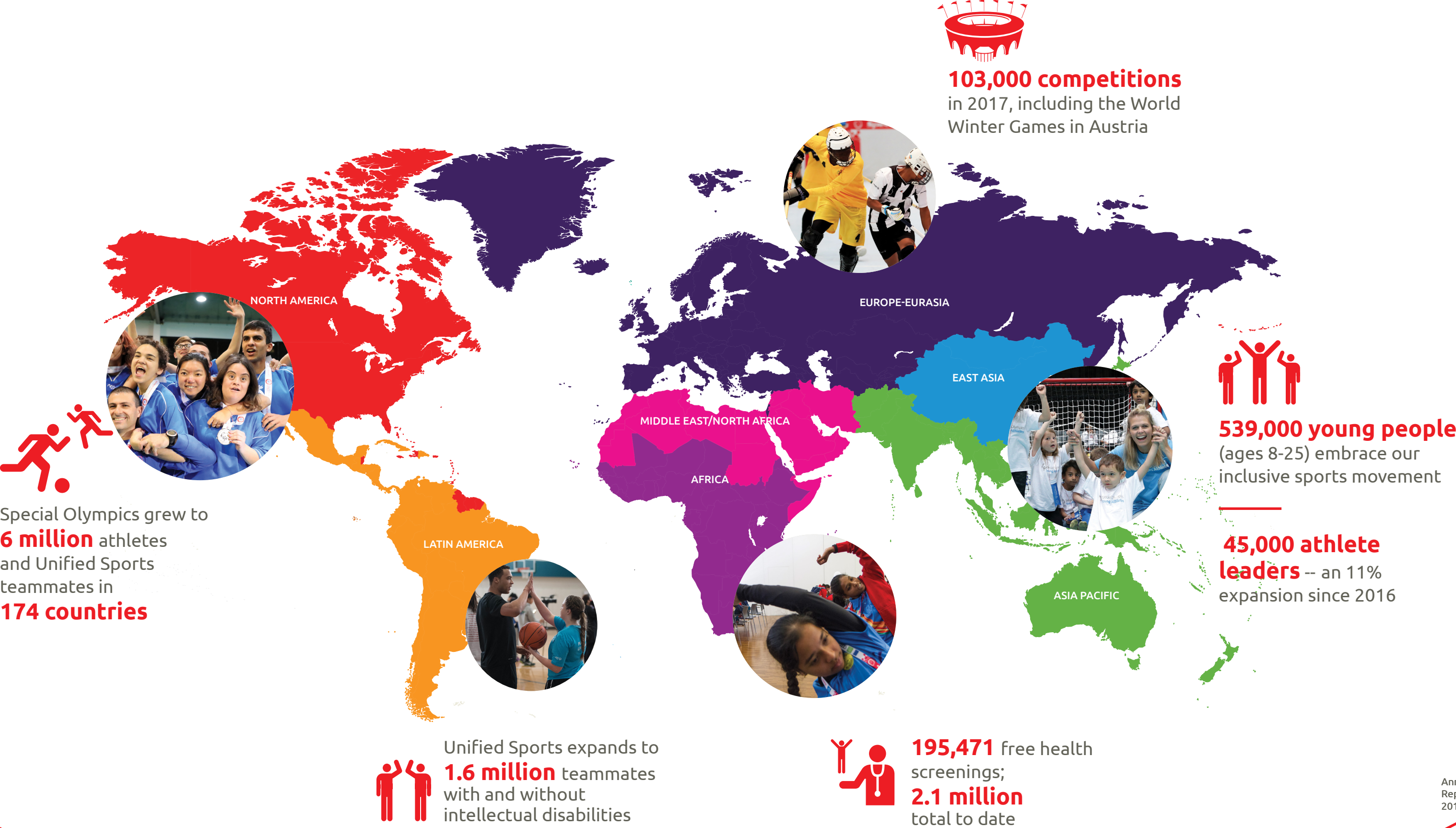
The superintendent said it was the proudest day of his life. One 16-year-old girl, now a Unified partner to a student with a disability, said: “Before I got involved, I didn’t want to get out of bed in the morning. Then I saw the people who believe in something bigger — to make a difference. Now I can’t wait to get to school every day.”

**Timothy Shriver**  
Chairman

**Mary Davis**  
Chief Executive Officer



# OUR IMPACT IN 2017







# HEARTBEAT FOR THE WORLD!

At the Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017, the world came together with one heart to celebrate differences and unite in the spirit of respect, inclusion and joy! These Games marked a return to Austria – which in 1993 hosted the very first World Games held outside the U.S., making the Special Olympics movement truly international.

In the words of Games Organizing Committee President Hermann Kroll, “Austria will once again open hearts and minds toward people with intellectual disabilities, creating opportunities for inclusion leading to equality, acceptance and change.” The Games -- featuring an array of sports and non-sports events -- brought the theme **“Heartbeat for the World”** to all parts of the globe.

The glittering Opening Ceremony was broadcast live, reaching millions of viewers in 190 nations.

This was the broadest reach for a Winter Games Opening Ceremony ever, bringing the talents of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) to a wide new audience.



Over 12 days of events and competition, the Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017 brought unprecedented global attention to sports achievement and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities. More than 2,600 athletes from 105 nations competed in nine winter sports in the cities of Graz, Schladming and Ramsau. These were athletes who’d trained for months, sometimes years, for their chance to compete at World Winter Games, many training under difficult conditions, such as Team Syria.

A key goal of every World Games is to change attitudes about the talents of people with ID: before and during the competition -- and especially beyond. That is the power of sports. At these Games, this power was magnified by no less than 365 hours of TV coverage on ESPN, ESPN2, ABC and ESPN Deportes.

This power was also witnessed by 80,000+ spectators, including the President of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen, who was inspired to say: “It is my hope that after the Special Olympics World Winter Games, the spotlight does not dim, but continues to shine for those with intellectual disabilities, with you [athletes] serving as role models in your home countries.”

After these successful Games, the Austrian government passed legislation doubling its support for Special Olympics. This puts the nation’s sponsorship of our athletes on the same level as Austria’s support of Olympians and Paralympians -- yet another powerful legacy of the Games.



# 2017 WORLD GAMES: BY THE NUMBERS

2,600  
Athletes

1,100  
Coaches

3,000  
Volunteers

105  
Countries

9 Winter Sports

12 Days

3,125 press clippings were published in over 230 Austrian print media between January and April. In the month of March alone, 1,880 press clippings were published in more than 200 print media.

Social media impressions: 1,436,630,351

Traditional media: 209,266,910

Number of media mentions: 9,266

111,815  
total posts from

68,995  
unique users

1.6 billion total impressions

12,000 worldwide post-ings with the hashtags #austria2017 or #heartbeatfortheworld

“ Many of us have seen, once again, how Special Olympics unites the world and brings people - with and without disabilities - together. It was wonderful to see that we all can change the world to be a better and more inclusive place when we treat each other respectfully and most importantly: have fun together! ”

-- Alois Stöger, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Austria



This grueling floor-hockey match, above, made World Games history: the competition lasted three hours, until a draw was finally declared. Gold went to both the Bangladesh women’s team and Iran’s men’s team. Refereeing this marathon match was South Africa’s athlete-turned-official Jimmy Masina.



One of the emotional highpoints of the Closing Ceremony was the traditional flag handover to the next World Games host. Here, His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Sports Council, leads the delegation from the 2019 World Games organizing committee. The 2019 World Games will be the first held in the Middle East/North Africa Region.

# INCLUSION ON THE SLOPES AND OFF



Our World Games also brought together global leaders and key influencers determined to drive and expand inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) through sport and health:

The **Global Forum on Inclusion in Social Affairs and Sports** explored ways to overcome challenges for people with ID, including disparities in health access, education, and economic opportunity. Participants worked toward solutions for achieving equality, inclusion and justice through sport, health and school-based programs. Speakers included Austria’s Federal Minister of Sports Hans Peter Doskozil and Federal Minister of Social Affairs Alois Stöger; Styria’s Governor Hermann Schützenhöfer; Dr. Michael Fembek, Zero Project Initiative; Dr. Timothy P. Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman; and Lize Weerdenburg, Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger.



The **Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Summit: Social Impact for a Unified Generation** brought together youth – with and without intellectual disabilities – from 18 nations and seven U.S. states. These 44 young people developed leadership skills as well as exciting projects aimed at increasing inclusion in their home countries.



The **Let’s Change the Game Forum** tackled issues of exclusion against people with ID, while offering shining examples of how inclusion can happen in any community, as demonstrated by the winners of the first **Golisano Global Health Leadership Awards** (see p. 16 for details).



Breaking new ground was the ambitious four-part series of **Unified Talks presented by Bank of America**, co-led by moderators with and without ID. These energetic, action-oriented conversations covered: **“A Unified Generation: An Inclusive Call to Action,” “Sport: A Foundation for Workplace Inclusion,” “Be Your Best: Maximizing Athlete Health & Performance,”** and **“The Next Generation of Game Changers.”** Participants – from young people to government and business-industry leaders – gained and exchanged insights on making bold changes in their communities and countries to create a more inclusive world.





## SPORTS: UNITING THE WORLD!

In 2017, Special Olympics' global push for unity, health and fitness had impact far beyond this year's World Winter Games. In fact, the talents and skills of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) were opening hearts and minds all year long, thanks to more than 103,000 events and competitions held world-wide during this record-breaking year.

As the global leader in inclusive sports, Special Olympics also marked a significant Unified Sports milestone: as of 2017, we have brought together more than 1.6 million Unified Sports teammates in 214 Programs around the world!

In total, the reach of the Special Olympics movement has grown to 5.2 million athletes with ID and nearly 900,000 Unified teammates. Special Olympics Bharat continues setting the pace as our largest Program, with 1.4 million athletes.



China continues to embrace Unified Sports in innovative ways. Above, a Unified Schools Football Competition in Beijing, co-hosted by China's Administration of Sport for People with Disabilities.

Every day, Special Olympics is creating new and exciting ways to unite the world through sports. Our vision of an inclusive world starts early – with the exciting **Young Athletes** program, which brings together children with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) for fun and play. In 2017, Young Athletes – for ages 2 to 7 – expanded to **308,000** children in **178 Programs**, now changing lives in every single global region.

The big story is in Asia-Pacific, where Young Athletes has grown exponentially in the last year – about **400%**! In 2016, less than 30,000 children were benefitting from this life-changing program. Twelve months later, nearly **150,000** children in the Region are taking part.

Nearly 30 years old, **Special Olympics Unified Sports®** is also marking an impressive new milestone: more than **1.6 million people** – with and without ID – are competing together in every region of the world. And more young people are **Playing Unified** than ever: there are now more than **a half-million Unified teammates** ages 8-25 worldwide – nearly double last year's total!

In East Asia, we saw the inaugural season of the Unified Schools Football League. The opener alone brought together more than 100 athletes and Unified Sports teammates. This is just one example of the continuing growth of Unified Schools and Unified Sports around the world. (See p. 18 for more on Youth & Schools).

At Special Olympics, we know that sports training and competition do more than empower children and adults with ID; sports also drive awareness of the talents and skills of people with ID. That's why we continue to expand competition opportunities – with **103,000** competitions held around the world this year. In North America alone, there were more than 60 large-scale Summer Games competitions in 2017, with more than 175,000 athletes taking part. In Latin America, the 2017 Regional Games also brought together athletes from 21 countries, each striving to do their very best!



# PLAY UNIFIED TO LIVE UNIFIED

More than 1.6 million Unified Sports athletes and teammates competed together this year – making 2017 another record-breaking year for inclusive sports. A quick look at the unifying power of sport, all around the world:



The 6th annual NBA Cares Special Olympics Unified Basketball Game happened alongside NBA All-Star weekend events. The game pairs 12 Special Olympics athletes – representing eight countries -- with NBA and WNBA players and legends. For the first time, the game was shown live on the NBA Cares Facebook page, bringing the talents of our athletes to a huge new group of fans!



For the third straight year, ESPN and Special Olympics invited Special Olympics athletes to compete in a Unified dual slalom at the X Games Aspen in Colorado, USA. Special Olympics Russia athlete Semen Ferotov and X Games pro Jamie Anderson took the gold, edging out Special Olympics USA athlete Daina Shilts and X Games pro Hannah Teter by less than 2 seconds.



The 2017 MLS All-Star Unified Experience showcased Unified Sports athlete-and-partner duos representing all of the 22 MLS Clubs – for the first time! The match was streamed live on MLSSoccer.com as well as SpecialOlympics.org. Our **#PlayUnifiedMLS** hashtag saw over **9 million** unique impressions off of **1,001 posts** from **457 users** on **Twitter and Instagram**.

The National Football League and Special Olympics kicked off their expanded Unified Flag Football partnership with an action-packed Unified game at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Florida, USA.



Special Olympics Middle East/North Africa held the first-ever Unified Female Football Cup, promoting inclusion and helping expand the number of female athletes in the MENA region.

## SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS Changing the Game!

Around the world, Special Olympics has been expanding opportunities for Unified Sports and traditional sports -- with the help of powerful sports partners. These international sport organizations bring exciting new avenues for our athletes to receive top level sports training from certified coaches, new competition opportunities, and also promote Special Olympics and help drive inclusion for children and adults with intellectual disabilities (ID).

During this busy year, Special Olympics signed an important collaboration agreement with the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) and initiated discussions with the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) and the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). The goals are to expand and improve development of Special Olympics football (soccer) in Latin America and tennis globally for athletes with and without ID. Special Olympics also held its first sport development meeting with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) and created a sport development plan with their assistance.

In the U.S., Special Olympics continues its ground-breaking work with the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) to grow Unified Sports as official collegiate intramurals across North America.

A continuing success story is our partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Thanks to their inclusive school programs, more than 200,000 students experienced Unified Sports during the 2016-17 school year. For all students, Unified Sports is a win-win proposition. In a recent evaluation report, 97 percent of high school seniors said the Unified Schools program is changing their school for the better.





# IMPROVING ATHLETE HEALTH

Our vision is to create a world where people with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) have the same opportunities to be healthy. When people with ID have access to health services, they also have more opportunities for education, employment, sports, and other pathways to reach full participation in society. Our goal is 11 million people with ID with improved access to health by 2020.

Special Olympics Health, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, began in 1997 with Healthy Athletes®. Since then, we have provided millions of free health screenings and empowered athletes to become wellness leaders in their communities. Special Olympics also works directly with international organizations and ministries of health to create fully inclusive health services for people with ID.

Every day, we are breaking down barriers that prevent people with intellectual disabilities (ID) from receiving the same access to quality health care and attention as people without ID. In 2017, **Special Olympics Health** made stunning leaps in improving education, inclusion and care. Since **Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®** was founded 20 years ago, the program has conducted more than 2.1 million health screenings for our athletes. We have also trained more than 240,000 health-care professionals in over 135 countries.

Our health partnerships are crucial to expanding this work around the world. Most visibly, since 2012, our partnership with the **Golisano Foundation** has been unlocking doors to quality health screenings, follow-up care, plus fitness and prevention programming for people with ID worldwide. Our Golisano partnership also enables us to collaborate with international organizations, providers and health-care authorities to better meet the needs of this neglected population.

This year also marked a major expansion in **Healthy Communities®** – our successful model that ensures year-round access to quality health care and prevention programming for people with ID. There are now 18 Special Olympics Programs that have achieved Healthy Community status – and 51 more Programs are in progress.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM HEALTHY ATHLETES

MORE THAN  
**2.1 Million**  
free health screenings since the program began in 1997

**195,471**  
free screenings in 2017

MORE THAN  
**175,638**  
free pairs of prescription eyewear given since the program began -- and **13,748** in 2017

**135 Countries**  
have held a Healthy Athletes event and **240,000 health care professionals and students** trained on health concerns of people with ID since the program began

This year, Special Olympics entered into a formal partnership with **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO)**. The shared goal is to create sustainable health systems and services inclusive of all people with ID. In the USA, there was also a major increase in collaboration and funding from the **U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention**. This is working to implement health programs and launch medical school curricula more inclusive of people with ID, among other breakthroughs.

In 2017, Healthy Athletes officially welcomed an eighth discipline: **Strong Minds**. The focus is on helping athletes strengthen their coping skills and maintain emotional wellness, even under stress.

Throughout, Special Olympics athletes continue to take the lead as **Health Messengers** by inspiring their teams and communities to develop healthy lifestyles. They are also advocating within their communities for inclusion in health and wellness services, education and resources for people with ID.

## OUR YEAR-ROUND HEALTH WORK

Our Healthy Communities and other programs:

- Trained **24,013 family members, coaches, and athlete leaders** to be health advocates on important, locally relevant health topics that they can use to educate others in their community
- Delivered health education on locally relevant topics, such as **healthy weight, malaria, HIV and AIDS** to **38,874 Special Olympics athletes**
- Healthy Communities grantees ensured **12,203 athletes had a place to go for follow-up care** after a Healthy Athletes screening
- Through Healthy Communities and Fitness, Special Olympics programs provided **wellness opportunities to 51,239 people with ID**, allowing them to improve health on an ongoing basis



## GOLISANO GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS



Attending the awards ceremony, seated from left: Dr. Wing-Kun Tam, Former Lions Clubs International President, Special Olympics International Board Member; Remi Huwaert; Paul Nauwelaerts; Golisano Foundation Executive Director Ann Costello; Amporn Benjaponpitak, Special Olympics International Chief Executive Officer Mary Davis; Boonrueng Triangworawat; standing from left: Drew Boshell, Senior Vice President, Sport and Health, Special Olympics International; Susan Danberg; Mohamed Askar, Stephen Sulkes; Denisse Aguilar; Special Olympics International Board Member Peter Mazunda; Steven Perlman; Jianbo Zhu.

The first-ever Golisano Global Health Leadership Awards, named for philanthropist B. Thomas Golisano, were announced during the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

The Golisano Foundation has invested \$37 million to make Special Olympics Health work possible globally and expand Special Olympics Healthy Communities worldwide.

Foundation Executive Director Ann Costello presented the seven awards, as well as two Golisano Global Health Leadership Pioneer Awards.

*All nine honorees have already created impressive legacies.*



**Korea International Cooperation Agency** provides two full-time volunteer staff and holds free medical camps for athletes in Uganda. KOICA also has a mobile health program that provides medical screenings and treatment for the rural community.



**Lions Clubs International MD 112 Belgium** supports Belgium's Healthy Athletes program financially by covering costs for supplies for multiple events. The club has also helped find new sponsors to support Healthy Athletes.



**Rajanukul Institute, Ministry of Public Health** personnel have developed screening tools specific to the needs of athletes, prepared training resources for health professionals and special educators, and provide healthcare advice to athletes and families.



**Dr. Stephen Sulkes** has helped secure grants to improve the fitness of Special Olympics New York athletes. He founded a student chapter of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) and encourages students to get involved with Special Olympics through Healthy Athletes and as event volunteers and coaches.



**Dr. Mohamed Askar** recruits and trains volunteer health professionals during Healthy Athletes events and in his private orthopedic clinic. His work with medical companies and universities has helped secure equipment, supplies, medical balls and wheelchairs for athletes.



**Beijing Tongren Hospital, Capital Medical University** works with medical professionals throughout China and ensures that sustainable eye health and treatment access are available to Special Olympics athletes.



**Universidad Científica del Sur – Escuela de Estomatología (FCS)** provides free dental care for people with ID. The academic curriculum of the dental program now includes eight mandatory hours to train students on how to approach and interact with patients who have special needs.



**Steven Perlman, DDS**, founded Special Olympics Special Smiles® oral health discipline. He is a clinical professor of pediatric dentistry at the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine and currently serves as Senior Global Clinical Advisor for Special Olympics International.



**Dr. Paul Berman (1950-2013)** was the founder and Global Clinical Director of Special Olympics' Opening Eyes and the Healthy Athletes program.





## YOUTH AND SCHOOLS: THE FUTURE IS UNIFIED

Special Olympics is transforming lives and creating communities of acceptance, inclusion and respect -- from the youngest age.

Our ambitious goal: to build the first truly Unified Generation through sports and youth leadership -- and end injustice, intolerance and inactivity for people with intellectual disabilities everywhere! If you grow up in an inclusive community, you will want to live in -- and build -- an inclusive world.

This is how we are creating the best possible future for all.

All around the world, we are challenging young people to get off the sidelines, embrace inclusion and promote equality in their schools and communities. Our youth activation program -- Unified Schools -- is now offered in more than **110,000 schools worldwide**, including **6,000 in the U.S.** and **100,000 in Bharat!**

Why are Unified programs so popular with students and with staff? Because Unified Schools create a welcoming, inclusive school culture that benefits all students -- with and without intellectual disabilities (ID).

“  
**Generation Unified is beyond important to me, because it represents the ideas of acceptance and inclusion.**

- Sam Donnelly, 2017 Global Youth Summit Participant

”

Together, these students bring empathy, acceptance and compassion to their schools. As studies show, this reduces bullying and offensive language; it also boosts a positive school environment. Young people also create lasting impact when they bring these lessons to their families, communities and the larger world.

Building on this popularity and strength, Special Olympics launched a Global Youth Plan in 2017. The goal is to further expand numbers of Unified Schools and Unified youth leaders worldwide. We won't transform the world by aiming small; Special Olympics is aiming to bring more than 1 million young people into this joyful, inclusive campaign over the next five years.



AROUND THE WORLD, THERE ARE:

**110,000 Unified Schools**

**8,000 Unified Champion Schools**

**89 schools** that met the **Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools** 10 national standards of excellence in inclusion

YOUTH LEADERS  
AGES 8 - 25

**66,779**



UNIFIED YOUTH TEAMMATES  
AGES 8-25

**539,115**



Annual  
Report  
2017

Learn more at [specialolympics.org/annualreport](https://specialolympics.org/annualreport)





# BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORLD

The vision of Special Olympics is to open hearts and minds toward people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and create inclusive communities all over the world.

In 2017, the World Winter Games brought unprecedented global media awareness, changing attitudes toward the accomplishments of people with ID all around the world.

This success continued and expanded during the year through powerful new partnerships and dedicated support from government, community and civic leaders worldwide.

From the halls of the United Nations to huts in a Tanzania refugee camp, Special Olympics worked in 2017 to bring greater unity and understanding among people of all abilities. This is how we are building an inclusive world, now and for our future.



Participants at the signing of the Panama Declaration, from left, Special Olympics International CEO Mary Davis; International Global Messenger Nitzeida Galvez; President of the Republic of Panama Juan Carlos Varela; Special Olympics Latin America Regional President Claudia Echeverry; and Special Olympics Panama President Yolanda Eleta de Varela. (Read more on p. 22)

## AVSC Turns 30:

2017 marked the 30th anniversary of the “A Very Special Christmas” album series. Since 1987, the biggest and brightest voices in the recording industry have generously lent their time and talents to Special Olympics to create these albums. The grants generated by these albums have had huge impact around the world, bringing sports to neglected people and places where they could do the most good. Meet a few of the athletes touched by the A Very Special Christmas series: <http://www.averyspecialchristmas.org/videos/>



## Inclusive Cities:

By 2050, the number of people living in urban environments will nearly double. In response, in 2017 Special Olympics ramped up its efforts to increase awareness and programming for people with intellectual disabilities in urban settings. Host cities for Special Olympics World Games will now commit to lasting change by adopting inclusive policies, programs and services. Special Olympics Programs in the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo), Panama (Panama City), the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi) and the U.S.A. (Chicago, Seattle and several locations in Pennsylvania) are engaging city governments and other key actors in the private sector to partner to support inclusive programming -- sports, health services, schools -- in urban and semi-urban environments.



## LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Since 2000, Lions Clubs International (LCI) has been a loyal global partner of the Special Olympics movement. At the 2017 World Winter Games in Austria, the Lions played a key role in multiple areas, including the Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes program. LCI also supported Healthy Hearing, Unified Sports, the Global Youth Summit, Athlete Leadership and the Host Town program. Far in advance of the Games, Lions Clubs of Austria was one of the first partners to offer financial funding; its leadership also made a significant volunteer commitment. This collaboration has since developed into a formal partnership between Special Olympics Austria and Lions Clubs of Austria, one of the many legacy benefits of the 2017 Games.



Special Olympics Netherlands athlete and former refugee Mina Baghat addressed the United Nations on stage during Lions Club United Nations day. The 2017 World Games speedskater spoke movingly about how Special Olympics has made a difference in his life.

To celebrate Lions Clubs International's milestone centennial, an event was held in Schladming during the 2017 Games. International Director of Lions Clubs International Aruna Oswal announced a \$1 million donation to Special Olympics, part of a new partnership between Lions Clubs International and Special Olympics Bharat.

### EU Support:

A €6.5 million European Union grant helped support both the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria and secure a strong legacy for the Games throughout the region.

### US Congressional Engagement:

The U.S. government approved US\$19.3 million for fiscal year 2017 in support of the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program and inclusive health work in the USA.

### Inter-American Development Bank:

A new partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank resulted in \$600K for a 3-year project to support Unified Schools and Young Athletes. This enormous support will bring these important programs to 60 mainstream schools and communities -- positively impacting 18,000 youth with and without intellectual disabilities in Latin America.

### The Panama Declaration:

Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela and First Lady of the Dominican Republic Candida Montilla de Medina made a public declaration committing to support the inclusion of people with disabilities. They also pledged to challenge societies to expose inequity and exclusion involving people with intellectual disabilities and to use sports to help spread deeper understanding of -- and opportunities for -- people with intellectual disabilities.

### Support in South Africa:

For the first time, the South African government agreed to support South Africa's National Games with a sizeable grant, and expand Young Athletes and Unified Sports.

### UNICEF:

Four countries in Africa and Europe are receiving support from UNICEF. This includes grants to expand Young Athletes in Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Moldova.

### Refugee Crisis:

Throughout the year, Special Olympics worked in Africa and across Europe on behalf of refugees with intellectual disabilities. Our advocacy work also included bringing together global thought leaders to discuss this most vulnerable and least-served population within the global displacement crisis. Special Olympics Cyprus athlete and refugee Abdullah Najim was among the speakers at a European Commission panel held in Brussels, co-hosted by Burson-Marsteller.

### Dominican Support:

New commitment from the First Lady of the Dominican Republic for \$2 million to host the 2018 Global Athlete Congress and the Special Olympics World Tennis Invitational as part of the 50th anniversary celebration in Latin America.

## LEADING WITH OUR HEARTS

To build an inclusive world, Special Olympics is developing strong, inspiring leaders to light the way. Since 2014, the Special Olympics Leadership Academy has pioneered innovative training and support for leaders around the world. The academy works to provide useful, practical techniques and tools that can help leaders be more strategic and effective in driving the development and growth of Special Olympics in their community, nation or region.

**In 2017, the Special Olympics Leadership Academy engaged 144 leaders in 47 countries, including 13 athlete leaders. To date, the Leadership Academy has engaged 365 participants, including 28 athletes, from 107 countries from all seven global regions.**

A recent evaluation has shown the academy's impact on Programs: participating leaders report bringing close to \$3.5 million in new revenue and fostering over 255 partnerships, dramatically increasing awareness in their communities. In 2017, the Leadership Academy also received an Excellence in Practice award from the Association for Talent Development.



Participants at a 2017 Leadership Academy in Lusaka, Zambia are, from left, Satyagan Choytun, National Director, Special Olympics Mauritius; Mashane Nthutang, Manager, Healthy Athletes, Africa; Hon. Given Lubinda, Minister of Justice, Zambia; Denis Doolan, Chief, Organizational Excellence, Special Olympics International; and Leonard Nkosi, Chairperson, Special Olympics Malawi.



### "BORN APART"

In April, the Special Olympics-Y&R multimedia collaboration released the most popular video Special Olympics has ever posted. The video -- titled "Born Apart" -- was created to promote the Special Olympics Latin American Regional Games and released as part of National Siblings Day. Within the first 72 hours the video was viewed more than 6.1 million times and reached over 17.6 million people. It was shared on Facebook over 72,000 times.



### ESPY AWARDS:

In July, Eunice Kennedy Shriver was posthumously honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the 25th ESPY Awards Ceremony. Chairman Tim Shriver accepted the award, which was presented by former U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama during a live broadcast on ABC. In addition, as part of building awareness, 27 honorary ESPYs were awarded to Special Olympics athletes across the USA. From broadcast, re-airings, social media and international news coverage, Special Olympics reached over 1 billion impressions.





# OUR PARTNERS

Special Olympics is pleased to recognize our partners for their vital support.



## PIONEER PARTNER

Founded in 1981, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the largest grassroots awareness and fundraising group for the movement. What started as a run in 1981 has grown globally to over 109,000 law enforcement members raising over \$734 million since its inception.

In 2017, 130 law enforcement members, logistics personnel and Special Olympics athletes, representing 23 countries, served as Guardians of the Flame and ran the Flame of Hope throughout Austria. Members were globally selected by Torch Run programs to represent their countries on the Final Leg team. The first ever Unified Plunge, the Schladming Splash presented by The Coca-Cola Company and led by the LETR Final Leg team to include law enforcement, athletes, sponsors, and Board members were “freezin’ for a reason” and collectively raised over \$400,000 for Special Olympics.

LETR for Special Olympics represents members around the world committed to creating communities of inclusion, and we are a stronger movement because of their unwavering dedication.



Austrian Torch Runner Melanie Rettenbacher and Special Olympics British Columbia athlete Mandy Manzardo run with the Flame of Hope during the 2017 Final Leg in Austria.



A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

## PIONEER PARTNER

The ‘A Very Special Christmas’ albums, created by world renowned musicians, producers, video artists, A&M Records, and our investments, have generated over \$130 million since the first album launched in 1987. In 2017, over \$2.7 million was allocated by the Christmas Records Trust to support Program development and fund 91 Christmas Records Grants. These annual grants develop and strengthen leadership, grow Program sustainability, create competitions, and train athletes and coaches. Since 1988, the Christmas Records Trust has invested over \$80 million in Special Olympics Programs. We are grateful to so many who made and make this generosity possible.



Oyunbileg Batbayaar, an athlete with Special Olympics Mongolia, is highlighted in honor of the 30th Anniversary of the “A Very Special Christmas” album series. To see her story and stories of other athletes whose lives were changed by the funds made available through “A Very Special Christmas,” visit <http://www.averyspecialchristmas.org/videos/>.





The Schlading Splash, sponsored by Coca-Cola, was Special Olympics' inaugural Unified Polar Plunge, bringing together Special Olympics athletes, board members, law enforcement officers, celebrities and honored guests who jumped into the cold waters of the Sporthotel Royer.



## FOUNDING PARTNER

For the past 50 years, The Coca-Cola Company has led a global commitment to showcasing the unlimited potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities and the power of sport to bring people together and transform lives.

In March 2017, the Coca-Cola team in Austria brought the system together to activate the Special Olympics World Winter Games in a number of ways, including an integrated marketing campaign portraying athletes as heroes in their communities.

Centered on the tag line, "We Love Special Olympics," the company activations began with associates from all parts of the world personalizing wooden hearts to send to delegations from each country. The hearts held messages of encouragement and were held by the athletes as they entered the stadium during the Opening Ceremony Parade of Athletes.

Leveraging their music platform, Coca-Cola also released a 'unified song' called "Can You Feel It?" performed by Austrian singer Rose May Alaba, as well as musicians with intellectual disabilities from the organization Jugend am Werk (Youth at Work).

Additionally, Coca-Cola partnered with Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run to deliver the

inaugural Schlading Splash Unified Polar Plunge. The event raised more than \$400,000, and brought together over a hundred Law Enforcement Torch Runners from around the world as well as Special Olympics leadership, Board Members, celebrities and honored guests, and of course the iconic Coca-Cola polar bear.

Certainly, Coca-Cola and our people—across more than 200 countries—take great pride in our association with, and support of, Special Olympics.

**"The themes of inclusion, diversity, and well-being are woven into the very fabric of Special Olympics. These values are also part of Coca-Cola's brands and written on the hearts of the Coca-Cola people who bring them to life all around the world."**

**That's one reason our 50-year partnership is so strong today and why we were so excited about the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games and looking forward with great anticipation to a fantastic 50th Anniversary in 2018."**

**Muhtar Kent**  
Chairman of the Board, The Coca-Cola Company



## CHAMPION PARTNER

Bank of America has been a partner of Special Olympics for over three decades, working with Special Olympics to build a more diverse and inclusive society. This long history of support shows a strong commitment to giving opportunities to people with disabilities and advocating for inclusion and respect. This year, Bank of America was the presenting sponsor for the first Unified Talks series launched at the 2017 World Winter Games in Austria. The series provided a discussion platform to raise important topics related to inclusion, education, health and leadership to a broad audience of business leaders and the local community. The company continued its support of the Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers, as well as Special Olympics Athlete Leadership, which allows athletes to explore opportunities for greater participation in the movement beyond sports training and competition. Bank of America was also the premier sponsor of Special Olympics USA delegations competing in the 2017 World Winter Games in Austria and will continue this support ahead of the upcoming 2019 World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. Bank of America is also a legacy partner and platinum sponsor of the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle.



Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger Brightfield Shadi, second from left, co-hosting a Unified Talk in Austria.



## CHAMPION PARTNER

ESPN is proud of its relationship with Special Olympics, which spans more than 32 years. Since 2013, ESPN has invested over \$5 million in cash and in-kind to support Special Olympics' goal of building Unified Sports programming and resources in 10,000 schools, reaching 100,000 new or re-certified coaches and realizing 7 million acts of inclusion by 2020. Included in this investment was capacity-building resources for a new global cloud based CRM project, ongoing research to help Special Olympics establish a global inclusion index and integration with leagues such as MLS and NBA.

ESPN is the **Global Presenting Sponsor of Unified Sports and Official Broadcaster for the Special Olympics USA and World Games** which includes the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, and will also include the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. With support from ESPN and others, Special Olympics has grown this innovative and inclusive program to more than 1.6 million participants.



SportsCenter anchor Kevin Negandhi broadcasts the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games from Austria alongside co-host and Special Olympics athlete Dustin Plunkett. This was the second broadcast appearance for Dustin (Special Olympics Southern California) who also co-hosted the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles on ESPN.

Annual  
Report  
2017





From left: Tom Golisano, founder of the Golisano Foundation; Mike Worboys, New York Genesee Region athlete and Health Messenger; and Pat Dadey, coach. Mike addressed a Golisano Foundation board meeting and spoke about his experiences with Special Olympics.

## Golisano FOUNDATION

Imagine the possibilities!

The Golisano Foundation has changed the landscape of Special Olympics Health. Led by Tom Golisano, founder and Chairman of Paychex, Inc., the Golisano Foundation is one of the nation's leading foundations dedicated exclusively to helping organizations that assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mr. Golisano's philanthropy totals more than \$304 million, and his gifts of more than \$37 million to Special Olympics have helped improve health for people with intellectual disabilities globally.

Special Olympics Healthy Communities®, which launched in 2012 with the support of Mr. Golisano and the Golisano Foundation, is now opening doors to year-round access to health care in communities in 54 countries on six continents. This model global health initiative aims to reduce the severe health disparities that exist for people with intellectual disabilities both in accessing essential health services and improving their health status.

In 2017, the first Golisano Global Health Leadership Awards were presented by Golisano Foundation Executive Director Ann Costello in a ceremony at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. The awards recognized seven leading organizations and individuals, one in each Special Olympics Region, who are championing and increasing access to inclusive health care for people with intellectual disabilities. The Golisano Foundation's legacy of breaking down barriers and expanding access to health care for people with intellectual disabilities continues, as 100 locations are poised to become Special Olympics Healthy Communities by 2020.



## CHAMPION PARTNER

Lions Clubs International and the Lions Clubs International Foundation have used the transformative power of community service to enrich the lives of athletes and entire communities across the world as part of a growing global partnership. This has been accomplished through a variety of innovative programs, including signature support of the Opening Eyes vision care program, engaging Leo youth leaders as Unified Sports partners, supporting movement-wide leadership development, supporting families through the Family Health Forum initiative, and much more.

Through the partnership platform "Mission: Inclusion," Lions Clubs International continues to serve as the world's leader in community service, and continues to bring life-changing services to athletes, partners, families and volunteers throughout the world. In 2017, the Lions Clubs' centennial year, the Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust also gave generous support. Lions Clubs of Japan also contributed to making 2017 a stellar year for unity and inclusion.



Lions Clubs volunteers from Austria assist athletes in the Opening Eyes vision screening partnership program during the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games



## Microsoft OFFICIAL TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

As Special Olympics' Official Technology Partner, Microsoft provides both financial and in-kind support, including software for all Special Olympics' 220+ accredited Programs, hardware, technological expertise, and global visibility through Microsoft brand channels.

In 2017, Microsoft served as a main sponsor of Special Olympics World Winter Games, and provided hardware and software needed to run the Games. Additionally, they supported 29 athletes competing in Austria by raising visibility and sharing their stories through a digital campaign. At the 2018 USA Games in Seattle, Microsoft will be involved as the Premier Partner with local employee engagement and activation.

Microsoft also continues to support Special Olympics in the modernization of its technology with support and consultation on the new Games Management System (Connect) and Health platforms to work towards the goal of having cloud-based systems globally.



Osa Seven (Nigerian graffiti artist) and Marvellous Adewopo (Special Olympics Nigeria floor hockey athlete) learn from each other and share their talents as part of Microsoft's "We Are More" campaign



Essilor International and the Essilor Vision Foundation have been Global Partners of the Special Olympics movement since 2002. Through ongoing support to the Opening Eyes program, Essilor International provides ophthalmic lenses, equipment, and key technical volunteer support to vision screening programs worldwide, empowering the movement to offer athletes in need with prescription eyewear tailored to their individual needs. Essilor International has helped provide life-changing support to over 100,000 athletes in over 80 nations, including strong support at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. Local Essilor subsidiaries, laboratories and distributors have continued to answer the call to action of Special Olympics athletes to support achieving health justice by providing increased access to important health services, interventions, and education on the importance of sight preservation in sports and in life.



Since 2002, Essilor International has helped provide life-changing support to 100,000+ athletes in more than 80 countries.

## IKEA Foundation



Since 2016, the IKEA Foundation has become a critical player in expanding the reach of Special Olympics' youth programs globally. A major advocate for children's right to play and develop, IKEA Foundation has committed to supporting the growth of Special Olympics Young Athletes through the Foundation's "Let's Play for Change" Good Cause campaign, an annual initiative where IKEA co-workers and customers join together to help others. This unique initiative is committed to helping Special Olympics expand the reach of Young Athletes and inclusive sports programming in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Thailand – with a goal of advancing concepts of play time, development, learning, equal participation and sports activity for children in this region. Through 2019, our goal is to include 350,000 children in Young Athletes activities, thereby creating 5,000 socially inclusive communities that foster the development and growth of children with intellectual disabilities.

As part of their IWitness program, select employees from IKEA stores are given the opportunity to experience projects that the IKEA Foundation is funding globally. This year, IKEA co-workers from across Southeast Asia visited programs in India and Thailand to witness first-hand the ways Special Olympics enables young children with intellectual disabilities to experience the joy of sport and play through Young Athletes. We are honored to participate in the "Let's Play for Change" campaign and grateful to the IKEA Foundation for its commitment to expanding the reach of Young Athletes.



Sabari Nath from IKEA India shares a playful moment with a young athlete during an IKEA Foundation IWitness trip in September 2017. The program connects IKEA employees with programs being funded by the "Good Cause Campaign," of which Special Olympics has been a proud participant since 2016.

Safilo has been an active Global Partner of Special Olympics since 2003. Through Safilo's support of the vision care of individuals with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics athletes are able to receive prescription eyewear and UV-protective sunglasses in Opening Eyes vision screening programs in over 80 nations. Since the inception of the partnership, hundreds of thousands of Special Olympics athletes have received high-quality vision care, as well as high-fashion eyewear. In addition, as part of its support of the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Safilo generously provided over 2,700 pairs of ski goggles and 600 ski helmets to both enhance the winter sports participation of athletes, as well as build upon the legacy of the Games as athletes compete in their home nations. The partnership between Special Olympics and Safilo continues to make a tremendous impact and increase health care access to one of the most marginalized populations in the world today.



A year-round supporter since 2003, Safilo also generously provided over 2,700 pairs of ski goggles and 600 ski helmets to athletes during the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games.



Kim Samuel, Special Olympics Board Member, and the Samuel Family Foundation have been proud and long-term supporters and champions of Special Olympics, sharing the vision that inclusion through sport is the key to ensuring people with intellectual disabilities are included and experience a sense of belonging in their communities. Special Olympics and the Samuel Family Foundation work together to challenge the global injustice, intolerance and isolation all too often experienced by individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

In 2017, Kim Samuel and the Samuel Family Foundation committed to expand their support of Special Olympics athletes around the world. Through a groundbreaking new initiative focused on increased engagement among athlete siblings, we are working like never before to connect family members to the larger movement in a new way. Support from the Samuel Family Foundation is also helping to expand our youth initiatives by identifying and amplifying innovative concepts driven by young people and bringing them to life. Special Olympics is grateful to Ms. Samuel and the Foundation for their long-term commitment to Special Olympics and our shared mission to reduce social isolation and stigma within our communities.



Kim Samuel and the Samuel Family Foundation remain vital supporters of the Special Olympics movement, providing leadership and guidance in the fields of social isolation and connectedness.



Finish Line has been a partner of Special Olympics since 2012, supporting the movement through robust volunteer engagement and in-store fundraising. The company is also a Silver Level Sponsor of the 2018 USA Games.

In 2017, the Finish Line Youth Foundation funded 34 Special Olympics Programs across the United States to provide essential volunteer engagement and support for athletes going to the 2018 USA Games in Seattle. Additionally, the Youth Foundation is outfitting state basketball teams with premium sneakers for the USA Games.

The Youth Foundation recently concluded its sixth annual fundraising campaign, “Spreading Unstoppable Joy,” which featured athlete Daina Shilts from Wisconsin. Her snowboarding career highlights include six World Games medals and three X Games medals. Programs in 45 states received funds as a result of this campaign.



Finish Line is proud to spread unstoppable joy with Special Olympics to athletes everywhere. A Finish Line employee poses at a shoe giveaway during the 2017 Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games.

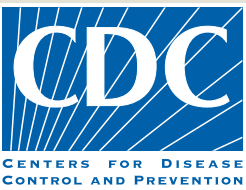


Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

The European Union is a long-standing partner of the Special Olympics movement, providing key support and funding across the 28 EU member states. Through the European Union’s Erasmus+ programme, Special Olympics received a €6.5 million grant to support the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. Nearly 2,600 athletes, including more than 1,200 from the European Union, competed at the Games. The EU grant ensured the success and ongoing positive legacy impact of the event throughout all EU Member States. The funds also helped to make possible a variety of sport- and health-focused projects, each of which have significantly improved regional awareness raising, as well as the overall health and well-being of European citizens with intellectual disabilities, their families and the wider community.



Special Olympics Germany athlete Jonas Stuerznickel competing in alpine-skiing during the World Winter Games 2017 in Austria.



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports work that improves the overall health and quality of life for people living with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities. The CDC has provided funding and public health expertise to Special Olympics since 2002. CDC’s support of the Healthy Athletes program facilitates health screenings, education, services and support to athletes in a fun, welcoming environment, and provides specialized training for doctors and other health professionals.

The CDC supports the efforts of Special Olympics to expand access to follow-up care and wellness programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities, to partner with medical schools to integrate appropriate training and education for the next generation of health professionals, to help elevate the discussion about health and intellectual disability across the country, and to advance U.S. national health policy to be more inclusive.

CDC supports the inclusion of people with disabilities in public health programs that prevent disease and promote healthy behaviors and safety, while working to eliminate barriers to health care and improve access to routine preventive services.



Special Olympics athlete and Health Messenger Danielle Oehlam from Indiana. Danielle is committed to a healthy lifestyle and to making her family join her journey. Her husband and two sons also compete in Special Olympics.





Herbalife Nutrition became a new global supporter of Special Olympics in 2016. They continued their support into 2017 to help grow Special Olympics' ongoing fitness strategy committed to improving the wellness and fitness of our athletes and supporters through increased physical activity, and better nutrition and hydration. Several Herbalife Nutrition products available in the U.S., Mexico and Brazil featured the Special Olympics logo. As in years past, Herbalife Nutrition employees, members and independent distributors have generously volunteered to support our athletes around the globe. In 2017, many of these Herbalife Nutrition local teams also provided support to several delegations that participated in the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.



Herbalife independent distributors in Mexico joined athletes from Special Olympics Mexico during a skills clinic they hosted with the country's national soccer team, the Pumas



Since 2009, TD Bank has partnered with Special Olympics on an annual fundraising campaign. This amazing partnership has raised more than \$9.7 million and increased awareness for the Play Unified movement. Each year over 1,200 TD Bank stores from Maine to Florida participate in this six-week campaign focused on raising dollars and awareness to support Special Olympics. Chapters in Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia and Vermont benefit from this unique partnership and commitment from TD Bank.

TD Bank customers engage in this unique campaign by purchasing Special Olympics branded bracelets. TD also offers a series of collectible Special Olympics Athlete Trading Cards to customers and friends. Changing each year, trading cards feature 50 athletes from Maine to Florida and are available at TD stores and special events. In addition, a unique microsite ([www.meetourathletes.org](http://www.meetourathletes.org)) compliments the campaign and provides customers and TD employees the opportunity to learn more about Special Olympics athletes. TD remains deeply committed at all levels of the organization to raising dollars, supporting volunteerism and sharing with its customers TD's commitment to inclusion and the mission of Special Olympics.



Special Olympics New Jersey athlete Benjamin Fei throws a curveball during an impromptu home-run derby in the lobby of TD's Chatham store



Hasbro has partnered with Special Olympics since 2016, as part of BE FEARLESS BE KIND, the company's signature philanthropic initiative designed to inspire and empower kids to have compassion, empathy, and courage to stand up for others and be inclusive throughout their lives. In 2017, Hasbro provided support for Special Olympics Unified Schools through grants to 11 Programs in 8 countries supporting Unified programming in 170 schools and engaging over 6,000 youth with and without intellectual disabilities. Additionally, Hasbro awarded 10 youth in the United States with BE FEARLESS BE KIND Awards, recognizing exceptional leaders for inclusion. Hasbro's continued partnership includes Bronze sponsorship of the Special Olympics 2018 USA Games, grant support for Unified Schools globally, as well as a generous five-year commitment to support the Unified Generation as a part of the Choose to Include Campaign.



Hasbro employees volunteer with Special Olympics Great Britain Unified basketball athletes on Hasbro's Global Day of Joy.



MetLife Foundation, the philanthropic arm of global insurer MetLife, in 2017 launched a three-year partnership with Special Olympics. The Foundation's support, a clear demonstration of a commitment to serving the communities where MetLife operates, is centered on the expansion of Young Athletes, a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities ages 2 to 7. Support from MetLife Foundation enabled Special Olympics to launch Young Athletes in five countries and expand activities in 21 additional countries in the Europe Eurasia and Middle East/North Africa regions. With their direct support, almost 4,500 children with and without disabilities participated in Young Athletes activities, gaining motor, social and cognitive skill development through inclusive play. MetLife associates volunteered at Young Athletes events in eight countries across MetLife's Europe and Middle East/ North Africa regions. In addition to the three-year Young Athletes partnership, MetLife also chose Special Olympics as a partner for their 2017 Community Week with over 400 employee volunteers in 17 countries.



Over 100 MetLife associates and family members volunteered at a Young Athletes event in Cairo, Egypt



# PERFECTSENSE

Perfect Sense has been an integral innovator and collaborator in the quickly evolving online presence of Special Olympics around the world. Perfect Sense has joined with Special Olympics as a technology partner since its inception, leading the movement through the ever-changing digital landscape and positioning strategic initiatives such as Special Olympics World Games and our Play Unified campaign for global success.

In 2017, Perfect Sense invested critical support in our 4th Annual Hannah Teter Unified Snowboard Race in Aspen, Colorado. The event brought together top Special Olympics snowboarders with Olympic and professional snowboarders who raced together to break down barriers and change attitudes. In March, 11 Perfect Sense employees traveled to the World Games in Austria to lead the Unified Sports Experiences, a series of seven exhibition events that united hundreds of athletes and Unified partners as teammates. Additionally, in June, Perfect Sense hosted the Perfect Sense Unified Challenge five-day golf tournament in Washington, D.C., which partnered Special Olympics golfers from the United States with wounded veterans and teenagers from The First Tee with PGA TOUR professionals. Perfect Sense also provided valuable in-kind services including the design and development of two new digital properties—Special Olympics’ inaugural online annual report and Abu Dhabi 2019.org.



Perfect Sense employees, from left, Parker Ramsdell, Aaliyah Goodman, Rohit Monga, Brittany Smith and Shehar Banu at the 2017 World Winter Games in Austria



Toys “R” Us, Inc. and The Toys “R” Us Children’s Fund continued their long history of supporting Special Olympics in 2017, helping strengthen and expand Young Athletes programs around the world. Toys “R” Us provided grants to 22 Special Olympics Programs in 19 countries, providing sport and play opportunities for children with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics’ partnership with Toys “R” Us has helped grow this vital program that impacts children, caregivers, teachers, and communities and is proven to improve motor skills and social emotional learning of children with intellectual disabilities, as well as teach the principles of inclusion and acceptance at an early age.



Toys “R” Us helps fund Young Athletes globally, not only increasing motor skills and sport readiness of children involved but also increasing family and community members’ hopes and expectations of the abilities of children with intellectual disabilities.

# Y&R

2017 proved another exciting year for the Y&R/Special Olympics partnership. In our shared mission to create a more inclusive world, we developed and launched a new global brand campaign with a new look and feel. We drove new content, launching the most engaging piece of content for Special Olympics in its history – the video “Born Apart,” which earned 14 million views in three days – and supported the 2017 World Winter Games with a campaign that drove the “Heartbeat for the World.” We also helped launch the Refugee/Special Olympics Partnership at the EU Refugee Summit.

Special Olympics is a cornerstone client of Y&R Inspire Change, a global social impact practice geared toward both nonprofit organizations and brands incorporating social purpose strategies. This practice builds on Y&R’s more than seven decades of experience working with nonprofits and brands to elevate social causes. We exist to help nonprofits and brands propel social change and change the world for the better.



Y&R/Special Olympics team, from left: Peter Sullivan, Britta Dahl, David Sable, João Coutinho, Louisa Gargiulo, Felipe Pavani, Kate Lummus, John Swan



In 2017, Voya Financial and Special Olympics embarked on a new partnership to promote financial wellness and inclusion to Special Olympics athletes across the country. Voya is committed to making a secure financial future possible – one person, one family at a time – especially to those who may require extra care. Through the company’s Voya Cares™ initiative, which focuses on better serving the disability community through internal and external efforts, Voya is working with Special Olympics to impact the lives of people with special needs as well as their caregivers nationwide. To spark a national conversation and kick off future Special Olympics inclusion initiatives, Voya launched the #InvestInSomethingSpecial campaign on social media, celebrating Special Olympics athletes and their goals beyond sports.



Special Olympics New York athletes Matthew Schuster and Ben Beavers joined Special Olympics International CEO Mary Davis for a check presentation ceremony with Voya Financial’s CEO Rod Martin, COO Alain Karaoglan and Director of Voya Cares Center of Excellence Jessica Tuman



Since 2015, through the support of ExxonMobil, Special Olympics Nigeria has been providing malaria and HIV/AIDS education, testing and services to people with intellectual disabilities, their families and communities. Coaches are trained to deliver a 9-week malaria and HIV/AIDS education curriculum (called “Skillz for Life”), specifically designed for adolescents with intellectual disabilities, through soccer practices. Family Health Forums are held alongside the session to ensure family involvement and lessons are reinforced at home. The 9-week curriculum culminates in a Unified soccer tournament which offers HIV/AIDS and malaria testing, counseling and referral services to people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

In 2017, the curriculum was launched in eight states of the South-South and South-East Regions of Nigeria, reaching 2,361 athletes. 1,902 individuals received free malaria tests, 1,750 family members attended Family Health Forums, six soccer tournaments were held, and over 1,600 people were tested for HIV.



Special Olympics Nigeria athletes are learning how to prevent malaria and HIV through fun, interactive activities delivered through soccer practices.



CITGO’s support of Special Olympics is built around a mutual passion for making everyone feel welcome and included. In 2016, CITGO expanded their support and became a national sponsor of the Unified Strategy for Schools, providing funding to key markets where they have refineries, as well as engaging their employees. CITGO was also an official supplier to the 2017 Law Enforcement Torch Run Truck Convoy, an annual event that brings together Special Olympics athletes and families, law enforcement, and the trucking industry as a way to increase public awareness of Special Olympics’ efforts to build stronger communities where everyone can get involved.



CITGO served as the nationwide Official Fuel Sponsor of LETR’s Truck Convoy



## Burson•Marsteller

Burson-Marsteller ([www.Burson-Marsteller.com](http://www.Burson-Marsteller.com)) is the public relations agency of record for Special Olympics International. This commitment is led by Burson-Marsteller’s sports and entertainment marketing specialty, Fan Experience, and is supported by the firm’s offices across the globe. The Burson-Marsteller team provides Special Olympics with strategic communications programs, event strategy and celebrity ambassadorship engagements to support its youth-activation initiatives which inspire participation in the movement through activism, social inclusion and the Special Olympics Unified Sports® program. In 2017, Burson-Marsteller increased awareness and visibility for Special Olympics’ Play Unified campaign and helped set the stage for Special Olympics’ 50th anniversary in 2018 with a broad communications effort. As Special Olympics heads into its next 50 years, Burson-Marsteller is helping to shape the communications strategy by targeting a younger audience – one quarter of the world’s population is under 25 years old – to promote inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities across society.



Members of Burson-Marsteller’s New York office, including U.S. CEO Mike Fernandez, joined local supporters by diving into freezing water at the inaugural Bronx Polar Plunge at the Bronx Zoo in November. The Burson-Marsteller team braved the cold to raise funds and awareness for athletes in the Special Olympics New York program.



In countries throughout the world, UNICEF’s generous support has enabled Special Olympics inclusive development programming to expand into new communities and nations as part of a growing global partnership for children of all abilities. Special Olympics and UNICEF continue to collaborate to bring increased services to athletes of all abilities in the areas of global health, inclusive sports, early childhood development, youth activation and more. In addition, through the leadership of Global Spokesperson Lucy Meyer, Special Olympics and UNICEF USA have helped bring added visibility and sub-Program development to a range of nations, including Jamaica, Brazil, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.



As a spokeswoman for the UNICEF and Special Olympics partnership, athlete Lucy Meyer has traveled the world inspiring young people with disabilities facing loneliness, abuse and other injustices: “Acceptance and inclusion should be a right for every child in the world.”



PIONEER PARTNERS

These organizations have given \$50M+ over their lifetime



CHAMPION PARTNERS

These organizations have given \$10M+ over their lifetime and also give \$1M+ annually



ANNUAL GIVING

\$1,500,000+

Global Platinum Partners

The Coca-Cola Company\*  
Founding Partner

Bank of America\*

Recording Artists of Christmas Records Trust

Essilor Vision Foundation

ESPN

Golisano Foundation

IKEA Foundation

Lions Clubs International

Microsoft  
Official Technology Partner

Safilo Group

Samuel Family Foundation

TOYOTA\*

Platinum Partners

Finish Line

European Union

\$1,500,000+

US Based Platinum Partners

Government Partners

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Office of Special Education Programs of the U.S. Department of Education

\$1,000,000 - \$1,499,000

Global Gold Partners

Herbalife Nutrition

United Airlines\*

Gold Partner

TD Bank

\$500,000 - \$999,999

Global Silver Partners

Hasbro\*

MetLife Foundation

Perfect Sense

Toys "R" Us

Y&R

Silver Partner

Voya Financial

\$250,000 - \$499,000

Global Bronze Partners

ExxonMobil

Procter & Gamble

Sun Culture Foundation

Bronze Partner

CITGO\*

NFL Foundation

Tencent

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Supporting Partners

Alex and Ani

American Express Foundation

Burson-Marsteller

CEB

Hyatt Foundation\*

Knights of Columbus

KPMG

SOHO CHINA

Universal Music

US Fund for UNICEF

Wrigley Company Foundation

WWE

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Spirit Partners

AT&T

Boston's Pizza Foundation

City Football Group

Copa Airlines

Dun & Bradstreet

Engel & Völkers North America

Irish Aid

Johnson & Johnson

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation

MTM Recognition

NCAA

Optometry Giving Sight

Special Hope Foundation

SurveyMonkey

UNICEF

Event Partner

RSM/David Love III Foundation

\$100,000+ In-Kind

Impact Partners

Liberty Sport

Mattel

Skillsoft

Specs4us

TOMS

Media Partners

AIPS  
International Sports Press Association

Albavisión

ESPN\*

Euronews/ACT Responsible

Sports Partners

Aspen Skiing Company

Euroleague Basketball

FIFA/Football For Hope

Major League Soccer

Moose International

NBA Cares

North American Ski Police

One4All Foundation

One World Play

Professional Golfers Association (PGA)

UEFA

Union of European Football Association

United States Bowling Congress

USA Softball

USGA  
United States Golf Association

\*Inclusion Revolution Supporter





# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Individuals, Foundations & Trusts

Abbeycare, Inc  
William Alford and Yuanyuan Shen  
Alpha Sigma Alpha Foundation  
The Ammon Foundation  
The Anderson Hatch Family Foundation  
Marc Andreesen  
Anonymous Estate Gifts (2)  
Rev. & Mrs. Kurt Asplundh  
Ernest Z.Bower  
Laura and David Braddock  
Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation  
R. Nicholas Burns  
Estate of Marian K. Burrows  
Elizabeth and Stephen Carter  
Thurman Case  
Clement Chileshe  
Mr. Henry Chyung  
Estate of Cheryl Ciacco  
Angela Ciccolo  
Loretta Claiborne  
Perfect 10 Productions on behalf  
of Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci  
William Conroy  
Donna de Varona  
Estate of Joan Digangi  
Cuong Do  
Doran Family 2009 Charitable Lead Annuity Trust  
Ralph Driscoll Charitable Gift Annuity  
Estate of Lilyanne P.Droughn  
Elisabeth Dykens  
Estate of Frederick Eldridge  
Yolanda Eleta de Varela  
Enterprise Events Group, Inc.  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
F.I.S.H Foundation  
Finish Line Youth Foundation  
Anne Finucane and Mike Barnicle  
Hydro Flask  
The Carr Foundation, Inc.  
Estate of Lorraine Frank  
Mr. Joel P. Fried  
Luis B.Gallegos  
Kappa Beta Gamma Sorority  
The Gang Family  
Kathy Gibson  
Lori Gladnick  
Mr. Donald Goodwin  
Mrs. Carolyn Grimm  
Billy L.Harbert  
Hellman Foundation  
Mr. William J.Hill  
Huntington Nation Bank  
IKEA Foundation  
Griffin Industrial, LLC  
Nils Kastberg  
Defne and Muhtar Kent  
Kim Byeong Deok  
David L. Klein Jr. Foundation  
Ashok Krishnamurthi  
Michelle Kwan  
Ronak Lakhani  
Ray and Stephanie Lane\*  
Lebensfeld Foundation  
Brad Lebovitz  
Mrs. Doris R.Leclerc

Henley and Helen Lee  
Ms.Linda Abell  
Rosalie Lindros  
Mark and Teresa Little  
Mark London and Dania Fitzgerald  
Stacey and Larry Lucchino  
The Lynch Foundation\*  
Lyon Family Fund  
Margaret and Jack Tarver Foundation  
Holly Marr  
Estate of Lois J.Martin  
Mr. James G.Maynard  
Estate of Lois McCarthy  
Cynthia McKee  
Georgia Milton-Sheats  
Ms. Virginia Mitchell  
Katie and Scott Mitic  
Gordon & Betty Moore Trust  
Angelo Moratti  
The Honorable Na Kyung-won  
Dennis Narlinger  
Nathan Cummings Foundation  
Jerry Noble  
Denis O'Brien\*  
Pan Shiyi  
Paul Olson Charitable Gift Annuity  
Raymond Paul  
Sam Perkins  
Gone Gator Music on behalf of Tom Petty  
Brian Phillips  
Estate of Dorothy Pinto  
PMI Educational Foundation  
The Portmann Family Charitable Fund  
Premier Foods Concepts, LLC  
Estate of Anne Prendergast  
Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation  
Reno Running Company, LLC  
Eleni Rossides  
David Sable  
Paul Sallaberry  
Kim Samuel and The Samuel Family Foundation\*  
The San Francisco Foundation  
Estate of Mildred M. Schlageter  
Stephen Schwerdfeger  
The Shekels Charitable Fund  
Linda Potter and Timothy Shriver  
Maria Shriver  
Robert Sargent Shriver III  
Maria Gabriela Sigala  
Mr. James L.Sinegal  
G. Christopher and Shanon Smith  
Ruth and Arne Sorenson\*  
Ms. Nancy Stagliano  
Dr. Wing-kun Tam, Past International President,  
Lions Clubs International  
TZP Cares Foundation  
Hamdi Ulukaya  
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center  
Thomas Vartanian  
Estate of Vincent Vassallo  
Mr. Adam Vinoskey  
Natalia Vodianova  
Estate of Kathe Walker  
Wasatch Advisors  
Washington All Stars  
Natalie Wexler and James A. Feldman  
Julie Wilen  
Estate of Patricia D. Wilkerson  
Matthew Williams  
Yang Lan\*  
Yao Ming  
Yeung Man Ying  
Zhou Xun

## Shriver Society

*The Shriver Society recognizes a group of supporters distinguished by their significant contribution over the past year. These individuals are bringing hope and promise to the lives of our athletes across the globe and upholding the incredible legacy of the Shriver family.*

### Co-Chairs

Yolanda Eleta de Varela  
Scott Hamilton

### Founding Members

The Honorable Jaime Aleman  
Gertrude Boyle  
David and Laura Braddock  
Elizabeth and Stephen Carter  
Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci  
Janet Froetscher  
Jack Furst  
David Gang and Charmaine Dittmar  
Joan Ganz Cooney  
B. Thomas Golisano  
Ronak Lakhani  
Ray and Stephanie Lane  
Katie and Scott Mitic  
Angelo Moratti  
Kim Samuel  
Linda Potter and Timothy Shriver  
Ruth and Arne Sorenson

### Members

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Dr. Elisabeth Dykens  
James A. Feldman and Natalie Wexler  
Anne Finucane and Mike Barnicle  
Billy L. Harbert  
Laureus Sport for Good Foundation  
Henley and Helen Lee  
Larry and Stacey Lucchino  
Peter Lynch  
Glenn Lyon  
Denis O'Brien  
The Portmann Family Charitable Fund  
Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation  
Ms. Cara Raether  
Maria Shriver  
G. Christopher and Shanon Smith  
Hamdi Ulukaya  
Natalia Vodianova  
Wing-Kun Tam  
Yang Lan  
Yao Ming

## The Champion's Society®

*Special Olympics would also like to recognize members of The Champion's Society—donors who have made a commitment to include a future gift to the organization through their estate plans.*

Erik Andersen  
Arnold W. Anderson  
Anonymous (27)  
Dr. Martin Auslander  
Ruth Barker  
Blessing Beasley  
Stanley Bohrer  
John & Betsy Bugden: Friends of Teddy Graves  
& Carl Lapoint  
Lester P. Burg  
Patrick Campbell  
Dorothy Christopher  
Mr. G. Thomas Clark  
Kathryn D. Clark  
Ofelia Clouston  
James M. Compton  
In Memory of James E. T. Crockford  
Kenneth J. Custer  
Gian De Falco  
Alfred Dietrich  
Katherine Dillon  
Charles Dixon  
Barbara Doerner  
Ralph J. Driscoll  
James Eberhardt  
Andrew Elek  
Ms. Kim Elliott  
Nicole M. Engdahl  
Jon Erikson  
Sandra Esner  
Donna Boyle Farley  
Carolyn Flor  
Gloris Ford  
Jim and Norma Garard  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gessler  
Gillett Family Trust B  
Robert Gingerich  
Jay Glicksman  
Connie Grandmason  
Marilyn Grandmason  
Richard Gresham and Adrienne Dold Charitable  
Gift Annuity  
Joan Guertin  
Linda Haas  
Gary Denzil Harvey  
Margaret Lin Hazen  
Steven Hecht & Kenneth Phalen  
Bob & Sara Hedlund  
Karl W. Helft  
Mary Hoel  
Anne Holland  
Anne Homans  
James Howard  
Susan Saint James and Dick Ebersol  
Dorothy Johnson  
Marie C. King  
Robert L. & Charlotte L. Klein

Mary S. Kochiss  
Hans and Sandra Kristensen  
Chris and Erin Laurents  
Lin L. Laursen  
William J. Lewis  
Marie Lilley  
Catherine Loughman  
Joyce Manchester  
Donald & Lisa Matson  
Jay E. Mayer  
Theresa A. McClain  
Nancy McKee Windsor  
Kristin McLeod  
James T. and Marion M. McManus  
Cynthia W. Melamed  
Geraldine Mohr  
Janice Moore  
Sue E. Morton  
Shirley Myers  
Don Nichter  
Paul R. Olson  
William Parker  
Joan Persing  
Maria Polito, in Memory of Rosalie Polito  
Deborah Quick  
Lynda D. Ray in memory of Donald Lange  
Mary Joan Reasby  
Lena Romito  
Ernest Rothfelder  
Jan Sagett  
Blake Sandy  
Mrs. Toby Beth Schoolman  
Esther E. Shafer  
David P. Sickles  
Ronald Siemssen  
Judy Slavik  
Linda-Lee & Jeffrey Slesinger in Memory of  
Anna Rosen  
Bonnie Stafford in Honor of Caitlin Stafford  
Charles (Chip) Steitz  
Dr. Jody Terranova and Mr. Carl Verner  
Dr. Allen F. Turcke Charitable Gift Annuity  
Lisa Valitutti  
David Velasco in Memory of Donald Harlow  
Joan E. Wheatley  
Bonnie Zaucha  
Nancy Stagliano ICO Albert Angelos  
Ken Hoffman  
Charles Netter  
Loretta Claiborne  
Sandra Seaton  
Frank Merenda  
Gertrude M. Oberbeck





# OUR AMBASSADORS

Dani Alves  
Her Serene Highness Princess Charlene of Monaco  
Jamaal Charles  
Nadia Comaneci  
Brooklyn Decker  
Elena Delle Donne  
Andre Drummond  
Vladimir ‘Vanja’ Grbic  
Joe Haden  
Scott Hamilton  
Padraig Harrington  
In-Kyung (I.K.) Kim  
Damian Lillard  
Julen Lopetegui\*  
Maria Menounos

Ricardo Montaner  
Dikembe Mutombo  
Hidetoshi Nakata  
Li Na  
Nancy O’Dell  
Apolo Anton Ohno  
Michael Phelps  
Nicole Scherzinger  
Hannah Teter  
Vanessa Williams  
Yang Lan  
Yang Yang  
Yao Ming  
Yuna Kim  
Zhou Xun\*

\* Joined in 2017

## 2017 SPECIAL OLYMPICS NATIONAL AND STATE PROGRAMS

### AFRICA

Benin  
Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Cote D'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic  
of Congo\*  
Ghana  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritius  
Namibia\*  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
South Africa  
Swaziland  
Tanzania  
The Gambia\*  
Togo  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

### ASIA PACIFIC

Afghanistan\*  
American Samoa  
Australia  
Bangladesh  
Bharat (India)  
Bhutan  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
Fiji  
Indonesia  
Kiribati  
Laos\*  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Nepal\*  
New Zealand  
Nippon (Japan)  
Pakistan  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Samoa  
Serendib (Sri Lanka)  
Singapore  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Tonga\*  
Vanuatu\*  
Vietnam

### EAST ASIA

China  
Chinese Taipei  
Hong Kong  
Korea

Macau  
Mongolia

### EUROPE EURASIA

Albania\*  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Faroe Islands  
Finland  
France  
Georgia Republic  
Germany  
Gibraltar  
Great Britain  
Hellas (Greece)  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Isle of Man  
Israel\*  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kosovo  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
FYR Macedonia  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tajikistan  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan

### LATIN AMERICA

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Puerto Rico  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

### MIDDLE EAST/ NORTH AFRICA

Algeria  
Bahrain  
Egypt  
Iran  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Mauritania\*  
Morocco  
Oman  
Palestine  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Sudan\*  
Syria  
Tunisia  
United Arab Emirates

### NORTH AMERICA

Aruba  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Bermuda  
Bonaire  
Canada  
Cayman Islands  
Curacao  
Dominica  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Jamaica  
St. Kitts & Nevis  
St. Lucia  
St. Maarten  
St. Vincent & The Grenadines  
Suriname

Trinidad & Tobago  
U.S. Virgin Islands

Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
Northern California  
Southern California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Florida  
Georgia  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nebraska  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
New York  
Nevada  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

\* Founding Committee



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Includes members who served at any time between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

- Dr. Timothy P. Shriver**  
Chairman  
Special Olympics

**Ms. Mary Davis**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Special Olympics

**Mr. William Alford**  
Lead Director and Vice Chair  
Henry L. Stimson Professor,  
Harvard Law School

**Ms. Loretta Claiborne**  
Vice Chair  
Chief Inspiration Officer, Special Olympics;  
Special Olympics Athlete, USA

**Mr. Angelo Moratti**  
Vice Chair  
Vice Chairman, SARAS S.p.A.  
Chairman, Special Olympics Italy

**Ms. Michelle Kwan**  
Treasurer  
U.S. Public Diplomacy Envoy  
Olympic Figure Skating Medalist

**Ms. Angela Ciccolo**  
Secretary  
Chief Legal Officer  
Special Olympics

**Mr. Steven Keener**  
Assistant Secretary  
Corporate Counsel  
Special Olympics
- His Highness Sayyid Faisal Bin Turki Al Said**  
IAC Middle East North Africa Representative  
Chairman, Special Olympics Oman

**Mr. Ernest Z. Bower**  
President and CEO, Bower Group Asia  
Senior Adviser and Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asia Studies, Center for Strategic & International Studies

**Dr. David Braddock**  
Executive Director, Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities  
Associate Vice President for Research, University of Colorado System

**Ambassador Nicholas Burns**  
Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Mr. Stephen M. Carter**  
Managing Partner,  
Larkspur Holdings LLLP

**Dr. Clement Chileshe**  
IAC Africa Representative;  
Vice Chairperson, Special Olympics Zambia

**Ms. Nadia Comaneci**  
Olympic Gymnastics Gold Medalist

**Mr. Bart Conner**  
Sports Broadcaster;  
Olympic Gymnastics Gold Medalist

**Ms. Yolanda Eleta de Varela**  
President, Special Olympics Panama  
Member, Latin America Strategic Advisory Council

**Ms. Donna de Varona**  
Sports Broadcaster  
Olympic Swimming Gold Medalist

**Dr. Elisabeth Dykens**  
Director, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development

**Ms. Anne Finucane**  
Vice Chairman, Bank of America

**Ambassador Luis Gallegos**  
Former Ambassador from Ecuador to the United States; Chairman, Global UN Partnership for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies; President, International Rehabilitation Foundation

**Ms. Kathy Gibson**  
IAC Asia Pacific Representative  
CEO, Special Olympics New Zealand

**Mr. Benjamin Haack**  
Special Olympics Athlete, Australia

**Mr. Scott Hamilton**  
Sports Broadcaster  
Olympic Figure Skating Gold Medalist

**Mr. Nils Kastberg**  
Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF

**Mr. Muhtar Kent**  
Chairman and CEO, The Coca-Cola Company

**Mr. Kim Byeong Deok**  
IAC East Asia Representative  
Vice Executive Chairman,  
Special Olympics Korea

**Ms. Ronak Lakhani**  
General Secretary, Special Olympics Pakistan

**Mr. Raymond J. Lane**  
Managing Partner, GreatPoint Ventures;  
Strategic Advisor, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers
- Mr. Li Ruigang**  
Founding Chairman, CMC Capital Partners;  
Former Chief of Staff, Shanghai Municipal;  
Former Chairman, Shanghai Media Group

**Mr. Larry Lucchino**  
President and CEO, Boston Red Sox

**Mr. Glenn Lyon**  
President and CEO, Finish Line

**Mr. Peter Mazunda**  
IAC Africa Representative  
Board Chair, Special Olympics Malawi

**Ms. Georgia Milton-Sheats**  
IAC North America Representative  
CEO, Special Olympics Georgia

**Ms. Katie Burke Mitic**  
Digital Technology Entrepreneur

**Mr. Dikembe Mutombo**  
President & CEO, The Dikembe Mutombo Foundation; Former NBA Player

**Hon. Na Kyung Won**  
Chair, Special Olympics Korea  
Congresswoman, Korean National Assembly

**Mr. Denis O'Brien**  
Chairman & Owner, Communicorp

**Mr. Samuel Perkins**  
NBA Player Consultant  
Olympic Basketball Gold Medalist

**Ms. Monica Rivero**  
IAC Latin America Representative;  
Chair, Special Olympics Bolivia

**Dr. Eleni Rossides**  
IAC Europe Eurasia Representative;  
National Director, Special Olympics Cyprus

**Ms. Kim Samuel**  
President, The Samuel Family Foundation;  
Scholar in Residence, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative

**Mr. Bobby Shriver**  
Activist; Attorney

**Ms. Maria Gabriela Sigala**  
Activist; Philanthropist; Attorney

**Dr. Wing-Kun Tam**  
Past President, International Association of Lions Clubs

**Mr. Hamdi Ulukaya**  
CEO, Chobani

**Ms. Natalia Vodianova**  
Model; Philanthropist; Film Actress

**Mr. Matthew Williams**  
Chair, Special Olympics Global Athlete Congress

**Ms. Vanessa Williams**  
Actress; Recording Artist

**Ms. Yang Lan**  
Founding Chairperson, Sun Culture Media Group and Sun Culture Foundation; Journalist; Philanthropist

**Mr. Yao Ming**  
Chairman, Shanghai Sharks Basketball Club;  
Founder, the Yao Ming Foundation

**Dr. Dicken Yung**  
Former Honorary President, Special Olympics Asia Pacific and East Asia; Founder-Chairman, Special Olympics Hong Kong; Professor and Director, University of Oregon Asia Pacific Continuing Education and Professional Training Programs; Chairman, Unilava Corp.

# GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Includes staff who served at any time between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017

- Dr. Timothy P. Shriver**  
Chairman

**Mary Davis**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Steve Borrelli**  
Chief Human Resources Officer

**Noah Broadwater**  
Chief Technology Officer

**Angela Ciccolo**  
Chief Legal Officer

**Loretta Claiborne**  
Chief Inspiration Officer

**Denis Doolan**  
Chief, Organizational Excellence

**Dr. John Dow**  
Chief, Regional and Program Operations

**Tim Kobosko**  
Chief Information Officer
- Louis Lauria**  
Chief of Games and Competition

**Michael Meenan**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Kirsten Suto Seckler**  
Chief Brand & Communications Officer

**Kelli Seely**  
Chief Marketing & Development Officer

**Drew Boshell**  
Senior Vice President,  
Sport and Health

**Christa White**  
Senior Vice President,  
Global Development and  
Government Relations

**Beth Alldridge**  
Vice President,  
Regional and Program Operations

# REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Dr. John Dow**  
Acting Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Asia Pacific

**Claudia Echeverry**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Latin America

**Marc Edenzon**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics North America

**David Evangelista**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Europe Eurasia
- Mary Gu**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics East Asia

**Charles Nyambe**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Africa

**Angelina Ong**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Asia Pacific

**Ayman Wahab**  
Regional President and Managing Director,  
Special Olympics Middle East/North Africa



# 50 YEARS OF EMPOWERMENT

This year, Special Olympics ramped up planning for the year-long 50th anniversary celebrations set to kick-off in mid-2018. With the help of Special Children’s Charities and Special Olympics Illinois, a grand vision for nearly a week of events began taking shape in Chicago, site of the 1968 Games. The celebrations would include the first-ever Unified Cup, bringing together teammates with and without intellectual disabilities for a global football (soccer) competition; creation and dedication of an Eternal Flame of Hope Monument; and a star-studded music concert.

At the one-year countdown in July, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke said, “The torch that was lit here at Soldier Field 49 years ago today ignited a fire that will never die as long as we continue to celebrate the bravery of the individuals who competed in 1968 and inspired future Special Olympics athletes, here and around the world, to find the courage to enter the competition.”



Above, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, center, the visionary behind the first Special Olympics Games, alongside athletes who competed in 1968: from left, Frank Olivo, Brett Bartz, Michael Cusack, Robert Gangard, Amelia Hernandez.

# ATHLETES AND ADVOCATES

It’s been an exciting year in Athlete Leadership, starting with the creation of the first Global Athlete Input Council. Members of the GAIC balance multiple assignments: as internal advisors to Special Olympics leadership; as leaders of external promotion and awareness of Special Olympics; and as advocates on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. They also guide integration of athletes into meaningful roles within the Special Olympics movement.

In the words of GAIC member Julio Barrera of Panama, “An athlete leader sends a message of hope and motivation to society. Athlete leaders go beyond expectations -- not only for being an athlete, but for being an example to all society.”

Special Olympics athlete leaders are exceeding expectations all around the world: As of 2017, we can celebrate more than 45,000 athlete leaders in a variety of meaningful roles – an 11% expansion in just one year!



Members of the new Global Athlete Input Council, from left, Julio Barrera, Latin America; Jasmine Sharif, Asia Pacific; Ken Melvin, North America; Nada Al Rachid, Middle East/North Africa; Brightfield Shadi, Africa; Wilson Man, East Asia; Micheline Van Hees, Europe Eurasia.

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

Special Olympics Athlete Oath



***www.SpecialOlympics.org***

 **fb.com/SpecialOlympics**

 **@SpecialOlympics**

 **@SpecialOlympics**

 **@SpecialOlympics**

