As of 2015, the global Special Olympics community included 627,452 registered family members serving in leadership roles in Programs around the world.

Parents learn about their child’s athletic capabilities through Special Olympics. Parents of athletes in the United States reported being impressed, and often surprised, by their child’s athletic abilities.

Families of Special Olympics athletes are often actively involved in Special Olympics. The majority of families in Peru (80%), Argentina (85%), Brazil (59%), and the United States (82%) reported attending competitions.

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75% of parents in the United States said that Special Olympics had a positive impact on their relationships outside the family.