



***In Celebration of Special Olympics and a 'Unified Generation'***

**Debi Anderson** has been a Special Olympics athlete since she was a teen, competing in gymnastics and track. She works as a teacher's aide and as a Special Olympics Global Messenger as well as a Board Member for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. Her motto is: "Nothing is impossible."

**Sean Bogart** is a youth advocate and Special Olympics athlete from Hamden, Conn. He and his Unified Sports teammate competed in the 2014 USA Games triathlon and took home the bronze—a huge feat in the face of Sean's recent spinal surgery. Sean also enjoys swimming, basketball, floor hockey, flag football and golf.

**Kenneth Brown** is a youth advocate and leader from Philadelphia, Pa., and a Special Olympics Unified Sports teammate. He joined Special Olympics because of his twin brother, who has an intellectual disability. His goal is to empower other young people. At his school, he is starting a tutoring program on academics and leadership skills for students with and without intellectual disabilities.

**Loretta Claiborne** is a Special Olympics athlete and member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. She is a world-class competitor, twice finishing with the top-100 women runners in the Boston Marathon. Loretta is believed to be the first person with intellectual disabilities to address a U. N. General Assembly session. Her life was the subject of the Disney film, "The Loretta Claiborne Story."

**Renee Dease** is a former athlete who has worked at Special Olympics headquarters in Washington, D.C. since 1978. She is an articulate advocate for people with intellectual disabilities and was a great friend of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Renee currently works with the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program as an outreach coordinator.

**Tim Harris** is a former Special Olympics athlete who went on to Eastern New Mexico University and a career in the restaurant industry. Tim has made headlines as the owner of the highly successful Tim's Place restaurant in Albuquerque, N.M. In the coming months, Tim will also be the star of his own reality show, "Everybody Loves Tim."

**Danielle Liebl** is a youth advocate and Special Olympics athlete from Richmond, Minn. She graduated from the College of St. Benedict with a double major in Peace Studies and Theology, and recently won the Peace First Prize fellowship. Danielle is constantly pushing for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

**Brina Kei Maxino** is a youth advocate, inspirational speaker and Special Olympics athlete from the Philippines. She has led nine awareness campaigns and helped introduce the Special Olympics Get Into It and Young Athletes curricula to Colegio San Agustin. She was featured in a TV movie about her life, titled "My Beautiful Daughter."

**Isabela Montana** is a youth advocate and Unified Sports teammate from the Philippines. She is working to spread awareness about the talents of people with intellectual disabilities and work toward empowerment of people of ALL abilities.

**Deon Namiseb** has been with Special Olympics Namibia since it was established in 1998. He took part in his country's first-ever football and track and field events and has attended the 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2013 World Games. Deon has been recognized as a national sports hero across Namibia, where he has helped change the public image of people with intellectual disabilities. He is also an International Global Messenger.

**Neha Naik** is a Special Olympics International Global Messenger from Mumbai, India, who competes in the 100-meter dash and shot-put events. In addition to speaking out publicly about how Special Olympics transforms athletes, Neha helps train Young Athletes in sports and also teaches reading and writing skills.

**Jared Niemeyer** is a Special Olympics athlete from Missouri and a Youth Activation Committee member. He has addressed the Sport for Development panel at the United Nations and most recently was invited to participate in the UNICEF Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities Youth Council.

**Julie Petty** is a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and a longtime advocate for improving the lives of people with disabilities. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas journalism department and has served as National Chairperson for Self Advocates Becoming Empowered and Co-Chair of the Alliance for Full Participation.

**Dustin Plunkett** has been a Special Olympics athlete since 1996, competing in a variety of sports, including basketball and golf. Currently, he coaches and teaches basic sports skills to children ages 3-5 and works with teens with and without disabilities in a social, educational, mentoring and athletics program. Dustin is a Board Member for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

**Kaitlyn Smith** is a junior at the University of Northern Colorado, where she is working toward a degree in Human Services with a minor in Special Education. She has been volunteering for Special Olympics for 7 years and currently coaches basketball and Young Athletes.

**Frank Stephens** is a Special Olympics athlete and Global Messenger from Virginia, who has become a leading spokesperson for ending derogatory use of the R-word. His 2012 blog post following a presidential debate went viral – achieving 2.5 million views in 24 hours.

**Troy Sundwall** got involved with Special Olympics and the fight for social justice and inclusion after witnessing a traffic accident involving a bicyclist with disabilities and a bullying, verbally abusive driver. He has been volunteering since 2010 and has encouraged his mother, brothers and many others to volunteer with him.

**Ricardo Thornton, Sr.** is a Special Olympics athlete and recent appointee to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. He is a longtime advocate for the closing of institutions for people with intellectual disabilities. He and his wife of 30 years, **Donna**, met as residents of the Forest Haven institution. Their lives were the focus of the TV movie, "Profoundly Normal." They have a grown son, Ricardo Jr.

**Ximena de Varela** started out as a Special Olympics tennis athlete in 2002, but today her involvement goes beyond sports. She is part of Athlete Leadership and works with the Special Olympics Panama communications department. She is currently completing her fourth year of a photography degree at the University of Ganexa Arts.

**Matthew Williams** is a Special Olympics International Global Messenger from Canada and a member of the International Board of Directors. He also serves as Chairman of the Third Special Olympics Athlete Congress. Matthew enjoys swimming, track and field, floor hockey, and curling, and won two medals at Canada's Summer Games.