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 2019

Dear Friends,

Special Olympics has been going strong for 50 years. Once a small event, we are now a grand movement with local, state, national, and global competitions happening daily around the world. When we, the people of Special Olympics, come together, we are a force that shows the world what it means to choose to include over exclude. In this volatile world where fear of difference and uncertainty plague society, the athletes of Special Olympics and those who support them at all levels are the leaders of the age of inclusion.

When we gather for State or National Games, we are reminded of what the world could be. These Games showcase a world view where the Olympic idea is defined by the gifts you have internally, winning is defined by how you run, and success is defined by the relationships you build. We are lucky that our Games are inclusive, and it’s up to us to spread that inclusion to other parts of our communities.

To everyone attending a Games, thank you for the hard work you put into making this happen. To the athletes and Unified partners, you have been training so hard for this, and I look forward to seeing you play hard and give it your all. Good luck! To the family members, no one competing could have made it here without you. Thank you for your constant support. To the volunteers, thank you for your service and for coming to support our athletes.

Thank you to all of the supporters who have made these Games possible and who have invested in our vision of a future of inclusion. Now let the Games begin!

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Shriver

Chairman, Special Olympics