

Special OlympicsIndiana



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, offering 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.



– Special Olympics Athlete Oath





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Cover Photo:

Two young athletes participate in a Unified Game Day as part of Special Olympics Indiana's pilot *Unified Champion* Schools program.

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From the CEO

WE ARE ALL WINNERS



Annually, the Special Olympics Indiana Board of Directors selects a nominated athlete to be the Spirit of Special Olympics Athlete of the Year. Sometimes they select an athlete who is the fastest, strongest, or most skilled – but usually not. Because in Special Olympics it is not about being the best – it's about being your best.

The 2016 Athlete of the Year, Philip Baker, stands as an exemplification of our highest values. Interestingly, while he competes in a variety of sports, he has chosen to make his mark by fundraising. Philip is one of many athletes who choose not to "just" compete in sports. He also chooses to help the organization that means so much to him and his family by being a Super Plunger. Every year he campaigns with family and friends to raise money and go "Freezin for a Reason" at one or more of our Polar Plunges. Most people I know claim serious reasons not to plunge. Philip says – follow me!

And, that's not all Philip says. Known to be one of Special Olympics Indiana's quietest athletes, imagine our surprise when he was announced the Athlete of Year and decisively reached into his coat pocket and pulled out this speech.

Read this speech and understand the essence of Special Olympics. Our secret is that Philip makes us all winners – not the other way around.

– Michael Furnish

Special Olympics is not about awards.

It's about doing your best.

It's about family and friends.

It's about having fun.

So thank you to my family and friends.

Thank you for helping Special Olympics.

Thank you for helping me.

We are all winners.



13,044 ATHLETES

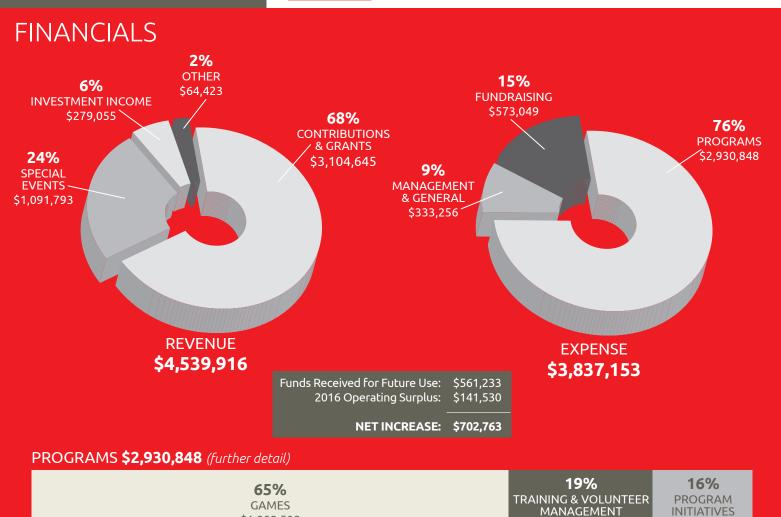
28
SPORTS

76
COUNTY
PROGRAMS



\$565,219

\$457,121



\$1,908,508

WORLD-CLASS PROGRAMS

UNIFIED SPORTS®

Joining people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team and the same playing field, Unified Sports® were inspired by a simple principle: playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

Special Olympics *Unified Champion Schools* use sports and education initiatives to activate youth in promoting school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. In Indiana, these initiatives include:

FOR PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL: Unified Champion Schools programs place gross motor activities and play experiences at the core of a positive, socially inclusive training program for children. Through inclusive play, children of all abilities are provided opportunities to develop self-confidence and social skills while learning the fundamentals necessary for future participation in sports training and competition.

FOR HIGH SCHOOLS: Champions Together is a collaborative partnership between the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Special Olympics Indiana that promotes servant leadership among student athletes through Unified Sports® and whole school engagement. Among the first programs of its kind in the United States, Champions Together has grown from just 13 schools at its inception to more than 75 at the end of 2016.

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

In a university setting, Athlete Leadership courses provide training and support for athletes who desire to expand their participation in Special Olympics programs, both on and off the field. Graduates of Special Olympics Indiana's *ALPs University* are prepared to serve in meaningful roles beyond the typical role of competitor: as coaches, board members, global messengers, and more.

HEALTHY ATHLETES®

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, offers health services and information to address severe health disparities faced by people with intellectual disabilities through immediate and long-term solutions. By offering expanded health screenings and services and providing additional resources aimed toward improving general health and fitness, Special Olympics Indiana is on track to be recognized as one of Special Olympics first 100 "Healthy Communities" by 2020.







YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

More than 120 athletes converge on Lawrenceburg for our 2016 Winter Games, where state competitions are held at Perfect North Slopes in skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding.

MARCH

Basketball takes center stage as the Men's, Women's, and Youth State Tournaments are held at Indiana State, DePauw, and the University of Indianapolis.



MAY

Each of Special Olympics Indiana's 10 Areas come together for their **Spring Games** competitions, annually among the most important events on our athletes' calendars.

JULY

Our **17th annual**

near Indianapolis,

where more than 30 foursomes hit the links

at Prairie View Golf

Club to raise money

for Special Olympics

Indiana athletes.

Charity Golf

Classic is held



SEPTEMBER

The annual Eunice Kennedy **Shriver games** are held at various locations over three weekends, where more than 2,000 athletes compete in state tournaments for nine sports, including golf, softball, and equestrian.



NOVEMBER

month as our 4th annual Breakfast with Champions program inspires, our **3rd annual** *Strikes for Special Olympics Indiana* bowling event unites, and our **first ever Unified Rivalry Series** flag football game



APRIL

Our *Athlete* Leadership Program continues to gain momentum as **more** than 50 athlete **leaders** take part in ALPs University training, preparing them for meaningful jobs outside the typical role of competitor: as coaches, mentors, global messengers, board members, and officials

FEBRUARY

new high marks in terms of revenue and participation, as more than 2.800 individuals are "Freezin' for a Reason" at 16 *Polar Plunae* sites across the state. Nearly \$700,000 is raised to benefit Special Olympics Indiana athletes and to support yearround programs and events.

Our signature fundraiser sets



More than 1,600 individuals

take part in our 15th annual

the Indianapolis International

fastest time. Over \$160,000

is raised at our largest single-

Plane Pull Challenge at

Airport, where 70 teams

compete to pull a FedEx

Boeing 757 airliner in the

day fundraiser of the year.

JUNE

On the heels of the IHSAA's Unified Track and Field state championship, a record 2,700 athletes make the trip to Terre Haute for three days of competition at the 2016 Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games.

AUGUST



OCTOBER

The Spirit of Special Olympics Indiana Awards are officially presented at our State Conference, where staff, volunteers, and athletes come togethe to learn from one another and to take part in leadership, team-building, and coaches' trainings.

Fundraising events dominate the

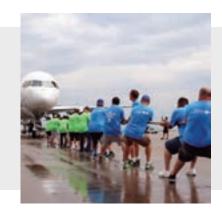


DECEMBER

Bowling proves once again to be our most popular sport, as **more** than 3,700 athletes from across the state vie for medals at the **2016 State Bowling** Tournament in Indianapolis.

CHAMPION SPONSORS

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



"We're honored to support Special Olympics Indiana to help improve health and fitness levels. In addition, we're grateful to have made friends with so many courageous, joy-filled and inspiring individuals as a result of this partnership."



FINISH LINE YOUTH FOUNDATION

"From shooting hoops with athletes to awarding them medals on the podium, Team Finish Line values our continued partnership with Special Olympics. We prize every opportunity we have with these fun and meaningful experiences."



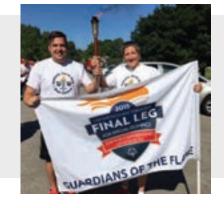
"Our Champions Together program and our partnership with Special Olympics Indiana continues to grow the climate of inclusion in our member schools and positively impact the culture in our state."





"The Indiana Knights of Columbus are in partnership with Special Olympics Indiana for many reasons, but the most obvious is because "We Care"! We care for all the athletes, all the special needs, all of the folks who work to make Special Olympics Indiana the organization what it is today. So yes, we celebrate with them each and every year through the Polar Plunges, the Summer Games and the Plane Pull. We are true ambassadors for them, the Knights of Columbus. Partners for life, and about life!"





"The Indiana LETR had a splendid year as we added to the family of Guardians of the Flame through our recruiting campaign motto, just one more! We look forward to more of the same in 2017 as we build our partnership with Special Olympics Indiana.



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START EARLY, FINISH STRONG

For nearly 50 years, Special Olympics has been changing lives and attitudes across the world by promoting a simple vision of inclusion, opportunity, respect, and acceptance for all—regardless of ability or disability. In Indiana, that vision has been embraced at every turn as we have celebrated milestones, overcome challenges, and discovered exciting new opportunities to serve an ever-growing population.

And we continued to grow in new directions in 2016, with the launch of a *Unified* Champion Schools pilot program at select elementary and middle schools throughout the state. Designed as a complement to our *Champions Together* partnership with the Indiana High School Athletic Association, *Unified Champion Schools* is an inclusive sport and play program with a focus on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth. More simply, it's about laying the foundation for a brighter future.

Longtime special education teacher and administrator Lisa Graham, who oversaw one such program through her work as Director of Special Services for Marion Community Schools, is a believer in the importance of starting early. "Once you start a three or four or five year old—they're just hooked, and you can add through the years," she says.

For Graham, the "Unified Game Day" held last May at Marion High School was more than a track and field event—it was an important opportunity to level the playing field for kids with intellectual disabilities and their families. "We meet with families all the time, typically during the school day around a conference table," she said at the event. "But today we're all in our fun gear, and we're out on the field and we're running, and talking, and laughing just like we're all one big family. It was a great day."

More than 100 students from across Grant County took part in the meet, which followed Special Olympics' Unified Sports® model by joining those with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team and the same field to foster friendship and understanding through athletics. Like all *Unified Champion Schools* programs, the event had a focus on bringing together students of all abilities to learn the skills and knowledge needed to participate successfully in inclusive sports and fitness programs in their schools and communities. And the experience was an eye-opener for many involved.

"Today felt like one of the best days ever," one parent told Graham. "We were part of a group of people at a normal athletic event—participating, not watching—and the joy that you see on their faces is indescribable."

A former three-sport athlete and coach, Graham has witnessed firsthand the longterm benefits of sports in her own life and in the lives of countless others she has known. And through Unified Sports® and programs like Unified Champion Schools, she expects to see those same positive effects in the lives of the children she works with every day.

"I absolutely love my job," says Graham. "My heart is with kids and young adults with special needs. I love the way that they learn and how quickly you can take somebody who is not independent with anything, and teach them to be independent and proud of it. This is why I do what I do."







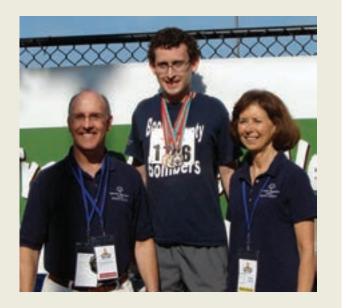
SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA 2016 AWARD WINNERS ATHLETE Philip Baker, Area 8 **FAMILY** The Hoffee Family, Area 8 COACH Heidi Bowman, Area 6

VOLUNTEER

Ellen Norfrey, Area 2

LETR OFFICER

Michael Mack, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department



CARL AND BETTY ERSKINE **SOCIETY MEMBERS**

Sherry & Bill Benner Danny & Deborah Dean Tom & Deb Easterday Cathy & John Elzinga Rebecca & Michael Furnish Stanford Goldberg Genevieve Kubelius Buzz L. Lail Bob & Susan Pensec Paul G. Reis & Mo Merhoff Mark C. Sherman Karen Sostack Ron & Catherine Stiver In memory of John Vanderbilt, brother of Ruth Judge

The Carl and Betty Erskine Society was established in 2012 as a way for those who have been touched by Special Olympics to make a lifetime gift that perpetuates the organization. Carl and Betty Erskine serve as champions in the effort to make those with intellectual disabilities accepted and equal on all fronts.

WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE

When Matthew Easterday became involved in Special Olympics Indiana as a child, his parents saw an opportunity for him to enjoy sports as they had in their youth. Now, nearly 20 years later, Deb and Tom Easterday have come to appreciate the truly life-changing effects of the movement—not only in Matthew's life, but in their own.

During a 2015 presentation at a Special Olympics Indiana event, Tom spoke at length about his experiences as a volunteer with the Boone County program. And though he expressed tremendous gratitude for the life lessons and self-confidence his son had gained as an athlete, it was his comments about coaching that resonated most.

"Through coaching, I've enjoyed opportunities to positively impact athletes' lives by instilling leadership principles, challenging them to do their best, teaching them about teamwork and sportsmanship, and demonstrating the importance of physical fitness," he said. "And there is no better moment than when an athlete walks up to you after a challenging race, offers you her medal, and says 'I did that for you, Coach, because you taught me how."

Though Deb and Tom are busy professionals with extremely full schedules—both are attorneys, and Tom serves as Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Legal Officer for Subaru of Indiana Automotive—their passion for Special Olympics has kept them engaged over the years in a variety of roles. They have, of course, volunteered countless hours as coaches and leaders in their local community, but they have also made major contributions as advisors, spokespersons, fundraisers. and donors.

Deb, who has had an active presence on the Special Olympics Indiana Board of Directors for years and who now serves as Chair, has been particularly inspired by the organization's commitment to not only improving the quality of life for the people it serves through sports, but to addressing health disparities among people with intellectual disabilities through its Healthy Athletes® and Healthy Communities initiatives. And in 2016, she and Tom took the extraordinary step of joining the Carl and Betty Erskine Society by pledging a legacy gift to ensure that those efforts

"Based on our experience, we know that a fundamental and critical need for many athletes is better overall health and fitness." she said of their contribution. "It is our desire that the gift we have designated to Special Olympics Indiana in our wills will be utilized to support programs and activities aimed at developing healthier athletes."

Through their remarkable generosity, the Easterdays have inspired countless athletes, families, and community members to follow suit by giving something back to the Special Olympics movement. Drawing upon the wisdom of inspirational leaders throughout history to encourage audience members to get involved, Tom finished that same 2015 speech with a famous quote often attributed to Winston Churchill.

"We make a living by what we get," the saying goes. "But we make a life by what we give." Never has a family embodied that spirit more.



JUNE 9, 1969 THE DATE OF THE FIRST-EVER SPECIAL OLYMPICS EVENT IN INDIANA

For nearly 50 years, Special Olympics has been changing lives and changing the world. Over the next two years we will be asking dedicated volunteers, families, and donors to consider making a Planned Gift. It's easier than you might think, and it provides tremendous encouragement to everyone involved that Special Olympics will be strong and difference-making for the next 50 years. You don't have to be wealthy to make a significant gift to Special Olympics. There are no membership fees or minimum gift amounts. The size of your planned gift is entirely your choice, and often costs you nothing during your lifetime. Special Olympics Indiana will work with you if you are ready to start a thoughtful process of integrating a charitable gift into your overall financial and

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PLANE PULL PARTICIPANTS

2016 PLANE PULL TEAMS

CHAMPION \$5,000+

BF&S Concrete Groovers CHAviators Controls & Data Services Just Plane Strong FedEx Extreme In Pwr. Relentless Power Pullers New Castle Correctional Facility Orchy's Airplane Movers Pacers Sports & Entertainment Sallie Mae

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$1,968 - \$4,999

AAR Aircraft Services Wingnuts Allegion IMPD Blue Bombers Knights of Columbus Team 1 Madison Mavericks NATCA Indy Center Pendleton Correctional Facility Plainfield Correctional Facility PMHS Falcons United Presto X Special Olympics Hamilton County - SOHC Tiffany Yust

CIRCLE OF HONOR \$1,000 - \$1,967

Baldwin & Lyons Big Dog Power Pullers Big E's Buddies Candy's Angels Correctional Industrial Facility DAKOTA'S CHOSEN BROTHERS Delta Fire Brigade Edinburgh Correctional Facility FedEx Trade Network Thunder Force BarBell IMMI Serves Indiana State Prison Indiana Women's Prison IREFuse to Lose Jac's Cousins for Special Olympics Johnson County Marion County West Cowboys & Angels MCF/LJCF Correctional Facility "Jet Squad" Meaningful Day Services MOBI - Pulling Planes & Taking Names Purdue Women's Basketball Quik Force One Rock n Roll with Ryan Rockville Correctional Facility SEE Plane, Pull Plane Shrewsberry Hula Haulers Smith & Putnam SOBC Plane Pull Team Team DOZ Team Lowe's Top Guns Team Niagara Team WVCF The State Plane Coordinators Tugga Tugga Unified Elucidation

Woodmen Football Team

Emily Seberger Rita Bianchi Kristi Strahl Candice Vaughn Kvlie Worthman Tonya Moody Robert Warde Stephen Jeter Amanda Gilliland Missee Foster Suzanne Mueller Jason Nowatzke Dennis Evans Tricia Pretorius Jaclyn Knipe

TEAM CAPTAINS

Jeff Carlson

Matt Blair

Simon Davies

Wade Reeves

Kevin Jackson

Merry Ricketts

Heather Von Gorp

Marv Rowinski

Scott Schutte

Tammy Mark

Renee Bodkin

Antoine Stewart

Maggie Cooper

David Rooker

Jim Larson

Jim Reno

Suzi Kremer

Kelli Towles

Liz O'Brien

Ramona Adams Craia Stoll Sarah Ardoin Tim Esteb Abby Abel Laura Root Rita Abell Deb Ford Samir Patel Melanie Barnes John Tomaw Terri Noffke Ashlev Elfers Jamie Lauri Karen Chase Amanda Pirtle Carolvn Smith Ryan Muich Max Brown Thomas Carter Nicole Pollert

2016 POLAR PLUNGE TOP FUNDRAISERS

CHAMPION \$5,000+

Fr. Patrick Baikauska Linda D. Bedwell Jay Beere Lynne E. Buckley-Noble Andrew Cohoat Wes A. Hartwell Lisa Jegen W. Tobin McClamroch Randy Parker Michael Pratt Jeremy Stout Tony Torres



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$1,968 - \$4,999

Denese Anderson Steve L. Binggeli Mike Byrne Scott W. Furnish Garnett S. Kirk Doug J. Melton Chris Morrison Cady Munk Tim Paul Nathan Rinks Becky Warren



Michael A. Anthrop Ethan Bailey Christopher J. Baire Brian Bear Тага Вееге Bobbie R. Binggeli Vivian A. Block Billy Blundell Paula Boas Anthony M. Burke Debby Burton Jeff Chambers Kelly Conley Ashley Cook Stephen Creech Scott Cunningham **Evelyn Davis** William Denny





Michelle Dewitt Emma Dobson Rob Ellnor Bud B. Feldkamp Jim Fulwider Michael R. Furnish Matt Goins Kevin Grooms Steve Hanson Perry Hardy Brenda Hassfurther James T. Helfrich Ben Hessler Angela Host Ethan Jackson Patrick Jones Garrett Jorewicz Becky L. Land Ben Lawalin Buddy Lerose Nick Maines Theo McDuffy Wesley McKannan Sean McLane Jan Meier Owen Menchhofer Cinda Milan

Olivia Morrison

Pat R. Morrissey

Ben J. Mundv

Jenny Olinger

Kristy Pavlo





GIFTS

IN HONOR OF

Adam Campbell Bobby Cox Members of the Friendship Bible Study Nick Karin Jim King Aubrey Smith Randall Watts

IN MEMORY OF

Ronald Abner Frances M. Anderson James C. Baker Cathy Barber Robert Bearden Janine Bentley Marty Byrd Ross Cotner Jo Ann Dome

Charles R. "Chick" Evans Jackie LeQuire Alex Folz Jeffrey Allen Gillis Mary Jane Greene Crystal D. Hall Elizabeth "Beth" Keller Alice Kinser Mary Lee Kress Sally Ladewski

Kahari Lowery Ruth Macy Brandon Mudd Bobby Murphy Bethany Payne Barbara Ann Pearce Rosalie Peterson

Thomas Rude Nellie Schneider Michelle Singer Mary Swager Mary Veegh Becky Walker Melissa White

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE | INDIVIDUALS

\$5,000+

R. Bruce Dve William T. McClain Michael A. McNarv Jenifer J. McPheron Mark C. Sherman Jim L. Stanley Dianna Truex

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$1,968+

Jerry W. Andrews Linda D. Bedwell Karen Beere Carol Blackwel Russ & Lynne Noble Kenneth Cleverly Amanda Cooper Adam Fischer Andrew Fouts Robert Hillman Richard M. Huff Vicki James Steve Johnson Tobin McClamroch C.J. McCormick Judith M. Mohler Elaine M. Morris Paul G. Reis & Mo Merhoff **Emily Ridgley**

Carolyn Robinson Diana Robinson Nick J. Runnebohm Richard & Pat Schreiner Robert Scott Ron & Catherine Stiver Dan Vanliew

Jennifer K. Yoder

CIRCLE OF HONOR \$1,000+ James Abbitt Doug Achterhol Tom & Shellie Alle VanWye Al Webber Anthony Brad Barrow Joan Wheatler Dan Baughman Lynn L. Winkle Sherry & Bill Benner John Wolski Jennifer Blandford Linda Bloom Linda S. Boothe Judi & Phil Bounsall Glenn M. Brazel John D. Britting James Callaghan Troy Chandler Andrew B. Cohoat Dawn Comment Karen Connelly Keith Craid Angela Crisler Patricia B. Custer Nancy Dimartino

Lincoln Fraley Irvin French Rebecca & Michael Furnish Lyndsay Gilman Matt Goins Janet K. Grube Elizabeth Harmon Diana Harrell Daryl A. Hefner Mike K. Heldman Richard Hornstrom Andrew F. Hunnicutt

Tom & Deb Fasterday

Zach Eckert

Ronald B. Foster

Heidi Fine

Jeanine L. & James D. Isham Charitable Fund Jovce Jackson Alexander Kirtlev Jennifer Lail

Kaufman Family Charitable Fund Landon Knepp Larkin (Buzz) Lail Debra Lambert Barbara Laudick Burch Lin

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Mindy Schultz

GOLD

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Cheryl B. Corning

Brandon Cortez

Miles Courtney

Tammy Courtney Judith Cowell David Crawford Katie Crawford James R. Crookston Laura Cruz Scott Cunningham Kevin Cusick Robert Dallas

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