START EARLY, FINISH STRONG.
2016 | Annual Report
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.

Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.
– Special Olympics Athlete Oath

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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Regional Manager Central
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Donor Relations Associate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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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

The vision of Special Olympics is to empower people with intellectual disabilities to realize their full potential and develop their skills through year-round sports training and competition. As a result, Special Olympics athletes become fulfilled and productive members of their families and the communities in which they live. Special Olympics is an experience that is energizing, healthy, skillful, welcoming and joyful.
13,044
ATHLETES

28
SPORTS

76
COUNTY
PROGRAMS

FINANCIALS

13,044
ATHLETES

28
SPORTS

76
COUNTY
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ABOUT US

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.
OCTOBER
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.”

> “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.”

> “The Indiana State Council is committed to our partnership with Special Olympics Indiana. We value the opportunity to help improve health and fitness levels and support our athletes in their pursuit of dreams.”

> “In 2016, 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.”

> “Shriver games. 2,000 athletes compete weekends, where various locations over three and equestrian.”

> “Youth State Tournaments as the Basketball takes center stage Indianapolis. DePauw, and the University of are held at Indiana State, in skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding. 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.”

> “SEPTEMBER week ends, where various locations over three and equestrian. sports, including golf, softball, state tournaments for nine and our most important events on our athletes’ calendars. 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.”

> “JANUARY Law renceburg for our 2016 Winter Games, where state competitions are held at Perfect North Slopes in skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding.”

> “In March, 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.”

> “JULY Our 17th annual Charity Golf Classic is held near Indianapolis, where more than 30 foursomes hit the links at Prairie View Golf Club to raise money for Special Olympics Indiana athletes.”

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> “FEBRUARY Our signature fundraiser sets new highs in terms of revenue and participation, as more than 2,800 individuals are “Freezin’ for a Reason” at 16 Polar Plunge sites across the state. Nearly $700,000 is raised to benefit Special Olympics Indiana athletes and to support year-round programs and events.”

> “APRIL Our Athlete Leadership Program continues to gain momentum as more than 50 athlete leaders take part in AALP University training, preparing them for meaningful jobs outside the typical role of competition as coaches, mentors, global messengers, board members, and officials.”

> “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.”

> “JULY Our 17th annual Charity Golf Classic is held near Indianapolis, where more than 30 foursomes hit the links at Prairie View Golf Club to raise money for Special Olympics Indiana athletes.”

> “AUGUST More than 1,600 individuals take part in our 15th annual Plane Pull Challenge at the Indianapolis International Airport, where 170 teams compete to pull a FedEx Boeing 757 airliner in the fastest time. Over $160,000 is raised at our largest single-day fundraiser of the year.”

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

> “NOVEMBER Fundraising events dominate the month as our 3rd annual Strikes for Special Olympics Indiana bowling event unites, and our first ever Unified Rivalry Series flag football game excites.”

> “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.”

> “FINISH LINE YOUTH FOUNDATION”

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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 the Unified Champion School 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 friendships and the 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 long-term 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.”

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 how through his 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 the Healthy Athlete® 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 continue.

“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.” He 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. 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 estate plans.

SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA
2016 AWARD WINNERS
ATHLETE
Philip Baker, Area 8

FAMILY
The Hines 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 C. Reis & Mo Mershoff
Mark C. Sherman
Karen Sostack
Ron & Catherine Silver
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.

Michael Mack, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
### Plane Pull Participants

#### 2016 Plane Pull Teams

**Champion $5,000**
- First Baptist Church<br>- Lincoln<br>- New Castle Correctional Facility<br>- Opening to the Skies<br>- Orchie's Airplane Movers<br>- Pacers Sports & Entertainment<br>- Sallie Mae

**Leadership Circle $1,968 - $4,999**
- AAR Aircraft Services<br>- Knights of Columbus Team 454<br>- Madison Mavericks<br>- Mountain Tech<br>- Plainfield Correctional Facility<br>- Plainfield Community High School<br>- PNC Bank<br>- Presto X

**Circle of Honor $1,000 - $1,967**
- Baldwin & Lyons<br>- Big Dog Power Pullers<br>- Big E's Buddies<br>- Candy's Angels<br>- Correctional Industrial Facility<br>- DAKOTA'S CHOSEN BROTHERS<br>- Delta Fire Brigade<br>- Edwards<br>- Family First<br>- Fireman's Throttle<br>- FedEx Trade Network Thunder<br>- FedEx Zodiac<br>- Flight Team<br>- Force BarBell<br>- Fedex Trade Network<br>- Fire And Rescue<br>- Flame<br>- Firefighter<br>- Fireman's Throttle<br>- Fireman's Voice<br>- Fireman's Voice<br>- Fireman's Voice<br>- Fireman's Voice<br>- Fireman's Voice

### Team Captains

#### Champion $5,000+
- Jeff Carlson<br>- Simon Davies<br>- Matt Blais<br>- Wade Reeves<br>- Suzi Kremer<br>- Kevin Jackson<br>- Merry Ricketts<br>- Kelli Towles<br>- Liz O'Brien

#### Leadership Circle $1,968 - $4,999
- Heather Von Gorp<br>- Mary Rosinski<br>- Jim Reno<br>- Scott Schutte<br>- Tammy Mark<br>- Jim Larson<br>- Renee Bodkin<br>- Antoine Stewart<br>- Maggie Cooper<br>- David Rooker<br>- Tiffany Yust

#### Circle of Honor $1,000 - $1,967
- Emily Seberger<br>- Rita Blanch<br>- Kristi Strahl<br>- Candice Vaughn<br>- Kyle Worthman<br>- Tonya Moody<br>- Robert Ward<br>- Stephen Jeter<br>- Amanda Gilliland<br>- Mistee Foster<br>- Suzanne Mueller<br>- Jason Nowatzke<br>- Dennis Evans<br>- Tricia Prenot<br>- Jacyln Knipe

### Gifts

**In Honor Of**
- Adam Campbell<br>- Bobby Cox<br>- Members of the Friendship Bible Study<br>- Nick Karin<br>- Jim King<br>- Aubrey Smith<br>- Randall Watts

**In Memory Of**
- Charles, "Chuck E" Evans<br>- Mary K. Cline<br>- Toby Martins<br>- Robert Noffke<br>- John Tomaw<br>- Melanie Barnes<br>- John Tomaw<br>- Terri Noffke<br>- John Tomaw

### 2016 Polar Plunge Top Fundraisers

**Champion $5,000**
- Michele Dewitt<br>- Emma Dobson<br>- Rob Elber<br>- Budd B. Feldkamp<br>- Jim Fidler<br>- Michael H. Fushan<br>- Matt Goins<br>- Kevin Grooms<br>- Steve Hanson<br>- Perry Hardy<br>- Wendal Hurst<br>- James T. Helfrich<br>- Ben Hoeller<br>- Angela Host<br>- Ethan Jackson<br>- Pat S. Jones<br>- Garrett Jorowicz<br>- Tim Kramer<br>- Becky L. Land<br>- Ben Lawless<br>- Buddy Larrace<br>- Nick Marnes<br>- Theo McQuill<br>- Welsey McKean<br>- Sean McLean<br>- Jen Meier<br>- Owen Metchhofer<br>- Linda M. Miller<br>- Olivia Morrison<br>- Pat R. Morrissey<br>- Ben, Mandy<br>- Jenny Olinger<br>- Kristy Pavlo<br>- Gary Payne<br>- Jenny Perdue<br>- Andrew D. Peterson<br>- John Rawlings

**Leadership Circle $1,968 - $4,999**
- Lynne E. Buckley-Noble<br>- Christopher J. Baire<br>- Galen Van<br>- Rob Bingle<br>- Nick A. Block<br>- Billy Blundell<br>- Jason Moore<br>- Anthony M. Burke<br>- Debby Burton<br>- Jeff Chambers<br>- Tony Torres

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**Leadership Circle $1,968 - $4,999**
- Delores Anderson<br>- Phil Baker<br>- Steve L. Bingle<br>- Mike S. Bowling<br>- Bobbie R. Bingle<br>- Vales A. Block<br>- Billy Blundell<br>- Jason Moore<br>- Anthony M. Burke<br>- Debby Burton<br>- Jeff Chambers<br>- Tony Torres
CORPORATE / CIVIC GROUPS / FOUNDATIONS

CHAMPION
$5,000+

R. Bruce Dye
tom editors
Michael A. McMahan
Dale James
Mark C. Sherman
to Dana True

CIRCUIT
R. Bruce Dye
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Michael A. McMahan
Dale James
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