

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



50 YEARS
1969 - 2019

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Board of Directors and Staff Members

Executive Committee

- Chair**
Ron Stiver
IU Health
- Chair Elect**
Mark Sherman
Petry Wealth Management LLC
- Secretary**
Layla Spanenberg
Carmel Clay Schools - School Board
- Treasurer**
Paul Reis
Krieg DeVault LLP
- At-Large**
Trent Sandifur
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
- Board Members**
- Bill Benner**
Pacers Sports & Entertainment
- Mitch Bonar**
Special Olympics -
Hamilton County
- Pat Carney**
ONI Risk Partners
- Andrew Cohoat**
Mesh Systems
- John Dickerson**
Arc of Indiana (Retired)
- Howard Fowler**
Duke Energy
- Matt Goins**
AAA Hoosier Motor Club
- John Guy**
Wealth Planning & Management
(Retired)
- Heather Himes**
Special Olympics Indiana -
Marion County East
- William Howard**
- Carrie Leiberling**
Sandor
- Rob Louthain**
Indianapolis Colts
- Tracie Martin**
WANE-TV
- Kristen Metzger**
Anthem, Indiana Medicaid
- Lynne Noble**
Special Olympics Indiana -
Tippecanoe County
- Marty Posch**
JD Finish Line Youth Foundation
- Dr. Richard Schreiner**
Riley Hospital (Retired)
- Tommy Walker, Jr.**
Indiana State Police, Versailles
- Jake Zupancic**
DataBank

Special Olympics Indiana Staff

- Jeff Mohler**
President & CEO
- Kevin Aders**
Regional Manager-Central
- Nathan Barnes**
Manager of Grants & Communication
- Lindsay Blythe**
Volunteer Services Coordinator
- Julie Burkholder**
Regional Manager-East
- Tori Cox**
Manager of Middle School Programs
- Janet Davies**
Database Manager
- Kathy Elliott**
Unified Champion Schools Coordinator
- Cathy Elzinga**
Associate Director of Sports
- Scott Furnish**
Vice President of Development & COO
- Itzel Graber**
Manager of Health & Fitness
- Lisa Graham**
Unified Champion Schools Consultant
- Mike Hasch**
Director of Unified Champion Schools
- Jodi Houghton**
Office Services Coordinator
- Karen Kennelly**
Chief Financial Officer
- Patrick Kozlowski**
Manager of Sports Programs
- Buzz Lail**
Director of Programs
- Lee Lonzo**
Director of Champions Together
- Stephanie Manner**
Director of Special Events
- Mary McClamroch**
Office Assistant
- Scott Mingle**
Director of Sports & Competition
- Tracy Mortensen**
Associate Director of Development
- Kelly Ries**
Director of Donor Engagement
- Maureen Rumer**
Accounting Coordinator
- Danielle Smith**
Manager of Community Partnerships
- Francie Smith**
Regional Manager-South

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

01 JANUARY: Our annual sports calendar begins with the **2019 Indiana Winter Games**, where dozens of athletes from across the state compete in skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding at Lawrenceburg’s Perfect North Slopes. The **Finish Line Million Steps Challenge** launches to athletes involved in Unified Fitness Clubs.

02 FEBRUARY: Our signature fundraiser sets new high marks in terms of revenue and participation, as more than 3,000 individuals are “Freezin’ for a Reason” at 16 **Polar Plunge** sites across the state. Nearly \$900,000 is raised to benefit Special Olympics Indiana athletes and to support year-round programs and events.

03 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. More than 200 schools take part in the **Spread the Word** banner initiative to promote inclusion.

04 APRIL: Our **Athlete Leadership Program** continues to gain momentum as more than 70 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, photographers, and more.

05 MAY: Each of Special Olympics Indiana’s 10 Areas come together for **Spring Games** competitions—annually among the most important events on our athletes’ calendars. Thousands of students participate in **Unified Champion Schools** end-of-year events and competition, including **Unified Game Days** and **Unified Track & Field** meets at middle schools and high schools across the state.

06 JUNE: On the heels of the **IHSAA’s 6th Annual Unified Track & Field State Finals**, a record 2,800 athletes make the trip to Terre Haute to celebrate our **50th anniversary** and to take part in the **2019 Indiana Summer Games** at Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. During the Games, **831 health screenings** are completed, and **1,248 pairs of shoes are awarded** to athletes who met the Finish Line Million Steps Challenge.

07 JULY: Our 20th 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.

08 AUGUST: More than 1,600 individuals take part in our 18th annual **Plane Pull Challenge** at the Indianapolis International Airport, where 70 teams compete to pull a FedEx Boeing 757 airliner in the fastest time. Over \$150,000 is raised at our largest single-day fundraiser of the year.

09 SEPTEMBER: The annual **Eunice Kennedy Shriver Games** are held at venues around Indianapolis over three weekends, with more than 2,500 athletes competing in state tournaments for seven sports, including flag football, corn toss, golf, softball, volleyball, distance running & walking, and equestrian. Our first annual **Bocce Bash** brings together more than 200 athletes and supporters and raises over \$15,000.

10 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. The IHSAA hosts its 2nd annual **Unified Flag Football state tournament**, with 250 students with and without disabilities competing together. Athlete leaders from across Indiana take part in the inaugural meeting of our **State Athlete Input Council**, formed in November 2018.

11 NOVEMBER: Fundraising events dominate the month as our annual **Breakfast with Champions** program inspires and our **Strikes for Special Olympics Indiana** bowling event unites. Each Area hosts an **Area Bowling** tournament where athletes have a chance to advance to state.

12 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 **2019 State Bowling Tournament** in Indianapolis.



Special Olympics Indiana 3

A WORD FROM OUR CEO



In 1969, Special Olympics Indiana was created as a sports organization **FOR** people with intellectual disabilities. Now, we are a sports, health, education, advocacy, and leadership organization **FROM** people with intellectual disabilities. We have grown from 1,000 athletes that first year . . . to over 18,000 served annually today.

While our programs have grown in numbers and scope, the biggest, most profound difference between then and now – between 1969 and 2019 – is that we are no longer providing services for people with intellectual disabilities. Instead, we are taking our cues from our athletes themselves.

By changing a simple preposition – “**FOR**” to “**FROM**” – it provides this important reminder to me: I may be the president & CEO of this great organization. But it’s not mine. It’s our athletes’ organization. I’m just the temporary caretaker.

Through our **SPORTS** programs, our coaches help our athletes improve **ON** the playing field. Through our **ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**, Special Olympics Indiana empowers our athletes to better themselves **OFF** the playing field.

But empowerment doesn’t come easily. Our older athletes experienced years of schooling in separate facilities.

For athletes about my age, years of schooling in classrooms in the far corners of the building. Walking the hallways with their heads down. Derogatory names like the R-word following them like their shadow.

How can anyone feel empowered with such a label?

Today’s youth in special education . . . perhaps they are in the same classroom as their peers. Eating lunch during the same period and at the same table. But proximity doesn’t mean **INCLUSION**. One can still feel alone even when others are around.

Today, Special Olympics is much more than sports. And we are more than sports because our athletes need us to be more.

Our athlete leaders experienced bullying in school. As a result, they demanded that the next generation of special education students not experience the same fear they did.

Continues on next page ➡

OUR VISION

Sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities across the state.

Special
Olympics
Indiana



50 YEARS
1969 – 2019

Today, Special Olympics Indiana has the largest **UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS** program anywhere in the world. Last school year, 656 Indiana schools, grades K through 12, used our programming. This includes **INCLUSIVE STUDENT LEADERSHIP**, where students of all intellectual abilities lead, and the adults follow. It includes **UNIFIED SPORTS**, where students with and without intellectual disabilities play on the same team. It includes **WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**, when all students hear the message of anti-bullying, disability awareness, inclusion, and empowerment.

This message has reached more than 260,000 students in our state.

By 2022, we want to have programming in over 1,000 schools, benefitting all students, not just those in special education.

And this all started because our adult athlete leaders want a world in which no student eats lunch alone. A simple vision of a world that does not exist yet. But **HOPE** that it soon will become reality.

Last year, I spoke to our athlete leaders at a bi-annual session of what we call **ATHLETE LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY**. Hosted by Butler University, this is a weekend where our athlete leaders are encouraged to explore their passions and abilities off the playing field. They receive training in a variety of areas including public speaking, governance, technology, coaching, and health advocacy.

During my speech, I challenged the group. I said that if we, as an organization, really believe in athlete leadership . . . if we really believe in empowering our athletes by working with them to set challenging, yet achievable goals . . . if we believe in the value of training them and helping them find opportunities to experience success . . . then we must believe that there’s nothing in this organization that an athlete leader cannot do.

They **CAN** coach fellow athletes. They **CAN** give public speeches. They **CAN** meet with community and government leaders to advocate for support on health issues as it relates to intellectual disabilities. The **CAN** serve on the board of directors.

Now, this one has gotten me into trouble – I said, “They **CAN** even replace me when it’s my time to go.”

Why am I in trouble? Because that day, four athlete leaders set a personal goal to replace me someday.

**Can you imagine a person with an intellectual disability
LEADING our great organization?**

I CAN.



2019 IMPACT

18,142 ATHLETES

24
ATHLETE INPUT COUNCILS

28
SPORTS

1,808
HEALTH SCREENINGS
412 FOLLOW-UP REFERRALS

50TH ANNIVERSARY SHIRTS

2,868

13.2%
FULLY ENGAGED
ATHLETES

A fully engaged athlete is involved in three or more sports/programs annually (one must be a sport at area or state level). Program participation includes Athlete Leadership and Unified Fitness Clubs.

126

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS BANNER AWARDS

545
ATHLETES INVOLVED IN ATHLETE LEADERSHIP
143 ALPS GRADUATES

73

COUNTY PROGRAMS

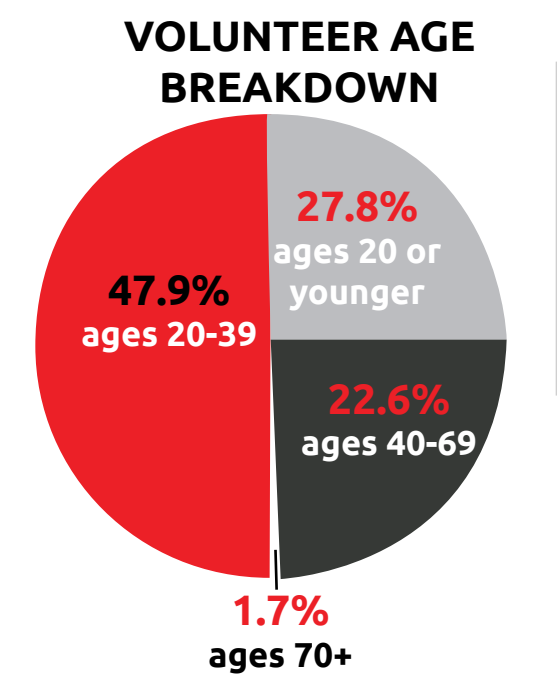
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPETITIONS

3,033

8,332 VOLUNTEERS

656 UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

- TOP 10 SPORTS BY PARTICIPATION LEVEL
- 1. TRACK & FIELD (6,715)
 - 2. BOWLING (4,257)
 - 3. BASKETBALL (2,346)
 - 4. SOFTBALL (791)
 - 5. CORN TOSS (702)
 - 6. FLAG FOOTBALL (576)
 - 7. BOCCE (525)
 - 8. GOLF (435)
 - 9. VOLLEYBALL (404)
 - 10. SWIMMING (391)



<4:1
ATHLETE
TO COACH
RATIO

4,339
50TH ANNIVERSARY MEDALS PRESENTED



FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE

\$5,740,206

Category	Percentage	Amount
Contribution & Grants	58%	\$3,342,138
Special Events	26%	\$1,461,025
Investment Income	15%	\$855,257
OTHER	1%	\$81,786

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$4,565,979

Category	Percentage	Amount
Programs	77%	\$3,489,722
Fundraising	14%	\$657,856
Management & General	9%	\$418,401

PROGRAM DETAILS

\$3,489,722

Category	Percentage	Amount
Games	50%	\$1,756,002
Program Initiatives	27%	\$924,248
Training & Volunteer Management	23%	\$809,472

BUILDING TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Many dedicated and talented leaders have helped to shape the Special Olympics movement over the course of its first 50 years in Indiana. Some have made their mark and moved on to other pursuits, but more often, those who are touched by the thrill of competition and the pure joy on display at every one of our events go on to stay connected for life.

One such leader in our history has contributed so much and so consistently over the years that he has had the distinction of earning both our annual Impact Award and the only lifetime appointment to our Board of Directors.

Paul Reis, an attorney with Krieg DeVault LLP, has been a part of Special Olympics Indiana since the late 1980s, joining the board after making a connection with then-president Dennis Schmidt and acting as general counsel to the organization ever since. He has served in nearly every board role in his 30 years of involvement — including two terms as chairperson and most recently as interim treasurer — and even lent his expertise to the global Special Olympics movement for a two-year term on the U.S. Leadership Council (1996-1997).

So why Special Olympics? And why has he stuck around so long? In a word: progress.

“Our athletes are the most fun people you’ll ever be around. They are loving, passionate, and don’t carry prejudices,” he says. “That’s always been true, but to say that we have evolved since the early days would be an understatement.”

Like many board members, Paul has personal connections to the mission of Special Olympics Indiana that influenced his decision to get involved. He had a relative with intellectual disabilities and recalls positive experiences volunteering at the Northern Indiana State Hospital while attending Notre Dame. But he has remained committed to the cause because he believes the organization has become increasingly holistic over the years in its approach to promoting health and fitness and in engaging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, both on the playing field and off.

Citing the development of programs and concepts like Unified Sports®, Athlete Leadership, Inclusive Health, and Unified Champion Schools, he is proud to see the organization providing an ever-growing number of unique opportunities to countless individuals who had previously been ignored or institutionalized.

“If you could make a time lapse film from the beginning of Special Olympics in Indiana to now, it would be amazing to see how we’ve grown. The difference is night and day — not only in terms of numbers, but in the quality of our programs.”

And thanks to the guidance and stewardship of Paul and the outstanding boards of directors and dedicated staff and volunteers who have served our movement over the years, Special Olympics Indiana is now widely considered to be among the world’s foremost Special Olympics programs: recognized as a leader in both innovation and quality as we strive to make a lasting, meaningful difference in the lives of the thousands of people we serve each year.

For Paul and his wife, Mo Merhoff—founding members of our Carl & Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society—donating time, talent and treasure to Special Olympics Indiana has never been about giving something back to those less fortunate. Rather, it’s about paying forward the gift that Special Olympics represents for generations to come.

“This is an organization that spans the world and involves some of the most passionate people you could ever meet,” Paul says. “I’m just incredibly proud to be a part of Special Olympics.”

Paul Reis, founding member of The Carl and Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society



CARL AND BETTY ERSKINE SOCIETY MEMBERS

- Sherry and Bill Benner
Judi and Phil Bounsall
Danny and Deborah Dean
Tom and Deb Easterday
Cathy and John Elzinga
Carl and Betty Erskine
Jerry Francis
Rebecca and Michael Furnish
Stanford Goldberg Estate
Mary Ellen Hission Trust
Indianapolis Indians
Genevieve Kubelius Trust
Larkin (Buzz) Lail
- Lisa and Jeff Mohler
Bob and Susan Pensac
Paul G. Reis and Mo Merhoff
Kelly Autry Ries
Mark C. Sherman
Karen S. Sostack
Ron and Catherine Stiver
Joan E. Wheatley
Kathy L. Wyman
- In memory of John Vanderbilt,
brother of Ruth Judge

For more information about donating to Special Olympics Indiana or joining the Carl & Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society, contact Vice President of Development **Scott Furnish** at **317-328-2009** or **sfurnish@soindiana.org**.

LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

By: Ben Gregory

Hello, my name is Ben Gregory, and I am a Special Olympics athlete from Crawfordsville, Indiana. When people think of Special Olympics, they usually think about kids. And most of the time, kids with pretty obvious disabilities. I'm 28 years old, and I stand nearly seven feet tall, so I don't quite fit into that box. But that's okay. I'm used to not quite fitting in.

When I played sports as a kid, we had to carry around my birth certificate to prove that I wasn't older. But size wasn't the only thing that made me different. Like a lot of people with autism, my social skills weren't great, and sensory issues made it hard for me to be in school. My classmates and teachers didn't understand me and didn't know how to relate.

When I was in second grade, my principal recommended that I be homeschooled. And after that, it seemed like she was constantly looking for reasons to suspend me so she wouldn't have to deal with me. The school went so far as to hand out friendship tags to force other students to sit with me at lunch. But that "forced friendship" worked out about as well as you might expect. So, for years, I was bullied. I became a target. At one point, I was even jumped by a group of four kids who just wanted to say they beat up the biggest kid in class.

I was shy and withdrawn, and I had no self-esteem. I was also angry, and that anger led to more problems. But then something happened that changed my life.

After some bad experiences with football during middle school—which I didn't like because of those sensory issues I mentioned—a family friend suggested Special Olympics flag football as an alternative. From the moment I stepped foot on that practice field, everything just clicked.

When kids on the autism spectrum meet others like them, they know it right away — and for me, I instantly felt at home with Special Olympics. In the 17 years since, I've competed in flag football, swimming, basketball, bowling, golf, softball, and corn toss. I've also been a part of Special Olympics Indiana's Athlete Leadership Program, and I'm proud to say that I've earned ALPs University degrees in Coaching and Communications, and I'm now working on a Technology major.

I've been a coach, a volunteer, a fundraiser, and a global messenger. I've pulled an airplane with the Wabash College football team, and I've carried the Flame of Hope into freezing water at the Polar Plunge. I've organized local fundraising events, helped with planning and divisioning for the State Basketball Tournament, and even created and recorded a podcast for my fellow athletes called "S.O. What!?"

Special Olympics helped me to find the confidence to stand up for myself and, ultimately, to become the person I am today.

I finished high school and attended college at Ivy Tech. I've hosted a popular trivia contest at a local restaurant. I've held a wide variety of jobs, including serving as a tour guide and manager at the Rotary Jail Museum in Crawfordsville—the only museum of its kind in the world.

And now I'm proud to say that I'm someone who the young kids in the Montgomery-Parke County Program look up to. And not just because I'm tall. Special Olympics has helped me to find within myself the ability to be something more than that kid who didn't quite fit in.

It's helped me to see a future where people who are different are treated as equals and have every opportunity to reach their fullest potential. A future where someone like me might be the next president of Special Olympics Indiana.

Can you see it?



2019 Spirit of Special Olympics Indiana Award Winners



ATHLETE
Kim Szelenski, Area 1



FAMILY
The Gillihan Family, Area 8



COACH
Donna Hazelett, Area 3



VOLUNTEER
Lynne Noble, Area 4



LETR OFFICER
Assistant Police Chief, Charles
Garber Jr., Valparaiso University
Police Department

ATHLETES LEADING THE WAY

Through organized training and practical experiences, Athlete Leadership prepares athletes to undertake meaningful positions of influence and leadership throughout the Special Olympics organization, both on and off the playing field.

Indiana has been providing training in athlete leadership since 1997. The program was formalized and expanded in 2003 with the introduction of ALPs University, which provides education and training for Special Olympics athletes in a variety of leadership areas.

Using a university model where athletes receive credit for attending classes and completing practical experience, participants earn degrees in Communication, Governance, Health & Fitness, Sports, Technology, and Visual Arts.

SPRING 2019

5 Sports Graduates

ALPs University
Graduates



- 2 JAN Awards
(for new athletes)
- 1 Glick-Melvin Award
(for returning athlete)
- 1 Shelley Award
(for Butler student leader)

ALPs University
Awards



- New Visual Arts Major
- New and Improved Sports Major
- Updated Technology Courses
- New Mentor Training
- New State AIC program
- 2 new awards
- 24 new athletes

ALPs Univeristy
Happenings



FALL 2019

- 7 Sports Graduates
- 2 Health & Fitness Graduates
- 2 Technology Graduates
- 1 Communications Graduate
- 1 Health Messenger Certificate

- 1 JAN Award
(for new athletes)
- 2 Glick Awards
(for returning athlete)
- 1 Melvin Award
(for returning athlete)

- ALPs University includes Butler students
- Split Glick-Melvin Award into two awards
- Add improv training to weekend



“

I am so hopeful that I can do this ALPs University program! That would be so cool to do and not only that . . . I can be more than just an athlete! I love Special Olympics so much. Truth is you guys are truly amazing people and I adore all of you.

”

-JAMIE DILLON, Benton County



CHAMPION SPONSORS



"The Anthem Foundation is proud to partner with Special Olympics Indiana to support its year-round programs dedicated to improving the health and fitness of all Hoosiers. We are jointly committed to advancing health and fitness, offering free health screenings at competitions, and providing training and resources for athletes and coaches alike. As a leader in empowering people with intellectual disabilities to reach their fullest potential both on and off the playing field, Special Olympics Indiana is committed to advancing health & fitness. This program is perfectly aligned with the Anthem Foundation's focus on promoting healthy, active lifestyles and addressing healthcare disparities among people with disabilities through our Healthy Generations funding." – Dr. Kimberly Roop, Medicaid Plan President, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Indiana



"Special Olympics Indiana has inspired us for decades. We have a long, proud history of board service and financial and volunteer support of activities like the annual Summer Games and Polar Plunge. Our volunteers will tell you that at the end of the day, they may have gained as much from the experience as the athletes." – Cicely Hart, Vice President of Region Support, Duke Energy Indiana



"The culture of sport has the ability to bring together all types of people to achieve a common goal. We've seen the powerful connection Special Olympics has built between our employees, their families, and the athletes. The JD Finish Line Youth Foundation is proud to partner in creating stronger communities." – Marty Posch, President, JD Finish Line Youth Foundation



"The partnership between the IHSAA and Special Olympics Indiana continues to be one of the most important relationships the Association enjoys. The opportunities for our schools to shape a climate of inclusion with all students through education based athletics is truly a life changing experience." – Bobby Cox, Commissioner, IHSAA



"Special Olympics and the Knights of Columbus have a great 50 year history of working together. The relationship between the Indiana Knights of Columbus and Special Olympics Indiana has been especially strong. The Knights enjoy participating in events with the Special Olympics athletes in statewide and local events. We have many Knights who enjoy the Polar Plunge, Plane Pull, and Summer Games. Our Knights, from nearly every Indiana County, raise money for Special Olympics with our "Tootsie-Roll Drives." We are very happy that the money raised helps to offset some of the Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games expenses." – Paul Zielinski, State Deputy, Indiana Knights of Columbus



"The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) was honored to help Special Olympics Indiana celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2019! It was also the 35th year for the Indiana LETR! The LETR was able to add several new officers and agencies as Guardians of the Flame of Hope during the year of celebration! We look forward to another 50 years of partnering with Special Olympics Indiana, raising funds and awareness that will continue to enhance the lives of Special Olympics athletes and their families!" – Tommy Walker, Jr., Indiana State Police



"Subaru of Indiana Automotive has been proud to support Special Olympics Indiana over the past several years and make a difference in the lives of Hoosier athletes with intellectual disabilities. Our annual Color 5K fundraiser unites associates and the community with the same spirit and joy as the competitors we gather to help. We wish the organization and its athletes continued success for another 50 years." – Ed Wulbrecht, Senior Vice President, Manufacturing, Subaru of Indiana Automotive & President, SIA Foundation



"At Toyota, we believe by helping others overcome barriers, we're empowering them to turn their impossible dreams into possible realities. That's why Toyota Indiana is proud to partner with Special Olympics Indiana to enable thousands of Hoosier Special Olympics athletes to demonstrate courage and experience joy on their road to success and personal development." – Millie Marshall, President, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc.

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

2019 YEAR SUMMARY

The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through a unique combination of activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom, and school climates of acceptance. Special Olympics Indiana is among the global leaders in the implementation of this model, thanks in large part to a longstanding collaboration with the IHSAA, known as Champions Together.

In 2019, our Unified Champion Schools® (USC) program continued to experience remarkable growth as we expanded our footprint in large school districts across the state and maintained our focus on engaging more and more middle schools each year.

The most significant UCS growth, however, continues to happen at the high school level, as new students and administrators are inspired each year to become servant leaders and to bring Unified Sports® and Champions Together to their school communities. We also addressed a longstanding obstacle this year by finding a way to involve private and parochial schools through a new "open" division within our Unified Bocce and Unified Bowling state championships.

In addition to introducing Unified Sports® and bringing our message of inclusion to new audiences, this initiative has also had the benefit of connecting those private and parochial schools with Special Olympics Indiana's county programs in their areas, creating lasting bonds that will help to further advance these partnerships. There is no doubt that the number of participating schools and students will continue to climb each year as we consistently find ways to make positive changes throughout the school districts of Indiana.

And we are making positive changes, as evidenced by the selection of 14 Indiana schools as National Banner Winners in 2019, recognized by Special Olympics North America in August as champions of inclusion. Indiana's National Unified Champion Banner schools are: Blackford Jr.-Sr. High School, Carmel High School, Carroll High School (Fort Wayne), Columbus East High School, East Noble High School, Fishers High School, Goshen High School, Harrison High School (West Lafayette), Mooresville High School, Muncie Central High School, North Side High School (Fort Wayne), Perry Meridian High School, South Ripley High School, and West Lafayette High School.

Many of those schools were also recognized in June as we hosted an extremely popular new event: the inaugural Champions Together Awards Luncheon, organized by Champions Together Director Lee Lonzo. Over 400 superintendents, administrators, teachers, coaches, and students (both athletes and partners) attended and were recognized, setting the stage for this to become an annual celebration.

Other highlights from 2019 include:

- The presentation of special 50th anniversary golden banners to nearly 50 high schools and middle schools across the state, all of which accepted the challenge of raising additional funds beyond the usual UCS requirement to support Special Olympics Indiana's milestone year.
- The selection of two Indiana high school students to be a part of the Special Olympics U.S. Youth Ambassadors program, representing the Great Lakes Region while serving among a group of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities who are striving to make the nation a more inclusive place for all. Carmel High School Junior Elizabeth Price and Center Grove High School Senior Liam Price make up one of six Unified pairs who act as advocates for the Inclusion Revolution across the nation.
- Competition by 36 Indiana high schools in the IHSAA's second annual Unified Flag Football state tournament, up from just 24 in 2018. Our ultimate goal for this tournament is to include a total of 64 teams from across the state.
- A record 92 participating schools in the IHSAA's 2019 Unified Track & Field State Tournament, with our goal of including at least 100 schools now in sight.
- The hosting of our first-ever SO College Unified Football clinic, held at Purdue University in the spring and building upon the success of an annual Unified Basketball clinic held on campus for the past four years.
- Continued growth of the annual NCAA Division III Unified Bowling Tournament, organized by our friends at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) and connecting student athletes at colleges and universities throughout the region with Special Olympics athletes.
- The achievement of Unified Champion School status by 10 Indiana middle schools, up from just five in the first year of a new partnership with the Indiana Middle Level Education Association (IMLEA).

Although we believe that continued growth is important, the primary goal of Special Olympics Indiana's Unified Champion Schools program is to aid in the pursuit of our vision, using sport as a means to create inclusive communities across the state. And by providing quality experiences for athletes, partners, parents, mentors, sponsors, and others, we took steps toward achieving that vision this year.

2019
50th Anniversary Golden Banner Winners

- Bedford North Lawrence High School
Beech Grove High School
Blackford High School
Borden Jr./Sr. High School
Boston Middle School
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
Brownsburg East Middle School
Brownsburg West Middle School
Carmel High School
Center Grove High School
DeKalb High School
Edinburgh High School
Evansville Harrison High School
Evansville North High School
Fishers High School
Franklin Central High School
Goshen High School
Guerin Catholic High School
Harrison High School--West Lafayette
Highland High School
Homestead High School
Indian Creek High School
Jimtown High School
LaPorte High School
Lowell High School
Lowell Middle School
Mishawaka High School
Monrovia High School
Mooreville High School
Mount Vernon High School--Posey
Mt. Vernon Middle School--Fortville
New Castle High School
Perry Central Jr./Sr. High School
Perry Meridian High School
Plainfield High School
Salem High School
South Ripley High School
South Ripley Junior High
Tri-West High School
Tri-West Middle School
University High School
Vincennes Lincoln High School
West Lafayette High School

State Finals

50TH ANNIVERSARY (1969-2019)

One year after taking part in the global observation of Special Olympics' 50th anniversary in Chicago, Special Olympics Indiana celebrated its own milestone year in 2019 with a variety of special projects and events honoring our past and celebrating our future.



Among the favorites of our athletes and volunteers were the Joy of Inclusion figure (pictured at left), unveiled at Summer Games and appearing throughout the year; commemorative 50th anniversary medals and uniform shirts provided to all Summer Games participants; custom 50th anniversary trading cards honoring some of the heroes and champions of our past; and several themed trading pins paying homage to some of our top sponsors and partners.

Fifty years ago, the world began to change for the better for millions of people with intellectual disabilities and for all those who love them. From a backyard summer camp to a global campaign, Special Olympics has been changing lives and attitudes since 1968—and Indiana has been a part of the movement from the very beginning.

After attending those inaugural International Games at Soldier Field, a small group led by ISU professors Dr. Tom Songster and Dr. Judy Campbell returned home and organized the very first Indiana Summer Games, held June 6, 1969 at Bush Stadium and The Riviera Club in Indianapolis. The organization was officially born soon after, and in the 50 years since, dozens of visionary leaders — like the organization's first president, Dennis Schmidt — and countless dedicated volunteers and supporters have worked tirelessly to end discrimination against and to empower thousands upon thousands of people with intellectual disabilities while cultivating one of the leading Special Olympics programs anywhere in the world.

Dr. Tom Songster, Dennis Schmidt and Former President Mike Furnish at the 2019 Indiana Summer Games

50TH ANNIVERSARY MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNERS

SEASON	NAMESAKE	ATHLETE WINNER	COUNTY
Winter Games	Paula & Duncan Myers	Nick Parker	Lake
Women's Basketball	Dan TeGrotenhuis	Leanne Bettenhausen	Porter
Men's Basketball	Bill Benner	Johnny Brooking	Lawrence
Summer Games	Dr. Judy Campbell	Katie Shaw	Marion West
Summer Games	Dr. Tom Songster	Ryan Bourgeois	DeKalb
Summer Games	Al Barker	Shelby Woodsmall	Montgomery-Parke
Summer Games	John Lentz	Robert Seevers	Ripley, Ohio & Dearborn
EKS Games	The McClamroch Family	Romano Ritenour	DeKalb
EKS Games	Chip Essig, Jim Porter & Sharon Hollowell	Jason Plante	Tippecanoe
EKS Games	The Erskine Family	Joseph Diamond	Lake
Bowling	Mike Davis	Ashley Marks	Shelby
Bowling	Chris Morrison	Drew Mattingly	Ripley, Ohio & Dearborn





YEARS
1969-2019



50
YEARS
1969-2019

50
YEARS
1969-2019
SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA

HEALTH & FITNESS

My mentor and I went to Minnesota in October to attend Special Olympics’ “Health Messenger Train the Trainer Training.” My dad is my mentor, and we learned a lot. We learned healthy lifestyle lessons, including that a healthy lifestyle is more than just diet and exercise.

My favorite part of the training was learning how to plan and prepare lessons. Dad’s favorite part was that the presentations were colorful and easy to read, making them easy to follow. I didn’t like that the training was only one day. We could have learned even more if it was two days like ALPs.

I am co-director of my county’s Unified Fitness Club (UFC). My mom is my co-director. We work together to plan walks and other fun stuff for our club every month. I create and teach health lessons for our UFC. I have taught lessons about hydration, sunscreen use, and healthy ways to lose weight. I had the idea to do fitness stations for one of our meetings, and we had a yoga station, cardio station, stretch station, and nutrition station. Our UFC really enjoyed it. I also lead walks for our UFC, which means I plan the walk, take attendance, etc.

Our UFC also has quarterly healthy foods picnics. Each member brings in a healthy dish to share with everyone else. I come up with fitness things for us to do after we eat. One time we did the public obstacle course at the National Guard Armory park, and another time we played fitness bingo, which involved getting up and walking during the game.

I have gotten at least one of my teammates to start eating healthier. She was eating lots of junk food, and I taught her how to make healthier food choices. I also helped a member be able to walk longer periods of time without stopping by walking with her at her pace and talking to her and listening to her during our walks. Our conversations helped her not notice how much she was walking, and she started taking fewer breaks, and now she doesn’t take any more breaks during our walks.

Teala Raetz
Athlete Leader
Health Messenger
Unified Fitness Club Co-Director

“ I really like being a health messenger and being able to help my family, friends, and teammates to make healthier lifestyle choices and helping them get more fit. ”



HEALTHY ATHLETES

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, is designed to help Special Olympics athletes improve their health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experience and improved well-being. During our 2019 Summer Games, athletes participated in various clinics.

308
athletes
screened



FIT FEET is a free podiatric screening for participating Special Olympics athletes evaluating ankles, feet, lower extremity biomechanics, and proper shoe and sock gear.

194
athletes
screened



FUNFITNESS is a physical therapy screening program that is designed to assess and improve physical strength, flexibility, balance, and aerobic fitness, educate athletes and parents on the importance of becoming and staying physically fit.

292
athletes
screened



HEALTH PROMOTION is a free screening that offers health information and advice in the areas of nutrition, sun safety, bone density, tobacco cessation, and physical fitness. Health Promotion is designed to convey and reinforce key concepts on healthy living, healthy lifestyle choices, and nation-specific health issues.

439
athletes
screened



OPENING EYES is a vision and eye health screening in partnership with the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Led by volunteer vision care professionals, Opening Eyes is able to offer prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and sports goggles to Special Olympics athletes.

248
athletes
screened



SPECIAL SMILES offers free dental screening, oral health information, and instructions on brushing and flossing properly to participating Special Olympics athletes, as well as preventative supplies like toothpaste and toothbrushes.

327
athletes
screened



HEALTHY HEARING is a free hearing screening designed to ensure proper audiological care for participating Special Olympics athletes. Led by volunteer professionals, Healthy Hearing tests for cerumen (ear wax) and otoacoustic emissions tests.

UNIFIED FITNESS CLUBS

Special Olympics Unified Fitness Clubs are locally organized fitness-focused groups that give members a way to exercise year-round. Clubs are formed using the Unified Sports® model, matching people with intellectual disabilities (athletes) and without intellectual disabilities (partners). While walking is the most common activity, clubs are encouraged to expand the range of activities based on community resources and interests of the group. Clubs earn point by tracking activity data collected from a fitness band, with points accumulated to earn the club and individual members various incentives.



1,317
Total Unified
Fitness Club
Members



834,161
Total Miles Walked
in 2019



1,284
Pairs of Shoes
Distributed at
Summer Games

POLAR PLUNGE TOP FUNDRAISERS

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\$5000+

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Tom Cohoat
Todd Lady
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CHAMPION, \$5,000+

Metro Mean Machine
Indiana State Prison

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE, \$2,000+

Butler Fairman & Seufert
CHAviators
Earth
Ft. Ben CrossFit
Justi51ed of Hammond
National Air Traffic Controllers Assoc.
Plainfield Correctional
Plane Crazy
Quik Force One
Sallie Mae Evolve
The Farm

CIRCLE OF HONOR, \$1,000+

50th Anniversary Celebration Pull
Allegion
Blue for Drew
Butler University Police Department
Candy's Angel's
Cargill Cougars
CHS Champions Together
CTL Engineering
DAKOTA'S CHOSEN BROTHERS
Edinburgh Correctional Facility
EY
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FedEx Extreme
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FedEx Trade Network Thunder Total
Ferris Property Group
Flo Patrol
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Wright David Wyzgowski Richard J. Smith C. Joseph Yast and Helen Krowicki Deanne Ybarra III Rosanna Young Steve Zetzi Becknell Services LLC Bikers Against Bullies USA Butler Industries Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. CFH Enterprises LLC City of Lawrenceburg Cohoat and O'Neal Management Corp. Community Foundation of Howard County, Inc. The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc. Cook Medical Group Depuy Products, Inc. Enterprise Leasing Company Four Winds Casino Resort Franklin County Community Foundation, Inc. GEOM Corporation Goodfellows of Kokomo Greensburg Rotary Club Hampton Industrial Services Indiana Harbor Belt RR Company Indiana Sheriff's Association Indiana Youth Events James E. Teall Estate Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies Koch Foundation Inc. Garland Foundry Company, Inc. Gibault, Inc. Global Plastics The Golden Post, Inc. Goldstone Automotive Hampton Industrial Services Hancock County Community Foundation, Inc. Harsha Behavioral Center Heartland Career Center Henry County REMC Community Service Corp. Hobart Animal Clinic Hoosier Hills Credit Union Horizon Bank Horizon Bank	Partnership Carroll County United Fund CMR Foundation FedEx Hamilton Center, Inc. Indiana AMVETS Dept. Service Foundation Inc. Indianapolis Airport Authority Kohl's National Giving Program Nicholas H. Noyes Jr. Memorial Foundation Pacers Sports & Entertainment Robert G. & Imogene M. Taylor Memorial Charitable Trust SEI Private Trust Sertoma Club of East Indianapolis, Inc. United Way of St. Joseph County, Inc. Bronze \$5,000 - \$9,999 Allegion Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Cass County Bridges of Indiana Center Township Trustee Howard County Kountry Wood Products Kross Acquisition Company LEADERS Indy LEL Home Services, LLC Logic Key, Inc. Lowell Lions Club Luke Oil Co., Inc. Lukes Country Inn LLC Madison County Community Foundation, Inc. Marian Inc. Masingo Law Office, PC Mechanical Contractors Association Of Indiana, Inc. Miami Correctional Facility Midwest Equipment & Supply Midwest Fiber Solutions Inc. Mister Quik Home Services Moore Restoration, Inc. Mosaic, Inc. Terre Haute Moy Technologies, LLC National Financial Services LLC New Point Volunteer Fire Dept. Nidec Motor Company Charitable Fund The Columbus Foundation Common Ground Charities Community Hospital Anderson Compass Residential & Consulting, LLC The Conception Simmons Trust Conniff Sales Custom Coating, Inc. CyberGrants Delta Theta Tau Sorority in Honor of Mandy The Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation Dilling Group, Inc. Dot Foods Dr. Brian Thompson Duneland Resale Dyer-Schererville-St. John Tri Kappa, Zeta Psi Chapter Eagle Industries of Ohio, Inc. Edinburgh Correctional Facility ENKEI America, Inc. Eskenazi Health Eville Iron Street Rods Auburn Lions Club Auburn Moose Lodge No. 0566 BAM Outdoor Inc. Becknell Services LLC Bikers Against Bullies USA Butler Industries Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. CFH Enterprises LLC City of Lawrenceburg Cohoat and O'Neal Management Corp. Community Foundation of Howard County, Inc. The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc. Cook Medical Group Depuy Products, Inc. Enterprise Leasing Company Four Winds Casino Resort Franklin County Community Foundation, Inc. GEOM Corporation Goodfellows of Kokomo Greensburg Rotary Club Hampton Industrial Services Indiana Harbor Belt RR Company Indiana Sheriff's Association Indiana Youth Events James E. Teall Estate Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies Koch Foundation Inc. Garland Foundry Company, Inc. Gibault, Inc. Global Plastics The Golden Post, Inc. Goldstone Automotive Hampton Industrial Services Hancock County Community Foundation, Inc. Harsha Behavioral Center Heartland Career Center Henry County REMC Community Service Corp. Hobart Animal Clinic Hoosier Hills Credit Union Horizon Bank Horizon Bank	Pizza King Plainfield Correctional Facility Putnam County Comprehensive Services Inc. Randle Family Foundation Rockville Correctional Facility Ryan Fire Protection Inc. Sandcreek Township Trustee Scott's Custom Colors, Inc. Sugar Creek Packing Co. Union Hospital Inc. United Healthcare United Way of Franklin County Vision Realty Int'l, LLC Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Wayne County Foundation Supporting \$1,000 - \$2,499 Acura Pharmaceuticals Inc. Ahaus Tool All-Phase Electric Supply Alph Sigma Alpha Foundation American Family Insurance Arctic Engineering, Inc. Dreams Foundation American Funds American Legion Post No. 31 American Legion Post No. 97 American Legion Victory Post No. 70 Amerisure Insurance Anathoth LLC Livrite Fitness ANDRITZ Herr-Voss Stamco Inc. AppraiserVendor.com, LLC Attero Tech, LLC Batesville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Batesville VFW Post 3183 Inc. Boars Head Provisions Co. Inc Bob's Discount Furniture Boone County Sheriff's Office Boone REMC Community Fund, Inc. Brigadood Financial Inc. Brokerxpress Browning Investments, LLC Bunzl USA, Inc. C & M Smith Restaurants, Inc. Cargill Dry Corn Ingredients Cargill Walpheton Central Supply Company, Inc. City of Bloomington The Columbus Foundation Common Ground Charities Community Hospital Anderson Compass Residential & Consulting, LLC The Conception Simmons Trust Conniff Sales Custom Coating, Inc. CyberGrants Delta Theta Tau Sorority in Honor of Mandy The Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation Dilling Group, Inc. Dot Foods Dr. Brian Thompson Duneland Resale Dyer-Schererville-St. John Tri Kappa, Zeta Psi Chapter Eagle Industries of Ohio, Inc. Edinburgh Correctional Facility ENKEI America, Inc. Eskenazi Health Eville Iron Street Rods Auburn Lions Club Auburn Moose Lodge No. 0566 BAM Outdoor Inc. Becknell Services LLC Bikers Against Bullies USA Butler Industries Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. 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Local #841 Illiana Heating & Air Conditioning Inc. Imperial Fastener & Industrial Supply Indiana Harbor Belt RR Co Indianapolis Police Foundation Indy Eleven INvestABLE Indiana IRE, Inc. Jarred Bunch LLC Jones Lang LaSalle America Inc. Joseph H. Goldberg Family Foundation Kappa Kappa Kappa Inc Kappa Kappa Kappa, Gamma Delta Chapter Kiwanis Club of Lebanon Kiwanis Club of Richmond Kiwanis Club of Valparaiso Kohl's Koorsons Fire & Security Kosciusko County Community Foundation Kountry Wood Products Kross Acquisition Company LEADERS Indy LEL Home Services, LLC Logic Key, Inc. Lowell Lions Club Luke Oil Co., Inc. Lukes Country Inn LLC Madison County Community Foundation, Inc. Marian Inc. Masingo Law Office, PC Mechanical Contractors Association Of Indiana, Inc. Miami Correctional Facility Midwest Equipment & Supply Midwest Fiber Solutions Inc. Mister Quik Home Services Moore Restoration, Inc. Mosaic, Inc. 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Hobart Animal Clinic Hoosier Hills Credit Union Horizon Bank Horizon Bank	Bishop Chatard Bloomfield Bloomington North Bloomington South Boonville Borden Bremen Brownsburg Carmel Carroll Center Grove Columbus East Columbus North Covington Community Crawfordsville Crown Point Danville Community DeKalb East Allen University East Noble Edinburgh Community Elkhart Memorial Evansville Harrison Evansville North Evansville Reitz Memorial Fishers Floyd Central Fort Wayne Fort Wayne Canterbury Fort Wayne North Side Franklin Central Franklin Community Franklin County Goshen Greencastle Griffith Guerin Catholic Harrison Heritage Hills Highland Homestead Huntington North Indian Creek Indianapolis Cathedral Jintown Kankakee Valley Knightstown Knox Kokomo Lafayette Central Catholic LaPorte Lawrenceburg Lewis Cass Lincoln Lowell Madison-Grant McCutcheon Merrillville Michigan City Mishawaka Monrovia Mooresville Mt. Vernon Muncie Central New Castle New Haven Noblesville North Knox North Newton North Putnam North Putnam Perry Central Perry Meridian Pike The Mary-of-the-Woods College Samtec Schaetter Family Foundation Security Federal Savings Bank Sigma Tau Gamma Purdue University F & F Screw Machine Products, Inc. Sons of the American Legion #200 Southeastern Indiana REMC St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish St. Elmo's Steakhouse St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church State Employee's Community Campaign Steve and Tanya Alford Family Foundation Stuart Road Racing, LLC Sweetwater Sound, Inc. Terre Haute Regional Hospital Terre Haute Savings Bank TLC Managment The County's Dentistry, PC Tower Tree Truck Classic Treasurer of Decatur County, Indiana Turner Contracting Inc. UCB Charitable Foundation United Life Services, Inc. United Way of Bartholomew County United Way of Porter County, Inc. VFW Post No. 2366 Vintage Wheels Auto Club Inc. Wabash Elks Lodge No. 471 Wood-Mizer Products, Inc. Yoder Home Services Unified Champion School Banner Winners: IMLEA Middle Schools Boston Middle School Brownsburg East Middle School Brownsburg West Middle School Lowell Middle School Mt. Vernon Middle School Rochester Middle School Shelbyville Middle School South Ripley Jr. High School Tri-West Middle School
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“ **Let me win. But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt.** ”

-Special Olympics Athlete Oath