



CONNECTING THE DOTS

Special Olympics Indiana
State Conference
Event Information Guide



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***Special
Olympics
Indiana***



Welcome to the 2023 State Conference

Special Olympics Indiana is excited about our 2023 State Conference. This year our theme is Growing Community Connecting the Dots. Our mission is to continually work together with all our athletes, families, volunteers, coaches, sponsors, schools, county programs and agencies. Inclusive communities begin with each of us. We continue to emphasize our athletes' health and fitness, but also the support the family needs to build and plan for their athlete's future. This weekend we will have sessions about new ways to strengthen the community within Special Olympics Indiana.



**2022 SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS
MICHAEL FURNISH ATHLETE AWARD WINNER
Michael Vanarsdall**

2023 Spirit of Special Olympics Area Award Winners

**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



ATHLETE of the Year Winners:

Jessie Ann Eakins, Area 1
Paula Sneed, Area 2
Rhea Scott, Area 3
Robyn Grayson, Area 4
Scott Yerkes, Area 5
John Blackburn, Area 6
Joyce Jillian, Area 7
Nicholas Herran, Area 8
Jennifer Johannigman Area 9
Jalea Dean, Area 10

COACH of the Year Winners:

Paul Jegen, Area 1
Jim Shepherd, Area 2
Dominic Lancia, Area 3
David Henry, Area 4
Jon Kitchel, Area 5
Darlene Dietrich, Area 6
Connor Tierney, Area 7
Jason Hite, Area 8
Joe Pugh, Area 9
Charlene Baldwin, Area 10

FAMILY of the Year Winners:

The Catlett Family, Area 1
The Ackeret Family, Area 2
The Smith Family, Area 3
The Salla Family, Area 4
The Sipe Family, Area 5
The Cooper Family, Area 6
The Sutherlin Family, Area 7
The Woodruff Family, Area 8
The Holt Family, Area 9
The Nordhoff Family, Area 10

VOLUNTEER of the Year Winners:

Shailyn (Shai) Mathews, Area 1
Sandy Shields, Area 2
Barbara Fifer, Area 3
Sarah Elliott, Area 4
Rebecca Walls, Area 5
Ashley Russell, Area 6
Mary Albanese, Area 7
Linda Boothe, Area 8
Susan Waters, Area 9
John Harris, Area 10



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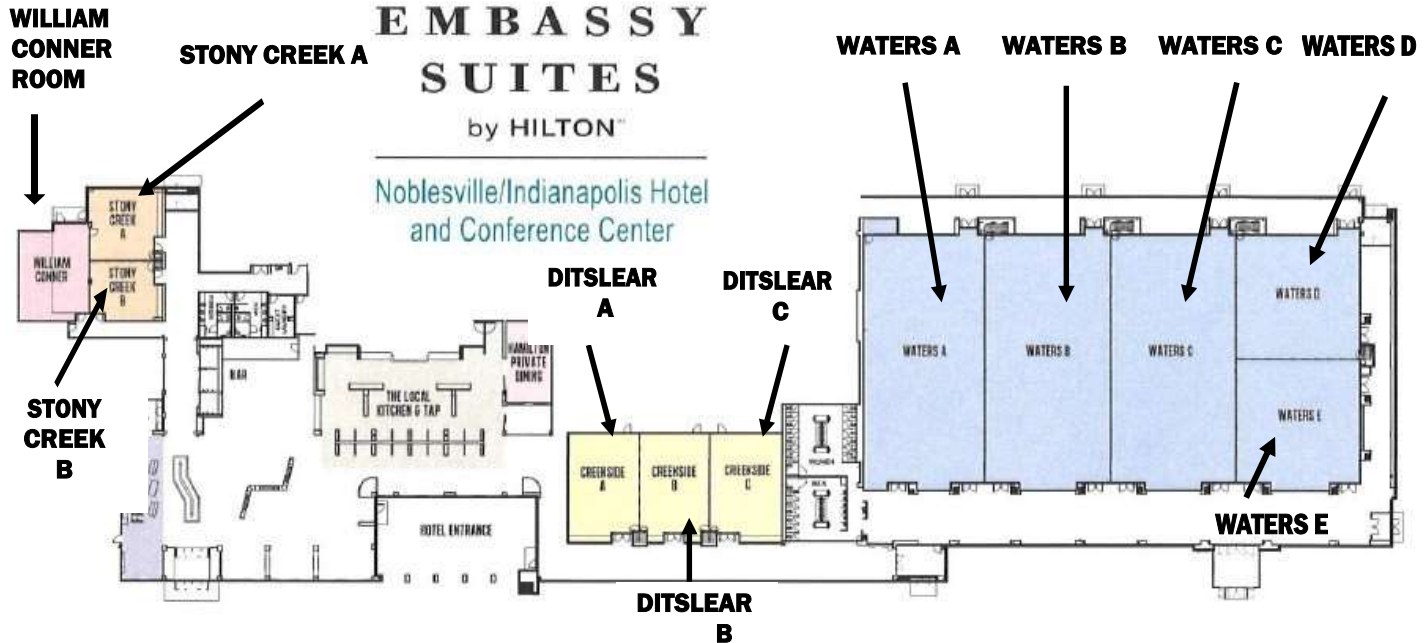
Venue Information

**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



**EMBASSY
SUITES**
by HILTON™

Noblesville/Indianapolis Hotel
and Conference Center



BREAK OUT SESSION ROOMS

DITSLEAR A

- Area Management Team Training Part 1
- Area County Breakouts 9-10
- Area County Breakouts 3-5
- Empty

DITSLEAR B

- Behavior Support Strategies
- Area County Breakouts 6-8
- Area County Breakouts 1-2
- Empty

DITSLEAR C

- LETR Session
- SOIN Branding
- Empty
- SOIN Website

STONY CREEK A

- Charting The Lifecourse
- Let's plan your County's Best Night Event
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Erskine Green Training Institute

STONY CREEK B

- Government Benefits & Programs
- ABLE Accounts & New Tax Credit
- CPR/AED Part 1
- CPR/AED Part 2

BREAK OUT SESSION ROOMS

WILLIAM CONNER

- Treasurer Training 1.0
- Treasurer Training 2.0
- Special Needs Trust
- Guardianship VS. Power of Attorney

WATERS A & B

- Recognition Luncheon

WATERS C

- Opening Session: Building Community through Comedy, Craig Tournquist
- Athlete Leadership Council: Annual Meeting
- Athlete Leadership Council: Annual Meeting
- ALC Resources

WATERS D

- Coaches Training: Cornhole Part 1
- Coaches Training: Cornhole DEMO Part 2
- Handling Difficult Conversations
- VMS 1.0

WATERS E

- GMS 1.0
- ARC of Indiana: Journey Through Time
- GMS 2.0
- Area Unified Leadership

Schedule and Session Descriptions

**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



Friday, October 13

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13		
6:00 - 7:30pm	Waters A	Social Hour, food & beverages. Cash bar provided
7:00 - 8:00pm	Waters Hallway	Early Bird Check-In
7:30 - 10:00pm	Waters A	"Trivia and Dancing" with Ben Gregory

6pm–7:30pm

Social Hour

Join us in Waters A for food and beverages. Spend this time mingling and catching up with old friends. A full evening of entertainment awaits you. Cash Bar provided.

7pm-8pm

Early Bird Check-in

Conference attendees attending Friday evening entertainment and social hour can check-in for the conference and pick up their nametags and conference materials.

7:30pm-10pm

Trivia and Dancing

Join our very own Athlete Leader Ben Gregory for some challenging Trivia and then the dance floor will be opened for all to dance the night away.

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

8:00 am Ditslear Hallway Conference Check-in Opens

9:00 - 10:00 am Waters C **GENERAL SESSION (Building Community Through Comedy)**

10:10 – 3:55 pm Waters C Athlete Leadership Council Annual meeting (ALC chairs only)

10:10 - 11:25 am Ditslear B Behavior Support Strategies I

Stony Creek A Charting The Lifecourse

Stony Creek B Government Benefits & Programs

Ditslear C LETR Group (Closed sessions)

William Conner Treasurer Training 1.0

Waters E GMS 1.0

Ditslear A Area Management Team Training Part 1

Waters D Coaches Training Cornhole Part 1

11:35 am - 1:05 pm Waters A & B **RECOGNITION LUNCHEON (2023 SOSO Awards)**

1:15 - 2:30 pm Stony Creek A Let's Plan Your County's Best Night Event

Waters E Journey Through Time: Arc of Indiana & Special Olympics Indiana

Stony Creek B Able Accounts and New Tax Credits

Ditslear C SOIN Branding

William Conner Treasurer Training 2.0

Ditslear B Area/County Breakout Session Area 6-8

Ditslear A Area/County Breakout Session Area 9-10

Waters D Coaches Training Cornhole DEMO Part 2

2:40 - 3:55 pm Stony Creek B CPR/AED Training Part 1

Stony Creek A Alternatives to Guardianship

William Conner Special Needs Trust

Waters D Handling Difficult Conversations

Waters E GMS 2.0

Ditslear B Area/County Breakout Session Area 1-2

Ditslear A Area/County Breakout Session Area 3-5

Top Golf Coaches Training: Golf, Top Golf Experience

4:00 – 5:15 pm Waters C ALC Resources

Stony Creek B CPR/AED Part 2

Stony Creek A Erskine Green Training Institute

William Conner Guardianship vs. Power of Attorney

Ditslear C SOIN Website

Waters D VMS Training

Waters E Area Unified Leadership For All

Top Golf Coaches Training: Golf, Top Golf Experience

Session Descriptions

Saturday, October 14

8am - 2:40pm

Vendor Tables and Poster Board Presentations

Conference sponsors will have tables set up to share information with attendees on the assistance they offer.

Fall 2023 Athlete Leadership University attendees share their Visual Arts projects, and express their vision or experiences with making connections in their communities.

8am – 3pm

Souvenirs

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and check out the great deals.

10:10am – 2:30pm

Athlete Leadership Council Annual Meeting

Athlete chairs will be in sessions for part of the day and then join the conference for lunch and the last breakout session of the day.

9am–10am

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH COMEDY

Presenter: Craig Tornquist

Craig Tornquist has performed more than 3,000 clean stand-up comedy shows across America. For the past ten years, he has been delighted to share his passion for Special Olympics Indiana and Unified Sports with students of all ages and abilities at hundreds of schools throughout our state. Join us for an opening session filled with laughter, inspiration, and audience participation!

10:10am-11:25am

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

BEHAVIOR SUPPORT STRATEGIES I

Presenter: Brittany Streutker

Participants are introduced to the 5 key components in de-escalation of serious and often un-safe behaviors exhibited by individuals with disabilities while maintaining the person's dignity. Participants are also offered the opportunity to practice these skills in small groups with role play scenarios, again anchoring new knowledge with prior experiences.

CHARTING THE LIFECOURSE

Presenter: Dr. Julie Reynolds

What is it? How can it make a difference in the lives of our athletes and in our own lives? *LifeCourse's core belief: All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their own life aspirations.* Find out about the principles of person- and family-centered practices through the lens of the LifeCourse Framework focusing on a good life for all people. In this session Dr. Julie Reynolds of the University of Missouri Kansas City's Institute for Human Development leads an in-depth discussion on the LifeCourse as it pertains to the lives of people with disabilities. Reynolds will take us through 20-25 minutes of talk and the remainder of the time in discussion and working with the LifeCourse tools.

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS & PROGRAMS

Presenter: Gordon Homes

Introduction and discussion about Medicaid, Waiver Changes, Medicare, SSI, SSDI, Adult Child Benefits and Survivor Benefits, Navigating Social Security and Employment, Spousal Retirement and Survivors Benefits and Family Maximum considerations.

TREASURER TRAINING 1.0

Presenters: Karen Kennelly & Maureen Rumer

If you are a new treasurer, just want a refresher course, or have questions about the basics, join us! We will cover all the basics of depositing money and making expenditures including a step-by-step review of the required forms. We will also walk through how to access your credit card charge details and how to keep track of the free stuff your donors give to your program. (Open to Treasurers and County Coordinators ONLY)

GMS 1.0

Presenter: Cathy Elzinga

Review GMS benefits of Monitoring Athlete Eligibility

Event Registration: including Registration Wizard, Setting up teams, Scoring, Registration Timelines as it relates to GMS registration window. Reading Reports and Schedules.

New GMS Users/Those who have not done Summer Games Entries into GMS; Those who have not yet done a full year of entries into GMS; Those needing more practice navigating the resources within GMS. Additional information:

Precedes GMS 2.0; Must have GMS access set up in advance of the conference.

AREA MANAGEMENT TEAM TRAINING PART 1

(Area team members plan to attend all sessions)

Presenter: Katie Hilt

This session is the fall training for all area management team members. During this session we will focus on evaluating where your current needs are, strategies for recruiting new management team members, best practices for onboarding, and effective ways to retain volunteers.

COACHES TRAINING CORNHOLE PART 1

Presenter: Savannah Vaughn

Cornhole rules will look different in 2024 for Special Olympics Indiana! In this session, we will go over new rules being implemented in 2024, scoring, qualification scores, training sessions to prepare for competition, and more! Join us to help prepare your programs cornhole teams for 2024 Cornhole competition!

This class will complete a sport specific coaches training in Level 2 of Coaches Education

11:35am-1:05pm

RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Speaker: Jeff Mohler

Co-EMCEE: Athlete TBD

We will recognize our Area and County leaders as well as some outstanding people as we present the 2023 *Spirit of Special Olympics* awards! CEO Jeff Mohler will share some bad dad jokes and talk about SOIN and the future.

1:15pm-2:30pm

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

LET'S PLAN YOUR COUNTY'S BEST NIGHT EVENT

Presenter: Craig Tornquist

How do you recruit new athletes, coaches, and volunteers to your county program? By hosting a free "Best Night" event at a high school in your county. Bring your calendar and let "Best Night" emcee Craig Tornquist and SOIN Director of Strategic Projects, Stephanie Manner, help you put together a game plan that works well for you. This will be a work session that covers scheduling, logistics, and resources to help you promote your event.

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME; ARC OF INDIANA & SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA

Presenter: Ella Boyd

Join Ella as she takes a look through time on how two great organizations have fought hard to change the "gloom and doom" expectations for individuals with IDD into all individuals have the right to live, learn, work, and fully participate in their community. Learn the history of how two organizations have worked together through strong public policy advocacy, community engagement, exemplify self-advocacy and created leadership opportunities for change. Let's have a conversation about how we can continue to build a stronger community of engagement and support, build and provide as many opportunities and resources as possible through strengthening and collaboration with each other and our communities

ABLE ACCOUNTS AND NEW TAX CREDITS

Presenter: Gordon Homes

ABLE accounts are an important financial planning tool that can help individuals with disabilities lead a more independent and empowered life. Indiana's ABLE savings plan not only offer tax advantaged savings, but more importantly, the opportunity to save money without losing vital means-tested benefits such as SSI or Medicaid. As part of this presentation, we will explore ABLE account basics, including the benefits of an ABLE account, who is eligible, what the money can be used for and more. Indiana State Income Tax Credit – New for 2024 will be reviewed.

SOIN BRANDING

Presenter: Nicole Strouts

One of our biggest assets is our reputation and the global recognition of our master brand. Join us to get an overview of the Special Olympics Indiana branding and the accredited program branding. This session will review the core tenets of the brand, including the use Logos, font, colors, the dynamic curve, language, the official credit line, and addresses the do's and don'ts of using the branding. We will also spend some time on Best Practices for your social media channels. This session is a great review for our seasoned veterans, and an excellent introduction to new program staff.

TREASURER TRAINING 2.0

Presenters: Karen Kennelly & Maureen Rumer

An essential class in helping you interpret the information provided in the quarterly reports! We will also cover the often-confusing topics of grant management, county carry-over funds, and budgeting. If you are a County Coordinator or Treasurer join us for this fun filled hour!

AREA/COUNTY BREAKOUT SESSIONS AREA 6-8

Presenters: Regional Managers and Area Team Leaders

Spend this time with members of your Area Management Team and local program leaders from the other counties in your Area. Sharing ideas and best practices, creating a network of support, mentoring new leaders, discussing future Area events. Building your Area network to make your program stronger. (Please plan to have at least one representative from your county attend.)

AREA/COUNTY BREAKOUT SESSION AREA 9-10

Presenters: Regional Managers and Area Team Leaders

Spend this time with members of your Area Management Team and local program leaders from the other counties in your Area. Sharing ideas and best practices, creating a network of support, mentoring new leaders, discussing future Area events. Building your Area network to make your program stronger. (Please plan to have at least one representative from your county Attend.)

COACHES TRAINING CORNHOLE PART 2, TEAM DEMO

Presenters: Savannah Vaughn & ACA

American Cornhole Association is introducing a new team format play for the world of Cornhole. This format introduces a team aspect of 4 or more players into cornhole, including an airmail round! Come learn, play, and provide feedback on this style of cornhole!

Athletes, Unified Partners, and Coaches are all invited to join!

This class will complete a sport specific coaches training in Level 2 of Coaches Education

2:40pm–3:55pm

BREAKOUT SESSION #3

CPR/AED TRAINING PART 1

Presenter: Shai Mathews

CPR/First Aid and AED for adults teaches good Samaritans how to assist in emergency situations until emergency personnel arrive. In this two-session course, you will learn and become certified in Adult First Aid/CPR and AED. **MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS.** Part 1 - classroom work and presentation, Part 2 - skills training. (LIMITED TO 12 INDIVIDUALS) Cost for this two-session course is \$35 to be billed to the County Program.

ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP

Presenter: Amy Griffin

18 isn't just a number. For families caring for young adults who require additional health and education support, it can be difficult to understand all of the options. Join us to learn more about alternatives to guardianship and considerations for making the best decision based on the needs and preferences of the individual.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST

Presenters: Gordon Homes & Liz Homes

Do you have a Special Needs Trust? If so, great! Have you reviewed them? Never heard of a Special Needs Trust?!?! Great! Come and learn more about Special Needs Estate Planning to make sure that you have the right plan in place for yourself and your loved one with special needs. First vs. third Party, Pooled & Miller Trust. Deep dive into special needs trusts, helping you avoid costly mistakes.

HANDLING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Presenters: Elesia Yoon & Jillian Moss

As a member of a management team, you may need to address conflict between members of your delegation or volunteers in your program. In this session, we will discuss techniques and skills for handling difficult conversations that may help you feel more confident and effective when called upon to address conflict.

GMS 2.0

Presenter: Cathy Elzinga

Brief Review of GMS 1.0. Will look at reviewing and correcting entries, finding errors, running reports like, games reports, compliancy reports, and medical reports.

GMS 2.0 is designed for those who have completed GMS 1.0 at State Conference; Those who have completed Summer Games Entries using GMS; Those with more than 1 year using GMS; New GMS Users.

AREA/COUNTY ROUND TABLE BREAKOUTS AREA 1-3

Presenters: Regional Managers and Area Team Leaders

Spend this time with members of your Area Management Team and local program leaders from the other counties in your Area. Sharing ideas and best practices, creating a network of support, mentoring new leaders, discussing future Area events. Building your Area network to make your program stronger. (Please plan to have at least one representative from your county attend.)

AREA/COUNTY ROUND TABLE BREAKOUTS AREA 4-5

Presenters: Regional Managers and Area Team Leaders

Spend this time with members of your Area Management Team and local program leaders from the other counties in your Area. Sharing ideas and best practices, creating a network of support, mentoring new leaders, discussing future Area events. Building your Area network to make your program stronger. (Please plan to have at least one representative from your county attend.)

COACHES TRAINING: GOLF, TOP GOLF EXPERIENCE

Presenter: Katie Hilt

Recently, Special Olympics and Topgolf have established a partnership with the goal of introducing the sport of golf to more athletes. We are excited to be starting a local partnership with Topgolf Fishers. During this session we will have coaches training of the sport rules for the Topgolf game platform. This will include rules, how to sign up for practice times, and time to participate in Topgolf. Coaches and athletes are both welcome to join, athletes should be prepared to go through the rules portion as well.

This session lasts until 5pm. Do not schedule a session during Breakout #4.

4pm-5:15pm

BREAKOUT SESSION #4

ALC RESOURCES

Presenters: Elesia Yoon & Jillian Moss

Do you need help supporting your local Athlete Leadership Council (ALC)? Do you need help starting an ALC in your program? In this session, we will share ideas and resources that will help you facilitate a current ALC or start an ALC if you have not already done so.

CPR/AED

Presenter: Shai Mathews

CPR/First Aid and AED for adults teaches good Samaritans how to assist in emergency situations until emergency personnel arrive. In this two-session course, you will learn and become certified in Adult First Aid/CPR and AED. MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS. Part 1 - classroom work and presentation, Part 2 - skills training. (LIMITED TO 12 INDIVIDUALS) Cost for this two-session course is \$35 to be billed to the County Program.

ERSKINE GREEN TRAINING INSTITUTE

Presenter: Daniel Gurule

Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI) is a postsecondary vocational training program that provides training in hospitality, food service, and healthcare environments. Housed within the Courtyard by Marriott in Muncie, Indiana, EGTI provides an intensive 10 and 12-week training within a specific vocation chosen by the student. In addition to hands-on training, students have the opportunity to reside within the hotel for the duration of their training which allows growth for both vocational and independent living skills. Join EGTI staff as they review details of its programming and new training programs in the horizon!

GUARDIANSHIP VS. POWER OF ATTORNEY

Presenter: Liz Homes

Do you have a current plan in place? Do you have questions about what plan might be best to put in place? Do you have a Will? Is your loved one with special needs becoming an adult soon?!?! Exciting! Are they ready to be an adult? Have you consider making sure they have power of attorney documents or a Guardianship, if needed, in place? Come learn more and ask questions. Join in the fun! Always learning to help others!

SOIN WEBSITE

Presenters: Nicole Strouts & Scott Furnish

This session will offer you the opportunity to provide us with input and feedback about the Special Olympics Indiana website. We encourage athletes and volunteer leaders to join SOIN staff in analyzing the organization's current website and developing recommendations for improving the site's overall design, usability, and accessibility. These suggestions will be prioritized and taken into consideration so that the most critical needs are addressed.

VMS TRAINING

Presenter: Kevin Aders

Whether you are a seasoned Volunteer Coordinator or newly assigned to this role for your County or Area this training is for you. Join us as we will show you all the details of how to access all your information in the new Volunteer Management System (VMS) and provide you the tools to understand the system and how to utilize it to benefit your program and to work smarter not harder with your volunteers.

AREA UNIFIED LEADERSHIP FOR ALL

Presenters: Melony Salla, Kendra Franklin, Lynne Noble, & Juanita Garten

Building from sport, Unified Leadership teaches leaders without disabilities to value and learn from people with ID and make changes that create environments where people with ID get opportunities to have meaningful jobs and roles. As an Area Management team, you are or will be working with Athlete Leaders on your management teams. It is important for area teams to learn about Unified Leadership so that they can understand their role in creating meaningful leadership opportunities for athletes.

GUEST PRESENTERS:

Brittany Streutker- Brittany Streutker is the Owner and President of Brilliant Connections, Inc. She holds a Master of Education in Applied Behavior Analysis and is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. With over 20 years of experience in both private and public sectors, Brittany has held numerous leadership and coaching roles. The vision for Brilliant Connections has been in the making for two decades, taking clear shape in the last five years. Her goal in founding Brilliant Connections was to establish a platform that delivers comprehensive support and transformative change to the lives of neurodivergent individuals, their families, and the professionals serving them. The organization offers direct therapy services and training for families, professionals, and community partners, aiming to make a lasting impact.

Craig Tournquist- Craig Tournquist is a seasoned stand-up comedian with over 3,000 clean comedy performances across the USA. Over the last decade, he's dedicated his efforts to promoting Special Olympics Indiana and Unified Sports to students of all ages and abilities at numerous schools throughout the state. Join his opening session for a blend of humor, inspiration, and engaging audience participation!

Dr. Julie Reynolds- Julie Reynolds is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Missouri Kansas City's Institute for Human Development (UMKC/IHD), a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Julie has over 35 years of experience working with people and their families and is currently part of the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus at UMKC/IHD. Prior to joining this initiative, Julie contributed her expertise to the Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitation Services (DDRS) for six years, focusing on both the First Steps Early Intervention System and the Adult Support System.

Amy Griffin- Amy Griffin is the parent of two neurodiverse children, and the spouse of a kidney dialysis patient, who will hopefully be a kidney transplant recipient in the future. This lived experience lead her to leave a career in Higher Education to join Indiana Family to Family in 2022. She along with an amazing team, provide answers, resources, practical training, and vital community connections, to self-advocates and families of children and youth with additional health and educational support needs and the professionals who support them. Amy holds a bachelor's degree in English from Ball State University, and a master's degree in College Student Affairs from Eastern Illinois University. She is a resident of Fishers, where she lives with her family, dog, and an ever-growing collection of houseplants.

Juanita Garten- Juanita Garten Eacret is a retired Special Education Teacher and the current County Coordinator for Benton County. Juanita has been actively engaged in Special Olympics for over 40 years and has held various roles. Among her impactful endeavors, she finds great enthusiasm in discussing Unified Leadership and how it can profoundly benefit athletes and programs. Today, she looks forward to sharing these insights with you.

Kendra Franklin- Kendra has been a dedicated athlete with Special Olympics Indiana since 2005, actively participating in a variety of sports. Swimming, equestrian, and basketball rank as her top favorites. A significant sports achievement for Kendra was proudly representing Indiana in swimming at the esteemed USA Games 2022 held in Orlando. Kendra's journey into athlete leadership began in 2018, and the following year, she attended the groundbreaking Unified Leadership training in Washington, DC. Currently, Kendra holds the position of Vice-Chair at the Indiana Athlete Leadership Council and is a valuable board member for Special Olympics Indiana. Additionally, she serves as the Chair for the Ripley, Ohio, and Dearborn counties Athlete Leadership Council, embracing opportunities to lead and inspire within the organization.

Melany Salla- Melany Salla, from Benton County, boasts 16 years as a dedicated Special Olympics athlete, excelling in Bowling, Track and Field, and Cornhole. Beyond being a remarkable athlete, she has taken on several pivotal roles, including Assistant County Coordinator, intern at the State Office through the Graduate Program, member of the State Board of Directors, and more. Holding a deep passion for Special Olympics, Melany has experienced firsthand how it can empower individuals, propelling her to overcome shyness and embrace her role as a leader. She spearheaded accessibility enhancements within the CHAMPS award area during her internship, showcasing her dedication to inclusivity. Melany's mission is to inspire fellow athletes, emphasizing that disabilities don't define dreams, and she encourages others to strive towards becoming athlete leaders.

Lynne Noble- Lynne Noble received a BA in Deaf Education and Elementary Education from Illinois State University, and later earned an MS in Multiple-Handicapped Hearing Impaired from Gallaudet University. Lynne has served as an Adjunct Professor at Gallaudet and is certified to teach in eight states; she has had a diverse educational career, encompassing teaching roles from early childhood to high school, along with positions as a School Special Education Coordinator and County Special Education Supervisor. Lynne's passion for inclusive education extends to her involvement in Special Olympics, where she's held roles such as coach, county director, area coordinator, Plunge Chair, and Board of Directors member. She's also coached golf teams at both the World Games (Ireland) and USA Games (Iowa, New Jersey, Florida), showcasing her dedication to inclusive sports. Volunteering and making a positive impact have remained central to Lynne's journey.

Shai Mathews- Shai Mathews has been involved with Special Olympics since she was eight years old and currently sits as the Elkhart County Coordinator. Outside of Special Olympics, Shai works for The Columbus Organization as a Waiver Case Manager.

VENDOR PRESENTERS

Daniel Gurule- Daniel Gurule has a strong commitment to community development and the promotion of inclusivity within the business landscape. With nine years at a different disability provider and over eight years at Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI), Daniel's journey has encompassed various roles. Beginning as a Student Support Specialist, he worked closely with students in their natural environments, forging partnerships with employers such as IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, Courtyard by Marriott Muncie, and 1925 Pub House. Currently serving as the Manager of Donor Relations, Daniel focuses on cultivating meaningful connections within the community to support EGTI's mission. His extensive experience in working with individuals with disabilities provides him with a unique perspective on the pivotal importance of cultivating an inclusive business environment that embraces the diverse talents and abilities of all individuals.

Ella Boyd- Ella Boyd is the Chapter Engagement Director with The Arc of Indiana. This role provides her an opportunity to work directly with local chapters of The Arc to increase advocacy efforts within their communities and build stronger collaborative bridges of support between The Arc of Indiana and its 46 chapters. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education and has been involved with the developmental disability field for 20+ years thanks to being a sibling of a brother with disability, a volunteer with Special Olympics of Indiana and employment within the industry.

Elizabeth Homes- Elizabeth Holmes is the founder of the Law Office of Elizabeth A. Holmes LLC, established in 2015. Her primary focus is on assisting clients with loved ones facing Special Needs and/or elderly care challenges. Elizabeth expertly navigates clients through the Guardianship process, ensuring ongoing protection for their loved ones. She specializes in crafting enduring Special Needs Estate Plans that not only provide for family members with Special Needs but also maintain their eligibility for essential public benefits, offering sustained support for these individuals long after her clients' lifetimes.

Gordon Homes- A Certified Financial Planner™ Gordon focuses on Financial and Estate Planning for families who have children or dependents with Special Needs. He brings a unique perspective through his experience both as an advisor and parent. He assists families with understanding and accessing government benefits and preserving benefit eligibility through Special Needs Trusts.

Thank you to our 2023 Event Sponsors



Special Olympics Indiana

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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.