Dear Friends and Stakeholders,

Special Olympics made amazing strides over the course of 2017. The organization kept pace with the 2016 growth while also putting major emphasis in quality of programs.

The vision of Special Olympics Arkansas is to transform communities through sport. 2017 was a year where we saw this vision shine. We added more than fifty new partners through cash, in-kind, volunteerism, and foundation support. These partnerships make it possible for us to impact our communities in this transformative way. We cannot realize our vision if others do not see it.

As you read through our annual report you will see fantastic highlights from Training, Competition, Unified Champion schools, Young Athletes, Health, Athlete Leadership, and Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas. Each and every exciting number included in this report is because of the passion and sweat equity of our volunteers and key stakeholders. We are a grassroots program placing great focus on community engagement. To be successful in our movement it is not about creating new systems but revealing inclusive opportunities to the communities we serve. It is not solely about bringing them to us. It is about bringing us to them.

We have set out to change the game. We have not changed our core system we have begun looking at what we do through a different lens. This allows us to truly show the impact of pure sport and health on people with intellectual disabilities. We remain in our lane, providing sport opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities while inviting others to join the movement by doing what they do best in a more inclusive fashion than ever before. We will always strive to be a movement on the cusp of transformative change.

Thank you to everyone that made 2017 so full of impact and greatness. I encourage you to continue to advocate for our athletes and their opportunities. 2018 will mark Special Olympics Inc.’s 50th year. I hope that as we all celebrate such a milestone anniversary we turn our heads towards the next fifty years with vigor and energy to continue this powerful movement.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our 240 competitions year-round,

Sincerely,

Terri Weir,
Special Olympics Arkansas, CEO
Mission:

The mission of Special Olympics Arkansas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities giving 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.

Purpose:

Special Olympics Arkansas is an organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, everyday around the state. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics Arkansas is changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, solving the global injustice, isolation, intolerance and inactivity they face. Special Olympics Arkansas is providing opportunities for more than 15,000 athletes and 5,000 volunteers in all counties across the State of Arkansas.
Competition

Special Olympics Arkansas currently runs 240 competitions statewide for over 15,000 Athletes. Sports competitions across the state are broken into 17 geographical areas. Athletes then have an opportunity to compete in 9 different statewide competitions throughout the year. The events consist of 15 different types of sports; Athletics (Track and Field), Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Swimming, Golf, Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Softball, Speed Skating, and Volleyball. Special Olympics Arkansas also offers 9 unified sports to promote social inclusion.

2017 Statistics:

- 2 new Regional competitions for Softball and Basketball, allowing area athletes the chance to compete in new sports by combining efforts.
- Increased by 5 new competitions statewide
- 45% increase in athlete involvement in all sports year-round
- Increased athlete area involvement in State competitions for 5 areas
- Executed 245 Competitions statewide
- Added one new sport, cheerleading
Training

Special Olympics Arkansas is a pure sport organization focused on truly bringing each athlete to their personal best. Training is a key factor in meeting this part of our mission. Training refers to both coaches education and athlete sport focused training. Quality competitions are achieved through determined training.

2017 Statistics:

- Increased to 5 regional training
- Conducted 83 Coaches Education Trainings
- Added Coaches Health Education to traditional training
- Trained new and recertified coaches in Athletics, Bowling, Softball, Soccer, and Swimming
Unified Champion Schools

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools promotes communities where all young people are agents of change, fostering acceptance, respect, dignity, and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities and thereby anyone who is perceived as different. Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools integrates Special Olympics programs with ongoing youth activities and focuses on creating and sustaining education systems, classroom practices, school climate and community engagement to ensure all students develop intellectual, physical, civic, and emotional competencies.

2017 Statistics:

- 350-400 educators trained in Unified Champion Schools and Fitness in schools
- 118,620 students impacted by Unified Champion Schools
- 140 Unified Champion Schools had an increase of 90 schools for the calendar year
- 7 Special Olympics College Clubs
- 1 Unified Champion School District
- 1 Nationally recognized UCS through National Banner Program, Bryant High School
Young Athletes

Young Athletes is a unique sport and play program for children with intellectual disabilities. The focus is on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth. Children ages 2 to 7 enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and to the world of Special Olympics. The children learn new things, play and have lots of fun.

These building blocks result in notable improvements in a child’s motor skills, cognitive development, social skills, emotional development and communication skills.

2017 Statistics:

- 95 locations, an increase from 50 in 2016
- 13,853 unified young athletes statewide, an increase from 10,000
- Young Athletes competition opportunities include: swimming, basketball, athletics, bowling, and volleyball
- Seven areas added young athletes competitions to their area competitions in 2017
Health

Special Olympics’ vision of its health program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, is to create a world where people with intellectual disabilities have the same opportunities and access to health care as people without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics’ 19 years of experience identifying and addressing the unmet health needs of people with intellectual disabilities has revealed the myriad of complex barriers to health faced by this population. Barriers to this vision include lack of access to quality health care, education, and resources.

Through this multi-layered effort, Special Olympics is working to create a tipping point where health becomes inclusive for people with intellectual disabilities globally by changing curriculum, training health care professionals and policymakers, influencing policy, advocating for inclusive health programming, building partnerships for follow up care and harnessing the power of the Special Olympics Movement to build awareness.

2017 Statistics:

- Screened 1400 athletes in Healthy Athletes 2017 Summer Games screening
- 3000 Athletes participated in at least one additional wellness opportunity
- Educated/Trained 331 health care professionals on quality health care for people with intellectual disabilities
- 17 areas participating in Live Healthy education fairs
- 54 partners in inclusive health
Athlete Leadership

Through sports training and competitions, Special Olympics helps people with intellectual disabilities achieve joy, acceptance and success. They gain the confidence that comes with achievement. They feel empowered. Our Athlete Leadership Programs can take athletes even farther -- as leaders and spokespeople respected in their communities.

Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Programs allow athletes to explore opportunities for greater participation in our movement beyond sports training and competition: as coaches, officials, team captains, spokespeople and board and committee members. These roles give athletes a voice in shaping the Special Olympics movement, and a chance to spread the word about the transformations Special Olympics can bring to individuals and families. The Athlete Leadership Programs also provides a way for athletes to showcase talents and interests that may have gone unnoticed.

2017 Statistics:
- Added Health training to athlete leadership meetings
- Created conference call group aimed at athlete driven feedback about competitions and health events
- Increased by 50% athlete led presentations to partners
Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is held in 50 states and in 35 countries raising $20 million annually and recruiting more than 15,000 law enforcement officers from all over the world. The original Torch Run began 26 years ago in Kansas as a vision of Chief Richard LaMunyon who wanted to give his officers an opportunity to participate in something positive. Arkansas consistently ranks in the emerald level of excellence raising over $500,000 each year since 2010.

The Mission of the LETR is to raise both dollars and awareness for Special Olympics. Nearly 100 agencies and 1500 officers work year-round in Arkansas to accomplish this goal; they are some of our greatest volunteers. All funds raised go towards supporting Special Olympics Arkansas year round sports training and athletic competition. LETR holds special events like Polar Plunges, Boots-N-Badges, Tip A Cop, Golf and Softball tournaments. A major source of funding comes from the sale of Torch Run T-shirts that feature a new design each year. Sponsors and corporate donations help round out these fundraising efforts.

2017 Statistics:
- Celebrated 30 years of partnership
- Created first Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas Hall of Fame and inducted Honoree Bill Buford.
- Raised 503,326 for Special Olympics Arkansas
- Expanded Truck Convoy from 104 trucks to 131
- Tripled the number of Officers and Firemen attending Summer Games
- Participated in Casey’s General Store fundraiser and ranking in the top of the country on sales, raising $33,057
- Added fundraising element to Summer Games Torch run with partner Centennial Bank, raising $40,658
- Added 10 new agencies/departments
- Increased by 3 additional fundraisers
Financials

On average 82% of every dollar spent goes to support and grow our program

Figures are taken from our 2017 Form 990

### CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

#### Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses
- Federal and state awards: $329,369
- Contributions: $842,507
- Program activities: $28,496
- Fundraising events: $493,697
- Investment income, net: $128,529
- Investment income from beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation: $52,752

**Total Unrestricted Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses:** $1,875,350

#### Expenses
- Program services: $1,293,497
- Management and general: $107,694
- Fundraising: $282,228

**Total Expenses:** $1,683,419

**Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets:** $191,931

### CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

- Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation: $65,535

**Increase (Decrease) in Permanently Restricted Net Assets:** $65,535

### INCREASE IN TOTAL NET ASSETS

**257,466**

### NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR

**2,673,749**

### NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR

**$ 2,931,215**

*Audited fiscal year 2017*

*Financial statement audited by Thomas & Thomas LLP*
Special Olympics Arkansas 2017 Board of Directors and Staff

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Vice Board Chairman
John Fournier - North Little Rock, AR

Finance Chairman
John Ball - McCrory, AR

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Camie Powell

Director of Operations
Angela Stormo

Coordinator of LETR and Special Events
Amanda Whitley

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Leopard

Northwest Arkansas Field Representative
Donna Kilmer

Northeast Arkansas Field Representative
Theresa Book

Central Arkansas Field Representative
Paula Calhoun

South Arkansas Field Representative
Ann Hudson
2017 Largest Contributing Partners
(Cash and/or in-kind)

- Arkansas REALTORS®
- Delta Dental
- STEVE LANDERS AUTO GROUP
- FISHING LEAGUE WORLDWIDE
- FLW Pro, Cody Kelley
- STALLION TRANSPORTATION GROUP
- FROSCH OUTDOOR TRAVEL
- CENTENNIAL BANK
- Member FDIC
- Sam’s CLUB
- Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield
- An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association
- Walmart
- Distribution Center, Searcy
- Horton Brothers
- Printing company, Inc.
- Arkansas HUNGER relief ALLIANCE
- Unity HEALTH
The Vision of Special Olympics Arkansas is to transform communities by changing lives through sports.