



Special Olympics
Arkansas



2018 Annual Report

Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends and Stakeholders,

I am thrilled for you to see the 2018 annual report. Special Olympics Arkansas athletes reaped amazing benefits from record levels of awareness across the state through new partners, exciting events, and unique opportunities.

We were honored to take such an amazing delegation to 2018 Special Olympics USA Games held in Seattle Washington July 1-7th. Athletes from the entire state trained hard to represent Arkansas on this nationwide stage. Arkansas athletes and unified partners earned 115 medals. Upon returning home, Team Arkansas received an invitation to the Capitol. The team was recognized for their achievements by Governor Asa Hutchinson.

This awesome feat in sport would not be possible without the commitment our program has placed on health. 2018 marked the year Special Olympics Arkansas received official Healthy Community distinction, denoting a year-round focus on advancing the health of people with intellectual disabilities. Arkansas was one of 13 to receive this recognition. Among the activities earning our team this achievement is the focus on Inclusive Health professional development programs. We are very proud to be among these leaders in this realm of inclusive health. We are confident this work is changing the landscape for health care in Arkansas and improving the quality our athletes and their families will receive for years to come.

You will read about the advancements in our Unified Champions Schools program and Young Athletes programs. Creating more positive school climates where inclusion is the norm and not the exception.

Lastly, before you dive into our 2018 review it must be mentioned that Special Olympics Arkansas had more than fifty key volunteers and stakeholders present as Special Olympics International celebrated fifty years, where it all started, in Chicago at Soldier field with the lighting of the Eternal Flame of Hope sculpture. It was an honor to celebrate all of our volunteers and stakeholders during this weekend long celebration. We are eager to keep the momentum going as we jump into 2019 and we are excited to begin plans for Special Olympics Arkansas' 50th celebration in 2020.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Weir". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 10 different statewide competitions throughout the year. The events consist of 16 different types of sports; Athletics (Track and Field), Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Swimming, Golf, Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Softball, Speed Skating, Cheerleading, and Volleyball. Special Olympics Arkansas also offers 9 unified sports to promote social inclusion.

2018 Statistics:

- 2 new Regional competitions for Volleyball and Flag Football, 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



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
SEATTLE 2018



Arkansas

#TeamAR #RiseWithUs

On July 1-6, 2018 athletes from across Arkansas traveled to Seattle, for the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, to represent their state with pride and excellence as they competed against the nation's best. Our athletes and coaches trained for months, and in July they showcased their skills, sportsmanship, and inspirational spirit while competing.

Special Olympics Arkansas had a 128 member team made up of 75 athletes, 23 Unified Partners, and 30 coaches who competed in eleven sports at the Games, including softball, basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, golf, powerlifting, soccer, swimming, track and field, stand up paddle boarding.

About the Games

The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games were held in Seattle, Washington July 1-6, 2018. More than 4,000 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the District of Columbia competed in 14 Olympic-type team and individual sports. They were cheered on by the support of tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators. These fierce and courageous competitors demonstrated the power of the human spirit and use sport to showcase the limitless talents of people with intellectual disabilities. They inspired the city and the country to embrace the ideals of diversity, acceptance and inclusion, creating more unified communities.

Arkansas Athletes Take Home 115 Medals at 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle

"We are extremely proud of Team Arkansas. They left everything they had on the court, track, field, and in the pool over the course of the week at USA Games. There are so many highlights over the past week. So many members of Team Arkansas walking away from Seattle with new personal bests, amazing finishes and stories of triumph in the face of adversity. Their determination and excitement were unmatched. Believe me they felt every single fan in Arkansas cheering them on as they competed. It was powerful to see Arkansas rise with us,"

Terri Weir, CEO Special Olympics Arkansas.

There were so many highlights during this week. So many members of Team Arkansas walked away from Seattle with new personal bests and stories of triumph in the face of adversity.





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.

2018 Statistics:

- Maintained 5 regional trainings for coaches
- Conducted over 75 coaches education trainings
- Added Coaches Health Education to traditional training
- Trained new and recertified coaches in Athletics, Bowling, Softball, Soccer, Swimming, Bocce, Flag Football, Golf, and Stand Up Paddle
- Significantly increased number of certified coaches



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.

2018 Statistics:

- 100 educators trained in Unified Champion Schools and Fitness in schools
- 143,499 students impacted by Unified Champion Schools
- 178 Unified Champion Schools in the state
- 7 Special Olympics College Clubs
- 2 Unified Champion School Districts
- 3 Schools Nationally recognized through UCS National Banner Program
- 16 Youth Activation Committee members
- 3rd Unified Rivalry between U of A and Mizzou
- Little Rock School District Elementary schools became a part of UCS
- Added Unified Bowling for UCS schools to State Bowling



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

2018 Statistics:

- 111 locations, an increase from 95 in 2017
- 21,533 Unified Young Athletes participating statewide
- 12 Areas offer Young Athletes experiences and events, increase of 7 from 2017
- Young Athletes competition opportunities include: swimming, basketball, athletics, bowling, and volleyball



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.

2018 Statistics:

- 120 Partners working together in Arkansas on Inclusive health
- 205 New Health Care professionals trained in inclusive health
- 100% of Athletes screened during Healthy Athletes had access to care for follow up needs
- Over 3500 Athletes and partners participating in at least one additional wellness opportunity
- 100 Health Education/Screening events offered Statewide
- Piloted successful Healthy Workplace certification. Three Teams earning this recognition
- Completed first external Inclusive Health training for professional credits, ninety-six professionals attended
- Awarded 2nd Golisano Health Leadership award at 2019 Health Heroes Banquet, Dr. James Hunt.
- Trained Arkansas' first Health Messengers



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.

2018 Statistics:

- Created Health Messenger Track for Athlete Leadership
- Appointed Athlete Leader for Fitness Focus of Team Arkansas
- Special Olympics Arkansas Athlete, Nathan McClain appointed to Global Input Council
- Athlete Leader roles increased in area management by 30%
- Implemented Leadership and Advocacy training for agencies statewide
- Increased visibility of athlete led programming at state level events by 30%
- Arkansas Athlete Health Leader, Stephanie Price chosen for USA Games Partnership advocacy appeal video.



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is held in 50 states and in 43 countries raising \$20 million annually and recruiting more than 15,000 law enforcement officers from all over the world. The original Torch Run began 37 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.

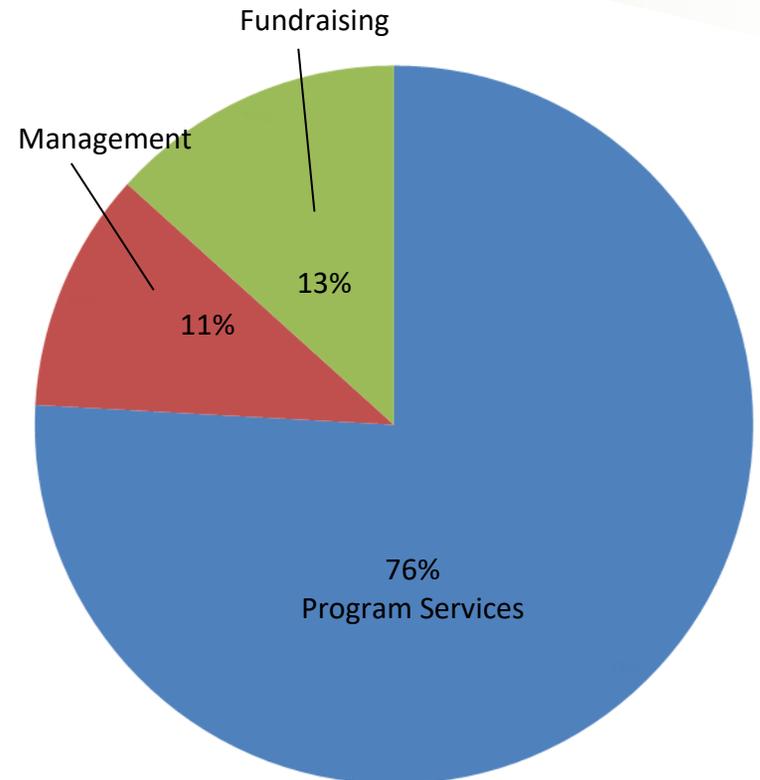
2018 Statistics:

- Celebrated 50 years of Special Olympics by taking an LETR delegation to Chicago to participate in the Torch Run
- Added 5 new agencies and departments
- Heath Helton was elected as the Region 6 Coordinator of the International Executive Council
- Hosted Region 6 CEOs, LETR Liaisons, and Torch Run Directors for a regional conference
- Increased partnership 20% with Centennial Bank
- 100% Casey's General Store Participation totaling \$50,000 raised

Financials

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses	
Federal and state awards	\$ 328,767
Contributions	835,441
Program activities	3,037
Fundraising events	518,571
Investment income (loss), net	(82,016)
Investment income from beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation	35,514
Miscellaneous	49,055
Total Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses	<u>1,688,369</u>
Expenses	
Program services	1,337,258
Management and general	174,030
Fundraising	340,440
Total Expenses	<u>1,851,728</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	<u>(163,359)</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	
Net (depreciation) appreciation in fair value of beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation	<u>(65,978)</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	<u>(65,978)</u>
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>(229,337)</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>2,931,215</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 2,701,878</u>



On average 76% of every dollar spent goes to support and grow our program
 Figures are taken from our 2018 Form 990

Special Olympics Arkansas 2018 Board of Directors and Staff

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South Arkansas Field Representative

Ann Hudson

2018 Partners (Cash and/or in-kind)

Mission Partner					
Premier Partners					
Platinum Partners					
Gold Partners					
Silver Partners					
Bronze Partners					
Blue Ribbon Partners					

2018 Special Event Partners



POLAR PLUNGE



FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARKANSAS



FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



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Benefiting Special Olympics Arkansas

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Vision

The Vision of Special Olympics Arkansas is to transform communities by changing lives through sports.