2021
Annual Report
Dear Friends and Stakeholders,

2021 what a year! We spent the year transitioning from virtual events to safe in person sports and health events. We reflected heavily on what was successful during 2020 and continued those activities. We have learned over the past year that there are some practices we picked up during the pandemic that we will always use. Some of these included: online Coach Education opportunities, online Athlete leadership workshops, virtual options for fundraisers like Truck Convoy and Charity Olive Hour. You will see throughout this report that we did not host our typical 245 events per year. However, you will see how the Special Olympics Arkansas family came together determined to have events safely and successfully.

Our events did not look the same as they have for the past fifty years. We staggered competition times and held no overnight events. The first few months of 2021 were spent creating small safe events to get our athletes and coaches back to sport and health. 2021 Special Olympics Arkansas Summer Games was the first large scale style event, the theme was “Back at it” and we were truly excited to be reunited with our SOAR family.

Unified Champion Schools continued the energy for inclusion on their campus even if they were not able to travel to events. Health began intern led health and wellness classes virtually, and twenty five athlete leaders came together through zoom every month to learn and grow their leadership skills. 2021 was a hybrid year where the focus was engagement.

Last but certainly not least Team Arkansas was selected in August of 2021. The team was made up of 144 Athletes, Coaches, and Unified Partners that spent time training each month leading into 2022 Special Olympics USA Games. Some true highlights about this team selection were the number of first time athletes, coaches and Unified Partners that were selected to attend. Tennis was selected as a sport for the first time.

2021 began our comeback and we are continuing to grow in momentum as we get back to what we love; Sports, Health, Inclusion, and family!

Sincerely,

Terri Weir
Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Arkansas
Most Impactful Moments 2021

10. Delivering the impact of our programs through exciting virtual Capitol Hill day event.

6 Special Olympics Arkansas Athlete leaders, 3 SOAR staff, and 3 Coaches presented to Arkansas legislators. The focus was to deliver the impact government supported programs in Health and Unified Champion Schools have on Arkansas Athletes and their families.

9. Arkansas members of Law Enforcement Torch Run traveled to Wichita Kansas to celebrate Law Enforcement Torch Run’s 40th anniversary.

Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981, when Wichita, Kansas (USA) Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to increase awareness of Special Olympics. In 2021 Arkansas members were able to attend a ceremony with the original runners and represent our state while carrying the Flame of Hope on the original route.

8. Athlete and Unified Partner pair, Tori and Haylie, from Cabot were selected to the United States Unified Champion Schools Ambassador program.

The two teens collaborate with youth leaders from all over the U.S. to act as agents for change in inclusion within schools.

7. A new round of athlete leaders found their voice with monthly virtual Athlete Leadership and Health Messenger trainings.

This 26 member group met virtually each month and focused on everything from what it takes to be a leader to healthy habits.

6. Changing it up for 2021 Polar Plunges added CASH chances to incentives giving away $10,000 in cash and gift cards throughout the season to plungers.

The cash prizes are in addition to the beloved long sleeved shirt and towel that prove you really did survive. You can put your name in the hat for these prizes in 2022.
5. South Arkansas hosted its first Healthy Athletes screening ever

31 Athletes in south Arkansas were able to get their medicals completed through Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Discipline, MedFest with the help of our partner volunteers from UAMS. This is the first Healthy Athletes discipline hosted in South Arkansas to date.

4. Arkansas Realtors hit an ALL time high in fundraising and awareness raising $200,000.00 for Special Olympics Arkansas

The Arkansas Realtors Association began their partnership with Special Olympics Arkansas in the 80’s. Their commitment and love for the Athletes we serve is unwavering. They refused to let the pandemic deflate their energy.

3. Despite the challenges of a pandemic, dedicated coaches and volunteers added tennis as a new sport!

2021 saw multiple Tennis experiences, and tennis individual skill events across the state. Athletes are getting excited about this sport.

2. We were “Back at it” with an in person 2021 Summer Games!

500 Athletes and coaches competed over the course of two days with assigned event times! We were safe and we were reunited thanks to our volunteers, partners, and teams.

1. Announcing the delegation for 2022 Team Special Olympics Arkansas for Special Olympics USA Games.

Special Olympics Arkansas will be a 158 member team made up of 110 athletes and Unified Partners, and 42 coaches who will compete in 12 sports at the Games, including Interscholastic unified basketball, unified softball, basketball, bocce, bowling, swimming, powerlifting, unified soccer, track and field, tennis, stand up paddleboard, golf, and Youth Leadership Experience, and US Ambassador caucus. Team Arkansas is a diverse team from all over the state.
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 19,500 athletes and 16,000 volunteers in all counties across the State of Arkansas.
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Vision Statement

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are at the heart of all that we do at Special Olympics Arkansas. We strive to promote unity and create a world where everyone belongs. We value, celebrate, and respect all differences, backgrounds, and perspectives and understand that greater diversity and inclusion creates a stronger and more innovative organization that delivers better results as we work with athletes in all communities.
Competition

Special Olympics Arkansas currently runs 245 competitions statewide for over 19,500 Athletes. Sports competitions across the state are broken into 17 geographical areas. Athletes then have the opportunity to compete in 6 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, Powerlifting, Softball, and Cheerleading. Special Olympics Arkansas also offers 8 Unified sports to promote social inclusion.

2021 Statistics:

- 45 competitions hosted (lower due to the pandemic and our SO Ready protocol for return to activities)
- All 17 areas engaged in at least 1 event offered
- 16 areas hosted a competition, following SO Ready protocol
- Hosted 2 day event with structured attendance for 2021 Summer Games with 600 athletes competing
- Offered 9 tennis experiences and advanced tennis awareness for athletes across the state
- Hosted 3 state level events in 2021 (increase over 2020 cancelations)
- Team Arkansas was selected in August 2021, 144 member delegation and 12 sports
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.

2021 Statistics:

• 14 Virtual Coaches training opportunities offered
• 70 new coaches certified through the virtual training
• First year to offer coaching certification in tennis
• Team Arkansas held monthly trainings to get ready for 2022 Special Olympics USA Games
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.

2021 Statistics:

• 45 Competitive and Player Development Unified Sports Experiences
• 1,035 Unified Sports Recreation and Unified Fitness Experiences
• 1,350 Unified Sports Recreation: Young Athletes Experiences in schools
• 10,605 Total Youth Leadership Experiences
• 17,233 Total Youth Leadership Partner Experiences
• 34,698 Total Whole School Engagement Experiences
• Unified Pair from Cabot, Arkansas was selected for unique U.S. Ambassador role
• Youth Leaders were selected to attend Generation Unified Summit at 2022 Special Olympics USA Games
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 Arkansas. 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.

2021 Statistics:

- 131 locations offering Young Athletes programming
- 25,000 Young Athletes participating statewide
- Increased Young Athlete Health events on site at early childhood education locations
- Increased the use of Young Athletes resources among partners within health care, education, and government
Special Olympics’ vision of it’s 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.

2021 Statistics:

• 195 Partners working together to improve health care quality and access for people with intellectual disabilities
• 400 Coaches received training on increasing health and wellness into practice
• 4 Wellness integration internships
• 435 Athletes screened in Healthy Athletes Disciplines during competitions
• 168 athlete medicals completed at a MedFest, Healthy Athletes.
• 8 different Inclusive Health trainings events
• 124 Health Care professionals and students trained on inclusive health
• 7 Health Messenger trainings
• 13 new Health messengers
• 90 Fitness Challenge participants
Athlete Leadership

Through sports training and competitions, Special Olympics Arkansas 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 Arkansas Athlete Leadership Program allows 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.

2021 Statistics:

• Increased number of Health Messengers statewide
• Executed 12 virtual health messenger and athlete leadership trainings
• Participated in virtual Capitol Hill Day with more athlete leaders present to tell their story
• Increased Athlete Leaders in key roles
Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas

Who We Are:
The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games. Annually, more than 1600 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members from all over the state carry the “Flame of Hope,” symbolizing courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the state. Arkansas is a part of a global movement that involves more than 110,000 members year-round.

What We Do:
The LETR for Special Olympics Arkansas engages law enforcement statewide championing acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities, starting first with their own communities. Over the years the Torch Run has evolved and now encompasses a variety of innovative fundraising platforms to include Plane Pull®, Polar Plunge®, Tip-A-Cop®, and more. Arkansas members host over 100 fundraising events year-round and consistently ranks in the emerald level of excellence raising over $500,000 each year since 2010 for Special Olympics Arkansas athletes.

2021 Statistics:
• Despite the challenges of 2021 with the pandemic and Law Enforcement Staffing shortages LETR raised $386,464
• Held physical Torch Run event 1 week earlier than Summer Games to include athletes statewide in a virtual Opening Ceremony
• Created and launched Community Policing training-Emergency Responders and Crisis Communication for people with intellectual disabilities
Audited fiscal year 2021
Financial statement audited by Landmark CPA

Financials

On average 77% of every dollar spent goes to support and grow our program
Figures are taken from our 2021 Form 990

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<tr>
<th>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses</strong></td>
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<td>Federal and state awards</td>
<td>$ 526,407</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Fundraising events</td>
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<td>Donated services, materials and supplies</td>
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<td>Investment income, net</td>
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<td>Investment income from beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation</td>
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<td>Loss on disposal of property and equipment</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses</strong></td>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<td>Program services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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| Increase in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions | 328,830 |

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<th>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</th>
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<td>Net appreciation in fair value of beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation</td>
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| Increase in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions | 10,335 |

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<th>INCREASE IN TOTAL NET ASSETS</th>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>3,399,184</td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,738,349</td>
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Special Olympics Arkansas 2021
Board of Directors & Staff

**Board Chairman**
John Fournier  
*North Little Rock*

**Vice Board Chairman**
Ross Ridout  
*Searcy*

**Finance Chairman**
Ferdinand Felizco  
*Little Rock*

**Secretary**
Brian Wallace  
*North Little Rock*

**Past Board Chairman**
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*Maumelle*

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*Mena*
Dr. Valarie Hilson  
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Jay Clevenger  
*Jonesboro*
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*Conway*
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Dr. Charlie Green  
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*Fort Smith*
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**Director of Sports, Training, & Competition**
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**Director of Field Services, Initiatives, & Volunteers**
Jennifer Edwards

**Director of Marketing & Partnerships**
Camie Powell

**Director of Operations**
Angela Stormo

**Coordinator of Wellness & Coach Advancement**
Jennifer Avery

**Administrative Assistant**
Natalie Leopard

**Northwest Arkansas Field Representative**
Donna Kilmer

**Northeast Arkansas Field Representative**
Theresa Book

**South Arkansas Field Representative**
Ann Hudson
2021 Partners
(Cash and/or in-kind)

Mission Champion Partner

Premier Partners

Platinum Partners

Gold Partners

Silver Partners

Bronze Partners

Blue Ribbon Partners
2021 Special Event Partners

Thank You Sponsors!

Diamond Sponsor
Southern Glass

Ruby Sponsor
MidSouth Orthopedics
Rausch Coleman Homes
Summit Community Care

Emerald Sponsor
Horton Brothers
GDT
CareSource
QMS

Sapphire Sponsor

Friend of Special Olympics
Mainstream Technologies
Skinner Chiropractic
Bob Jackson - Edward Jones
Landmark CPA
Boyd Consulting Group
Morgan Stanley
GSA

Thank you 2021 Summer Games Partners!
Your support keeps us going!

2021 Truck Convoy Challenge
September 11th-24th
Keep an eye out for these company trucks as they drive impact

Arkansas REALTORS
Summit Community Care
NorthStar Emergency Medical Services
CareSource Passe
Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas
Sunrise Motorsports
Ridout Lumber Company

Lackiehax Companies
Simpson's Transit
Walmart Distribution (Searcy)

Maverick Transportation LLC
ABF Freight
Bozeman Transportation
CalArk

2021 Special Event Partners

Your support keeps us going!