

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

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A Message from Jessica Stewart, Special Olympics Ohio Chief Executive Officer

We will all remember 2020 as the year of COVID-19. As a team, Special Olympics Ohio remained steadfast to deliver our mission while prioritizing the health and wellbeing of athletes in every decision we made. Although we lived through a year that will forever change history, it was also a year of great opportunity and resilience.

The pages that follow will share with you stories about how our athletes, donors, and community partners came together in spite of the challenges we all faced. We saw the spirit of community impact grow as a renewed passion for donor giving kept us moving forward. We could not be more grateful for the loyal support of our donors and partners, THANK YOU. In a year when many worthy organizations needed help and support, you chose Special Olympics Ohio.

No other year in the history of our organization has provided the opportunity to model athletes' strength, stay rooted in our mission, be inspired, remain determined, and harness the power of inclusion. In the spirit of our athletes, we will be brave in the attempt and hope for a brighter tomorrow. After all, Special Olympics Ohio reveals the champion in all of us.



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Stewart".

Jessica Stewart

President & CEO - Special Olympics Ohio

OUR MISSION DRIVES EVERYTHING WE DO

We are advancing the global inclusion movement through sports, health education, and leadership programs that empower people with intellectual disabilities throughout Ohio.

OUR VISION FOR AN INCLUSIVE OHIO

We envision an inclusive Ohio for all, driven by the power of sport, through which people with intellectual disabilities live active, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Special Olympics Ohio 2020 Board of Directors

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Principal, James J. O'Connell and Associates, LLC



Our Impact

20

OLYMPIC-STYLE SPORTS

150

COMMUNITY-BASED
LOCAL PROGRAMS

2,800

VOLUNTEERS

20,000

ATHLETES

88

PRESENCE IN ALL
88 COUNTIES

\$0

COST TO ATHLETES

Core Programs at Special Olympics Ohio



Special Olympics
Sports



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**



Special Olympics
Healthy Athletes



Special Olympics
Athlete Leadership



“ Special Olympics Ohio means unity and inclusion! I’ve made so many friends and good memories!



Sharita Taylor
Special Olympics Ohio Athlete

Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains & support	2019	2020
Direct marketing, contributions & grants	\$6,221,075	\$3,618,376
Interest, gains & other revenue	\$541,554	\$923,760
Total revenue, gains & support	\$6,762,629	\$4,542,136

EXPENSES

Program services	\$3,811,340	\$2,218,179
Fundraising	\$930,546	\$636,504
Management & general	\$796,927	\$910,239
Total expenses	\$5,538,813	\$3,764,922

Increase in net surplus/(deficit)	\$1,223,816	\$777,214
Net Assets	\$7,448,482	\$8,225,696

Sports

We provide 20 Olympic-style individual and team sports for year-round training and competition for 20,000 athletes throughout Ohio.



Alpine Skiing



Athletics



Basketball



Bocce



Bowling



Competitive Cheer



Cycling



Equestrian



Flag Football



Golf



Gymnastics – Artistic



Gymnastics – Rhythmic



Power lifting



Snowboarding



Snowshoeing



Soccer



Softball



Swimming



Tennis



Volleyball

Healthy While Apart

To help keep the Special Olympics Ohio community healthy and fit in the time of social distancing, we launched the Fitness Influencer Challenge. This virtual program provided fitness routines, live-streamed workouts, resources for physical and mental health, as well as nutrition information. Athletes were encouraged by video messages from sports, media, and entertainment celebrities and incentivized to reach new goals with prizes.

“ I miss the sports we play and the friendships I make while out competing. Special Olympics Ohio is so important to my health and sanity that sometimes I am lost without it. Knowing that we will start again soon keeps me going.



Tara Williams

Athlete Leadership Council Chair



“ Athlete Ian Williams achieved the top tier of the Fitness Challenge and is a fitness influencer! “Ian really enjoyed this challenge and it has been so good for him. He has improved his eating habits and lost lots of weight, but the biggest improvement has been with his BMI. He has done so well that the weight loss clinic has released him from the program.”

Ian's mother Norma

Winter Games

In addition to our traditional Outdoor Winter Games, and just prior to COVID-19, we hosted our first ever 2020 Indoor Winter Games at Bowling Green State University. Nearly 1,500 athletes competed in skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, basketball, cheerleading, and swimming throughout the Winter Games season. Winter Games also included Athlete Village, Healthy Athletes screenings, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, dances, and more!



Unified Champion Schools

Unified Champion Schools® builds on Special Olympics' core values, principles, practices, and experiences to shape a generation that welcomes everyone. Through inclusive sports, youth leadership opportunities, and whole school engagement, UCS offers a combination of activities that equip young people with the tools needed to create and support school environments where students of all abilities feel that they belong.

64 UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS IN OHIO

In 2020, we provided UCS Skills Kits to meet student athletes where they were:

240

FLAG FOOTBALL SKILLS KITS

300

BASKETBALL SKILLS KITS

500

FITNESS SKILLS KITS

On February 11, 2020, a Unified Champion School pair from Cleveland's John Marshall High School, Julian and Carlos, attended "Capitol Hill Day" in Washington, D.C. This was the 18th year Special Olympics organized the event with 60 delegates representing 46 states and the District of Columbia who led more than 300 meetings with Members of Congress. Julian and Carlos educated lawmakers and their staff about the stigma faced by people with ID, and how high-impact and cost-effective Special Olympics programming in sports, health, and education supports inclusive school environments.



Advocates also requested support from legislators for evidence-based programming that benefits all Americans, regardless of ability.

It is stories like Julian's and Carlos's that demonstrate true friendship and how important it is that we continue to advocate for inclusive school environments.

Healthy Athletes

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® is a program that provides free health screenings and health education in a welcoming and accessible environment with a focus on removing the anxiety that people with intellectual disabilities often experience when facing a medical professional. Healthy Athletes can also be offered on a virtual platform when in person screenings are not an option.

We offer the following seven Healthy Athletes disciplines at Special Olympics Ohio:

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Special Olympics
FUNfitness



PREVENTION & NUTRITION

Special Olympics
Health Promotion



AUDIOLOGY

Special Olympics
Healthy Hearing



HISTORY & PHYSICAL EXAM

Special Olympics
MedFest®



VISION/EYE HEALTH

Special Olympics
Lions Clubs International
Opening Eyes®



HEALTH DENTISTRY

Special Olympics
Special Smiles®



EMOTIONAL

Special Olympics
Strong Minds



Despite a mistaken belief that people with intellectual disabilities receive the same or better health care than others, they typically receive sub-standard care or virtually no health care at all. For every ten athletes on a Special Olympics team:



Healthy Athletes continued

To keep athletes safe during 2020, Special Olympics Ohio provided 5,000 Personal Protective Equipment Care Kits. These kits contained masks from our friends at Homage, hand sanitizer from our partners at Bath & Body Works, educational materials, and more.



HOMAGE

Bath
& Body
Works®



“ Getting a mask made me feel safe.
I don't want people to get sick.



Kim Wilson

Special Olympics Ohio Athlete

Athlete Leadership

Athlete Leadership allows Special Olympics Ohio athletes to serve as leaders, both on and off the playing field, helping us work towards a more inclusive world for all. Building from sport, we support opportunities for leaders of all abilities to value and learn from each other and create environments where people with intellectual disabilities succeed in meaningful jobs and roles.

Later in 2020, we pivoted to host Athlete Leadership trainings virtually through Zoom. Athletes were able to grow their leadership skills and remain connected while safe at home.



“ 2020 taught me how to use technology to communicate with others and to grow as a leader!



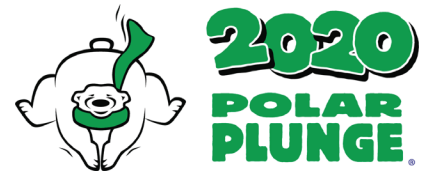
Bobby Reidl
Special Olympics Ohio
Athlete Leader

Community Fundraising

Through community collaborations and our peer-to-peer fundraising events, vital support is provided so that we can expand programming and ensure the impact of Special Olympics Ohio continues long into the future. **It takes the whole community to make this happen.** We are grateful for the committed individuals, families, and organizations who come together for a more inclusive Ohio by participating in events throughout the year, including our hybrid approach in 2020.

POLAR PLUNGE

The Polar Plunge® is a huge fundraising effort benefiting Special Olympics Ohio and the athletes. In order to participate, individuals or teams collect pledges from friends, family, and colleagues to take an icy plunge!



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics, globally. In 2020, officers, athletes and community members choose to walk, run or bike for the virtual Torch Run as we advanced the mission of Special Olympics Ohio.



Community Fundraising continued

ART AUCTION

We started the Special Olympics Ohio Athlete Art Auction in 2020 as a platform for athletes to stay engaged during their time at home. It was so popular, we have decided to make this an annual event to celebrate diversity and inclusion in art.

20,000

ATHLETES

20

OLYMPIC-STYLE SPORTS

\$0

COST TO ATHLETES



“ Local businesses purchased art from the 2020 Athlete Art Auction, which are on display for their customers to enjoy. Support from individuals and businesses not only benefits Special Olympics Ohio athletes, but the greater community at large.



Angela Luke

Special Olympics Ohio Northwest
Regional Manager

Key Partnerships

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The power of inclusion is endless and the opportunities for your company to engage with us are ongoing throughout the year. Corporate partners can showcase their brand through event sponsorships, employee giving campaigns, volunteer programs, and more: sooh.org/partnership-opportunities



CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

“ As a teenager, I started volunteering at Summer Games as a bocce court captain. My cousin Alex has Down syndrome so my uncle and I wanted to find new ways to support Alex and our family. We fell in love with Special Olympics Ohio and never stopped.

After college I continued volunteering, but a move and career change led me to help Special Olympics Ohio in a new way through my passion for promotional marketing and apparel. Years in to my profession and along with my business partner, we created Social Good Promotions to show people that companies can use their power for social good. Our supply chain is centered around giving back and curates sustainable marketing products to best meet our customers' needs. We are invested in the communities we serve and give back a portion of our profits to area non-profits that are meaningful to us, including Special Olympics Ohio.



Kara Keister

Promise Keeper,
Social Good Promotions, Inc.

Key Partnerships continued

Special Olympics Ohio has been able to move forward through this time thanks to the support of individual donors, corporate sponsors, and community partners. Thank you for your continued and generous support!





*"Let me win.
But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."*

– SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE OATH

OUR MISSION

Special Olympics Ohio is advancing the global inclusion movement through sports, health education, and leadership programs that empower people with intellectual disabilities throughout Ohio. By providing year-round sports training and competition for 20,000 athletes throughout the state, we offer everyone the opportunity to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a community where they belong.

STAY CONNECTED Visit us at sooh.org



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