



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



Message from an Athlete Leader

TARA WILLIAMS

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A MESSAGE FROM TARA:

My experience with Special Olympics started when I was in 1st grade. I have loved every minute of having Special Olympics in my life and having this second family. When I was younger I was shy, quiet, and very scared to get involved in activities and talking to people was not my strength.

Through the years with Special Olympics I have competed in a lot of sports - swimming, track, gymnastics, volleyball, softball, basketball, tennis, and golf. The older I have gotten, I have taken that number down to 3 of my favorites; basketball in the fall, tennis in the spring, and golf in the summer.



Special Olympics has been such an inspiration in my life. I have been able to grow and use my life lessons from Special Olympics to be a person who doesn't let their disability define them. I had a hard time learning and concentrating in school. I was diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome in 1st grade and, while it is difficult to have that, it has also made me the person I am today. I have a job that I love. I have been with the company for 4 and a half years and it feels awesome to feel like I am making something of myself and enjoying my work at the same time.

Special Olympics Ohio has come so far through the years. Right now we are growing the Athlete Leadership program around the state of Ohio. Athlete Leaders serve on advisory boards and on input councils. Athlete Leaders make speeches to raise awareness of who we are and to promote inclusivity in the world. We may have disabilities, but we bring so much more to this world than you will ever know, and sports is just part of this movement.



I was chosen to serve a term on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Ohio and to chair the Ohio Athlete Input Council. This is something I NEVER in my life thought would be possible. I think now about how far I have come and the opportunities that have arose that are pretty much endless. I am also serving as Global Strategic Champion which means I will be in a key role to help Special Olympics make strategic decisions.

I believe that the future is bright for Special Olympics Ohio, and for Special Olympics around the world. I hope to see more athletes step up to take part in this movement and to voice opinions, to be more involved with Special Olympics, not just with sports. This is OUR (the athletes') organization. We hold the key to success, to take something that is already great and to make it tremendous for future athletes. I believe in you and want you to join me in the endless opportunities that we have as athletes.

The love and compassion that I have for this organization will never go away and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for all of us athletes.

"We may have disabilities, but we bring so much more to this world than you will ever know, and sports is just part of this movement."



DEAR SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO FRIENDS:

For 50 years, Special Olympics has been building a movement to break down barriers – both on and off the field – all through the power of sports.

Since 1968, Special Olympics has been changing attitudes about the talents of people with intellectual disabilities. While we join the world in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the realization of Eunice Kennedy Shriver's dream, it is thrilling to think of what the next 50 years will look like as we continue working to create a more inclusive, welcoming world for all! Special Olympics Ohio is charging into this new era with a reinvigorated spirit and passion for the Inclusion Revolution.

Through the power of sports, every day, Special Olympics Ohio athletes discover new strengths, leadership abilities, skills, and successes. Our athletes inspire people to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential and they are inviting you to join them in the revolution to create a fully inclusive world.

There are so many people who work tirelessly to help our athletes realize their dreams: THANK YOU to all coaches, local coordinators, sports directors, officials, and the hundreds of other volunteers who work make our events possible. You give so generously of your talent, energy, and time and we simply could not do any of this without you.

Families, friends, and fans of our athletes are invaluable! Your spirit and support make the athletes' victories so much sweeter and help to make the less-than-ideal outcomes feel so much better. Thank you for cheering the loudest and steadfastly encouraging.

To all of our proud partners and supporters: because of you, Special Olympics Ohio is starting the next 50 years with a renewed energy and focus on providing quality training and competition opportunities for all of our athletes, no matter where they are. Because of you, someday the fear of difference will be replaced with an attitude of inclusion in society.

Each time we gather to witness and celebrate the accomplishments and strengths of our athletes, we enjoy the spirit of inclusion that surrounds us and remember that we all can help to make inclusion the rule instead of the exception. We are all more alike than different and we are better together.



Sincerely,

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

Jessica Stewart

President & CEO - Special Olympics Ohio



21,800 Athletes served

22 Olympic-type sports offered

\$0 Charge to athletes to participate

145 Competitions throughout the state

762 Free health screenings

30 Unified champion schools

45 Athlete leaders

8,938 Volunteers



Statement of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains and support	2017	2018
Direct marketing, contributions & grants	\$5,722,487	\$5,114,238
Interest, gain, other revenue	\$274,024	\$285,861
Total revenue gains and other support	\$5,996,511	\$5,400,099
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$4,004,419	\$3,618,774
Fundraising	\$632,437	\$874,300
Management and general	\$773,629	\$929,862
Total expenses	\$5,410,485	\$5,422,936
Increase in net surplus/(deficit)	\$586,026	(\$22,837)
Net assets	\$6,443,080	\$6,224,666

EIN # 51-0183468



THE SPIRIT OF INCLUSION

Harrison High School and Junior High are among the leading Special Olympics Ohio Unified Champions Schools, helping to promote the Inclusion Revolution.

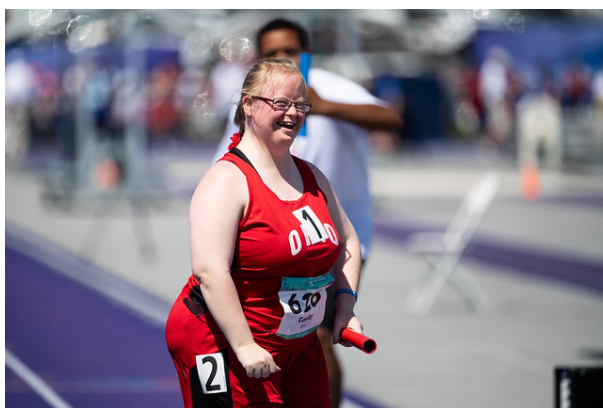
Teachers, students, and staff at Harrison have been working for several years to enhance the inclusion of students with disabilities. The mission at Harrison Junior/Senior High is "Academic and Social growth for ALL students, EVERY DAY," and these words are put into action.

In the fall of 2018, Harrison took a huge step to promote inclusion by starting an inclusive fitness club. This walking/hiking/general fitness club includes students with and without intellectual disabilities. The club has brought many students together throughout the year to connect through fitness activities and help break down barriers and stereotypes.

Harrison also celebrated an inclusive spirit week in 2018. This idea was developed and executed by student leadership during the week leading up to the biggest football game of the season. This program was so popular that additional schools in the area plan to hold their own inclusive spirit week events.

**At Harrison Junior and Senior High Schools,
the revolution is inclusion!**





2018 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

The Special Olympics USA Games were held in Seattle, Washington July 1-6, 2018. More than 4,000 athletes and coaches representing 50 state programs and the District of Columbia competed in 14 team and individual sports. Tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators were also on hand, making the 2018 USA Games one of the largest ever!



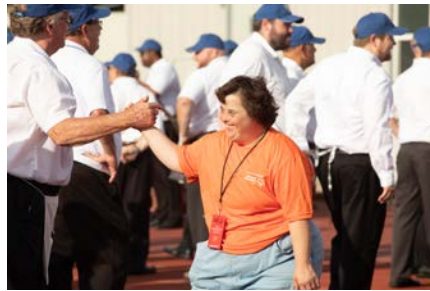
Team Ohio's delegation included 67 Special Olympics Ohio Athletes and Unified Partners (Unified Sports bring together equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities, of similar age and ability, to compete against other Unified Sports teams) and 33 coaches. Team Ohio brought 45 medals back to the Buckeye State: 25 Gold, 13 Silver, and 7 Bronze. In team sports Ohio took the national titles for Softball and Volleyball as both teams won Gold in their final games!





FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF OHIO

The Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio are a crucial part of Special Olympics Ohio's success and treasured partners of the organization. Over the years, Ohio's 75,000 Masons have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to ensure that all athletes attending the State Summer Games are supported. Throughout the year, events are held at the 450 Masonic lodges in the state to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Ohio.





OHIO STATE MOOSE ASSOCIATION

Members of the Ohio State Moose Association are valued friends to the athletes of Special Olympics Ohio! Best known for providing fun and games in Athlete Village at the State Summer Games and for hosting Polar Plunge events, Ohio State Moose members also work tirelessly, year-round, to support Special Olympics Ohio activities. Whether they are volunteering at a local Special Olympics competition, holding a fundraiser, or just helping to tell our story, Special Olympics Ohio is so grateful for all that members of the Ohio State Moose Association do for our Movement!



Statewide

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*"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 part of the global inclusion movement using sports, health education, and leadership programs to empower people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Ohio provides year-round sports training and competition in 22 different sports for nearly 22,000 children and adults 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.

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