

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



2019 Annual Report



A Message from our Chief Executive Officer, Jessica Stewart

For more than 50 years, Special Olympics has been building an inclusive movement to break down barriers and end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities, both on and off the sports field, in health, education, and athlete leadership.

Through the power of sports, Special Olympics Ohio athletes are discovering new strengths and abilities with unrelenting success. Our athletes inspire people in their very own communities and throughout Ohio to open their hearts to a wider world of human talent and potential.

On behalf of our 20,000 athletes, our Board of Directors, our leadership team and staff, our coaches, families, friends, and fans - we invite you in - into a world where Special Olympics Ohio athletes continue to prove to not only themselves but the world around them, they are world-class athletes and leaders.

As we reflect on the success of 2019 and look to the future of Special Olympics Ohio, we embrace the inspiration and determination of our athletes to make us stronger and better than ever. Thank you to everyone who helped make 2019 a year to remember: our athletes, partners, local community programs, coaches, sports officials, and volunteers.

We hope someday the fear of difference will be replaced with an attitude of complete inclusion in society. Each time we gather to witness and celebrate the accomplishments of our athletes, we enjoy the inclusive spirit of our champions that surrounds us. Together, we can make inclusion the rule instead of the exception. We are more alike than different, and we are always better together. We hope you join us in this monumental revolution: the Revolution of Inclusion. Together, we have the power to transform lives.

Sincerely,

Jessica Stewart

President & CEO - Special Olympics Ohio

Special Olympics Ohio Board of Directors – December 2019

Terry DeFelice - Chair

*Abbott Industries
Retired*

Mark Fazzino

*Executive Search Partners
Principal*

Charissa Salerno

*L Brands, Inc.
Human Resources Manager*

Steve Wagner - Vice Chair

*The Kroger Company
Broadcast Production Manager*

Betsy Bankhurst

*The Basement Doctor
President*

Steve Mangum

*Merrill Lynch
Managing Partner*

Dean Haberkamp - Treasurer

*Fifth Third
Vice President*

Ken Kaiser

*The Ohio State University
Retired*

Phil Weaver

*PwC
Partner, Financial Services Deals*

Megan Manuel – Secretary

*Warren County Board of DD
Superintendent*

Lisa Wu Fate

*Bold Penguin
Deputy General Council*

Kathleen Hatch

*The Ohio State University
Executive Director, Recreational Sports*

Geoffrey Kunkler

*Carlisle Patchen & Murphy
Partner*

Rebecca Bailey

*Columbus School for Girls
Assistant Director of Development,
Major Gifts*

Tara Williams – Athlete Leader

Athlete Input Council Chair

BY THE NUMBERS

21,800 Athletes Served

22 Olympic-type Sports Offered

\$0 Charged to athletes to participate

145 Competitions throughout the state

762 Free Health Screenings

65 Unified Champion Schools

120 Athlete Leaders

10,000 Volunteers



Statement of financial activities

Revenues, gains & support	2018	2019
Direct marketing, contributions & grants	\$5,114,238	\$6,221,075
Interest, gains & other revenue	\$285,861	\$541,554
Total revenue, gains & support	\$5,400,099	\$6,762,629

Expenses

Program services	\$3,618,774	\$3,811,753
Fundraising	\$874,300	\$930,868
Management & general	\$929,862	\$796,192
Total expenses	\$5,422,936	\$5,538,813

Increase in net surplus/(deficit)	(\$22,837)	\$1,223,816
Net Assets	\$6,224,666	\$7,448,482



2019 Special Olympics Summer World Games Abu Dhabi

The Road to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for our very own Special Olympics Ohio athletes Jabari Wilson and Garrett Ford, was one that would shine brighter than any world champion could possibly dream. As proud members of Team USA, Jabari and Garrett were part of over 7,500 athletes competing in 24 Olympics-Style events from 200 nations to embark on this record-breaking global movement of inclusion – one that would forever change the world. From March 14th- 21st, the largest sports and humanitarian event on the planet was a momentous display of inclusivity, unity, respect, and sporting achievement. This was truly a movement by people of determination for people of determination—and for everyone else. Our inspiring World Champions, Jabari and Garrett, brought back not only FIVE Gold Medals but the fond memories of an experience to last a lifetime.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD GAMES
ABU DHABI 2019

الأولمبياد الخاص
العالمية
أبوظبي 2019



Jabari "Mr. Speed" Wilson

Jabari spent most of his time competing in Athletics at the Dubai Police Club Stadium. Jabari's determination in the five events that make up the Pentathlon, 100-meter run, long jump, shot put, high jump, and 400-meter run, brought home the Gold. Jabari also had the opportunity to proudly run with his Team USA teammates in the 4x100meter relay for a 7th place ribbon.

Jabari and his family were able to enjoy the UAE for two days during the competitions. They visited the Dubai Museum and learned about some of Dubai's history. Jabari met a young Navy Seaman that saw Jabari's USA uniform and credentials and said he would be honored if he could take a picture with Jabari; they thanked him for his service and told him it was an honor to take a picture with him. From there, they toured and took pics at Jumeira Beach near the Burj Al Arab Hotel and the amusement park Global Village, which is a lot like Disney's EPCOT Center.

"It was an honor to be chosen to participate in the World Games; it was a great experience for me. I met new friends both from the USA and other countries. I enjoyed trying the different foods in Dubai. I love the opening ceremonies and competing. It was one of the best experiences in my life."

Jabari Wilson

"When we first found out that Jabari was invited to represent Ohio and the USA in the Special Olympics World Games, we more than thrilled and excited for Jabari and this very rewarding opportunity; it was truly a blessing and a remarkable experience that I will never forget."

John Wilson, Jabari's Father



Garrett "The Hulk" Ford

Garrett owned the powerlifting stage at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center and brought back four Gold Medals: Bench Press, Deadlift, and Squat, and all-around Combined Squat, Bench Press, and Deadlift. Garrett's success landed him the exclusive opportunity to be featured as one of only three athletes in the UEA Embassy's documentary "The Road to Abu Dhabi."

"The experience was definitely one the entire family will never forget, as they had an amazing time and met so many great people. The Powerlifting Team coaches, parents, and athletes all still stay in touch. They quickly became like a little family while in Abu Dhabi, all supporting and cheering on each others' athletes. Garrett's family wasn't able to sightsee much due to Garrett's powerlifting competition schedule, but they were able to enjoy the beach, went to The Grand Mosque, and toured the Emirates Palace and the city. They spent more of their time at the ADNEC, where the majority of the events were being held in Abu Dhabi. They truly enjoyed watching the other sports taking place as well and cheering on all the amazing athletes.

"The food was different, but it was very good. That was one of my favorite things. The people I met and the friends I made are something special I take away from my experience in Abu Dhabi. I have made friends that I believe I will always have in my life. We all have a common bond, and it's comforting. The Opening Ceremonies were very exciting and even more so because I got to be involved with it and got to meet some famous athletes. I got to be on stage with Finn Balor, and that was extremely cool. I am so thankful for the opportunity I had to go to World Games and even more so because I set a goal for myself, and I was able to achieve that goal by winning four gold medals. Those four gold medals mean so much, and every time I look at them, I think about all the amazing things from World Games, and how truly blessed I was to get to go and be a part of it."

Garrett Ford

"Garrett met so many people and made a lot of new friends. He still stays in touch with his teammates and also stays in touch with a fellow powerlifter he became friends with from Canada. A big memorable moment was when he lost his phone and the Second Lady of the United States, Karen Pence, happened to find it. She personally delivered it to him, taking time out of her already busy schedule to make sure she got it back to him. Garrett also was interviewed by the well-known Kevin Neghandi. That was a big highlight and was such an honor for Garrett. He got to meet some other big-name Powerlifters like Larry Wheels and Hafþor Björnsson "The Mountain." They took the time to talk some and get pictures. Garrett was living the dream, and his smile showed it. Our family is so grateful for all the support and the opportunities Garrett has had. It's been one incredible ride for sure! When we found out Garrett was getting the opportunity to compete in the World Games, we were so excited and happy for him. To see how hard he works, doing what he loves and for it to pay off in a huge way, was more than we could have ever hoped for."

Leah Lane Yost, Garrett's Mother



2019 Athlete Leadership Program

2019 was a year full of growth for our Athlete Leadership program! Athlete Leadership training took place throughout the year and at our Fall Leadership Conference. Athletes were able to attend in-person training in all four regions of the state. Over 100 new Athlete Leaders received training. Athlete Leaders also gave media interviews, hosted ceremonies, and spoke to large groups. The State-Wide Athlete Input Council was also formed in 2019, with their first meeting taking place in December. The AIC is made up of 8 trained Athlete Leaders from Ohio. They offer advice, provide feedback, and assist with statewide guidance.



HEALTHY ATHLETES

What is Healthy Athletes?

A program that provides free health screenings and health education in a fun, welcoming environment with a focus on removing the anxiety people with intellectual disabilities often experience when facing a medical professional. Healthy Athletes also allows health care students and professionals to expand their knowledge of best practices in caring for people with intellectual disabilities through hands-on experience.

Since launching in Ohio, Healthy Athletes has discovered undetected health problems, alleviated pain, and provided health services that otherwise would not be available to **more than 8,000 athletes.**

7

Different Disciplines

- *Fit Feet*
- *FUN Fitness*
- *Health Promotion*
- *Healthy Hearing*
- *Opening Eyes Special Olympics
Lions Club International*
- *Strong Minds*
- *Special Smiles*



1 in 3 adults
(aged 18 to 44 years)
with disabilities have
an unmet health care
need due to cost in
the past year

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

With sports as the foundation, **Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools** offer proven programs and activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom, and community experiences that improve attitudes and behaviors among all young people, both with and without intellectual disabilities.

Unified Champion Schools promote social inclusion by bringing together young people with and without disabilities on sports teams, through inclusive student clubs, and in school or community-wide initiatives.



The Impact of Unified Champion Schools

- *Schools and community environments become more welcoming to people of all abilities*
- *Socially inclusive school climates become free from teasing, bullying and the exclusion of any group of students*
- *Students without disabilities hold more positive attitudes toward their peers with disabilities*
- *Special Olympics is viewed as a school and community partner that offers inclusive programming that benefits all students*



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



FINISH LINE
YOUTH FOUNDATION



**"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.

Stay Connected - Visit us at sooh.org



SpecialOlympicsOhio



specialolympicsoh



SOOhio



specialolympicsohio



user/SpecialOlympicsOH



photos/soohio/albums

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO STATE HEADQUARTERS

3303 Winchester Pike, Columbus, OH 43232
614-239-7050