

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



Special Olympics Ohio
Revealing The Champion In All Of Us

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:





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

We are so pleased to reflect on 2021 as the year we worked tirelessly and creatively to turn the corner on COVID-19. Even though we missed out on Winter Games, we were able to enjoy the winter months of our “Plunge Our Way!” campaign. Summer Games were Reimagined and yet, we were still able to reach MORE athletes than in a traditional year, all while delivering our mission and prioritizing the health and well-being of our athletes. Finally, in the fall months, we were able to gather together with friends and competitors for the long-awaited and deeply missed return to competition.

While it’s easy to look at everything we may have missed in 2021, our hope is that we can look instead at everything we have gained. We learned that Special Olympics Ohio is indeed a family. We are remarkably ONE community!

In our 2021 Annual Report, we encourage everyone to take a moment to look through and celebrate all of the amazing accomplishments of Special Olympics Ohio. Thank you to everyone who helped make 2021 a year to remember: our athletes, partners, local community programs, coaches, sports officials, and volunteers. We could not be more grateful for the loyal support of our donors and community partners. THANK YOU!

In the upward climb of the pandemic climate and the struggles we all faced each and every day, our ability to keep moving forward speaks to the true impact we have on our athletes, Unified partners, and all the families touched by our work. There is no question that 2021 was another emotional year, but it was one filled with the spirit of our athlete champions who truly understand the power they have to change the world.



Warmly,

Jessica Stewart

President & CEO - Special Olympics Ohio

Special Olympics Ohio 2021 Senior Leadership Team

JESSICA STEWART

President & CEO

SCOTT DODSON

Chief Financial Officer

CHRISTINE HOYER

Chief Development Officer

KYLE MILLER

Senior Director of Unified Champion Schools

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Partner, Carlile Patchen & Murphy

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MEGAN MANUEL – Vice Chair

Superintendent, Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Superintendent, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Identification

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Regional Dispatch Manager, FST Logistics

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Vice President, Small Business Lending, WesBanco

MARK FAZZINA

Principal, Executive Search Partners, Inc.

REBECCA BAILEY

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

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.

19

OLYMPIC-STYLE SPORTS

136

COMMUNITY-BASED
LOCAL PROGRAMS

2,600

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



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are hundreds of opportunities to volunteer with Special Olympics Ohio! Start the journey to the most rewarding experience of your life.



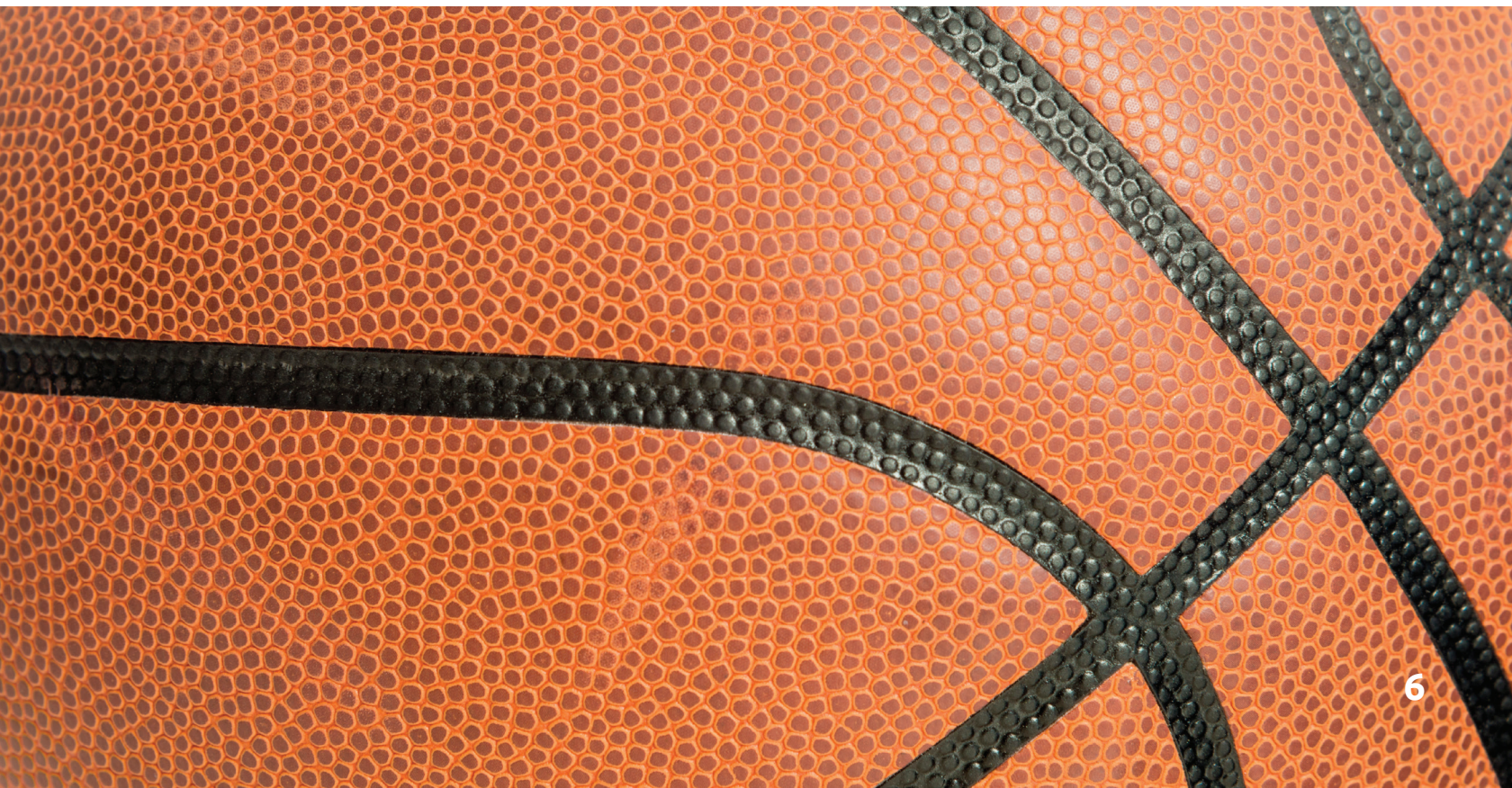
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains & support	2020	2021
Direct marketing, contributions & grants	\$3,618,376	\$4,235,635
Interest, gains & other revenue	\$923,760	\$762,286
Total revenue, gains & support	\$4,542,136	\$4,997,921

EXPENSES

Program services	\$2,218,179	\$2,364,598
Fundraising	\$636,504	\$616,942
Management & general	\$910,239	\$620,482
Total expenses	\$3,764,922	\$3,602,022

Increase in net surplus/(deficit)	\$777,214	\$1,395,899
Net Assets	\$8,225,696	\$10,315,553





Sports

We provide 19 Olympic-style individual and team sports that provide meaningful training and competition for 20,000 athletes throughout Ohio.



Alpine Skiing



Athletics



Basketball



Bocce



Bowling



Competitive Cheer



Equestrian



Flag Football



Golf



Gymnastics – Artistic



Gymnastics – Rhythmic



Power lifting



Snowboarding



Snowshoeing



Soccer



Softball



Swimming



Tennis



Volleyball

Summer Games *Reimagined*

While this year still looked different, we did what we could to help keep the Special Olympics Ohio community healthy and fit as we launched Summer Games *Reimagined*. Thanks to our presenting sponsor, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Health Sciences Colleges, we were able to take the Summer Games experience to athletes in their own communities. In addition, we provided an interactive program and t-shirts for our athletes across all of Ohio.



Fall Games

After almost 20 months apart, we were finally able to officially be back and in-person with the 2021 Fall Games. These Games combined four state sporting events– equestrian, softball, golf, and flag football– and brought together over 1,000 athletes throughout the state. Fall Games also provided an opportunity for athletes to showcase their skills in exciting competitions while experiencing the best sports facilities in Ohio.



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, Unified Champion Schools® 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.

98 Unified Champion Schools Across 49 School Districts In Ohio

In 2021, we “returned to play” and offered leadership, skills development, and inclusion opportunities across Ohio:

1,609

UNIFIED SPORTS
EXPERIENCES

18

WHOLE SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

15

INCLUSIVE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Also, in 2021, Harrison High School, part of Southwest Local School District in Hamilton County, received the honor of being Ohio's first National Banner School for their exemplary achievements related to building an inclusive school community driven by their work in Unified sports, youth leadership, and whole school engagement.



Healthy Athletes

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® is a program that provides free health screenings and health education in a fun, welcoming environment with a focus on removing the anxieties the individuals with intellectual disabilities often experience when faced with a visit to a medical professional.

Special Olympics
Healthy Athletes®



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

FIT FEET - Podiatry



Special Olympics
Fit Feet



MEDFEST - History & Physical Exam



Special Olympics
MedFest



FUNFITNESS - Health Physical Therapy



Special Olympics
FUNfitness



OPENING EYES - Vision/Eye Health



Special Olympics
Lions Clubs International
Opening Eyes®



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

HEALTH PROMOTION - Prevention & Nutrition



Special Olympics
Health Promotion



STRONG MINDS - Emotional Health



Special Olympics
Strong Minds



HEALTHY HEARING - Audiology



Special Olympics
Healthy Hearing



SPECIAL SMILES - Dental Health



Special Olympics
Special Smiles®



Healthy Athletes continued

Special Olympics Ohio is working towards identifying health disparities, gaps in care, and connecting athletes to follow up care to improve the overall health of our athletes. Data gathered across the United States at Healthy Athlete screenings found:



23% of athletes have never had an eye exam

46% of athletes over the age of 20 are obese. Special Olympics athletes are 2x as likely to become obese versus individuals without intellectual disabilities.

26% of Special Olympics athletes need a new prescription for glasses

52% of Special Olympics athletes have gait abnormalities

25% have untreated tooth decay

46% have at least one kind of skin or nail condition

Due to COVID, 2021 presented many challenges from a programming standpoint. With very limited in-person events, we were forced to think outside the box to continue to provide quality health screenings and impactful education to our athletes. Special Olympics Ohio launched a virtual Healthy Athletes screening for Strong Minds focusing on improving emotional wellbeing of our athletes.

Special Olympics Ohio received grant funding from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the overall health of our athletes. Special Olympics Ohio used the funds to provide wellness kits to 2500 Special Olympic athletes across the state. The kits contained health and fitness information, masks, stress balls, cooling towels, water bottles, hand sanitizer, and sunscreen. These kits provided Special Olympic athletes the education and tools to improve their health while participating in fitness activities at home.



Young Athletes



Special Olympics Ohio Young Athletes is an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2-7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills and fundamentals like running, kicking and throwing to use in their future sport endeavors. This program offers families, teachers, caregivers, and others in the community a chance to share the joy of sports with all children completely free of cost.

Special Olympics Ohio provides all equipment, training, and support necessary to host a program in the community or in schools. 2021 was a restorative period of time for Young Athletes that consisted of creating awareness of this initiative, education on the benefits and goals, and strategic planning to grow our base of Young Athletes across the state of Ohio.



Athlete Leadership



Athlete Leadership allows Special Olympics Ohio athletes to serve as leaders, both on and off the playing field, helping us work toward 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.

In February 2021, Special Olympics successfully celebrated the 19th annual Capitol Hill Day and their FIRST ever virtual Capitol Hill Day! It was an enjoyable, inspiring, and exciting time educating members of Congress and demonstrating leadership and dedication to the Special Olympics movement.

Our Ohio Delegation, led by our Athlete Leader and Health Messenger, Seth Greenfelder (NE Ohio), met with 10 members of Ohio and their Congressional Staffers and Legislative Aides to advocate for year-round access to inclusive health. In addition, Seth spoke to the importance of creating climates of inclusion and acceptance through our Unified Champions Schools strategies. Advocates also requested support from legislators for evidence-based programming that benefits all Americans, regardless of ability. We also had our Ohio lobbyists, Nick Blazer and Adam Hewitt, join our Special Olympics Ohio CEO, Jessica Stewart, and Director of Health Strategies, Amy O'Neal, as presenters in the "Engaging with your State Government" breakout session. Ohio was certainly well represented.

It is stories like Seth's that demonstrates the importance of giving athletes the opportunity to lead. It is so important that we continue to advocate for inclusive health trainings and programs to close the gap on health disparities that our athletes face.



Community Fundraising



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Community collaborations and our peer-to-peer fundraising events are vital in providing support 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 have come together for a more inclusive Ohio by participating in events throughout the 2021 year.

POLAR PLUNGE - PLUNGE MY WAY!

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! Because of the COVID-19 restrictions still in effect, we introduced Plunge My Way in 2021. It was amazing to see the variety of entertaining ways that our “Freezin’ for a Reason” supporters helped raise over \$205,000 for Special Olympics Ohio.





LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® 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 Summer Games Opening Ceremony together in a normal year. Of course, in a nontraditional year with Summer Games we turned to hundreds of local law enforcement volunteers and local organizations to host their own Torch Run.

We enjoyed seeing law enforcement officers, athletes, and community members get creative by choosing to walk, run or bike for their own Torch Run as we were able to raise over \$26,000 for Special Olympics Ohio.





ART AUCTION

Back in 2020, we started the Special Olympics Ohio Athlete Art Auction as a platform for athletes to stay engaged during their time at home. It was so popular that we brought it back in 2021 and we were able to raise close to \$4,000 celebrating diversity and inclusion in art.





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER AND
HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGES

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!

Many of our corporate partners experience meaningful and lasting relationships with Special Olympics Ohio, much like The OSU Wexner Medical Center and Health Science Colleges:

Even though 2021 was another summer apart, we were excited to have the opportunity to celebrate Summer Games from a distance. All in thanks to our corporate partner and presenting sponsor, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Health Colleges. All summer long, we are able to provide an interactive program and t-shirts for our athletes across all of Ohio. While it may have looked a little different.

Special Olympics Ohio did not want to miss this opportunity to share with everyone the pure joy that this special programming provided to our athletes this summer. The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Health Colleges is truly an amazing partner, and the impact of their tremendous contribution was realized across the entire state! We are genuinely so grateful as we were able to encourage our athletes and our mission as a community because of this partnership.



Key Partnerships continued



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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!



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER AND
HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGES



CARLILE PATCHEN & MURPHY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Christine's
C·H·R·I·S·T·M·A·S



Morgan Stanley



NJM Insurance Group





***"Let me win.
But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."***
—SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE OATH

OUR MISSION

The mission of Special Olympics Ohio is to advance 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.

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO
STATE HEADQUARTERS**
3303 Winchester Pike, Columbus, OH 43232
614-239-7050

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