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Ohio



Special Olympics Ohio  
*Revealing The Champion In All Of Us*

# 2022 Annual Report







## Contents

Contents.....	2
Leadership Welcome .....	3
Our Impact.....	5
Core Programs .....	5
Financials.....	6
USA Games .....	7
Sports.....	9
2022 Winter Games .....	10
2022 Summer Games.....	11
2022 Fall Games.....	12
Unified Champion Schools .....	13
Healthy Athletes.....	14
Young Athletes .....	16
Athlete Leadership .....	17
Community Fundraising .....	18
Key Partnerships.....	20
Benefactor Spotlight.....	21
Community Partner Spotlight.....	23





# A Message from our Leadership: Jessica Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, and Geoff Kunkler, Board Chair

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible work and dedication shown by our Special Olympics Ohio community. Together, we have continued to make a profound impact on the lives of our athletes, their families, and the communities we serve.

The year 2022 was marked by numerous milestones and moments of triumph. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic, we remained resolute in our mission to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The unwavering support and adaptability demonstrated by our athletes, coaches, local leadership, volunteers, and staff have been nothing short of remarkable.

Amongst the many highlights, Special Olympics Ohio proudly traveled to our Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida with the largest delegation in our history. Team Ohio, made up of 96 Special Olympics Ohio athletes and Unified partners, 45 coaches, and support staff, brought 47 medals back to the Buckeye State: 16 Gold, 14 Silver, and 17 Bronze, along with 28 ribbons. It was a historic year for Special Olympics Ohio and we couldn't be prouder of Team Ohio!

This year was the year we've all been waiting for as we returned to robust regional and state competitions. Our Summer Games brought together over 2000 athletes, coaches, and Unified partners from across the state, showcasing their exceptional skills, sportsmanship, and determination. Witnessing the spirit and joy of our athletes, as they returned to competition and forged new friendships, was a testament to the transformative power of Special Olympics Ohio in a post-pandemic year.

Our focus was not only on delivering impactful programming, but also on building a stronger foundation and infrastructure. The Board of Directors approved our three-year strategic plan as we re-engineered our staffing structure to double our statewide team. We rebuilt our Law Enforcement Torch Run leadership structure, grew corporate partnerships to new levels, and built relationships that will last a lifetime.

Looking ahead, we have an incredible year planned for 2023. We will continue to expand our reach and impact and provide more opportunities for our athletes to develop their skills, build meaningful connections, and achieve their dreams. We encourage you to join us in our mission. Whether you are a volunteer, donor, athlete, coach, or supporter, your involvement is critical to the success of Special Olympics Ohio. Together, we can create a more inclusive world where every person is recognized for their abilities and celebrated for their unique contributions. We look forward to the journey ahead as we continue to change lives through the power of sports.

Warm regards,



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

**Jessica Stewart**  
President & CEO - Special Olympics Ohio



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Kunkler".

**Geoff Kunkler**  
Chair, Special Olympics Ohio Board of Directors

## Special Olympics Ohio 2022 Senior Leadership

**JESSICA STEWART**  
*President & CEO*

**CHRISTINE HOYER**  
*Chief Development Officer*

**SCOTT DODSON**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**KEVIN KRAJCOVIC**  
*Chief Operations Officer*



# Special Olympics Ohio 2022 Board of Directors

## **GEOFFREY KUNKLER – CHAIR**

*Partner, Carlile Patchen & Murphy*

## **MEGAN MANUEL – VICE CHAIR**

*Superintendent, Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities*

## **BETSY BANKHURST – SECRETARY**

*EVP, Brand Development, The Basement Doctor*

## **PHIL WEAVER – TREASURER**

*Partner, Financial Services Deals, PwC*

## **TARA WILLIAMS – ATHLETE LEADER**

*Regional Dispatch Manager, FST Logistics  
Co-chair, Ohio Athlete Leadership Council*

## **BOBBY REIDL – ATHLETE LEADER**

*Co-chair, Ohio Athlete Leadership Council*

## **CHARISSA SALERNO**

*Senior HR Manager, Bath and Body Works, Inc.*

## **MARK FAZZINA**

*Principal, Executive Search Partners, Inc.*

## **REBECCA BAILEY**

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

## **STEVE MANGUM**

*Managing Partner, Merrill Lynch*

## **BRIAN SAMPSEL**

*Vice President, Analytic Strategy,  
International Institute of Analytics*

## **TIFFANY HUNT**

*Managing Director, Business Enablement  
Operations, KPMG*

## **JIM O'CONNELL**

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

## **JACK GREEN**

*Vice President, Small Business  
Lending, WesBanco*

## **JOE MORBITZER**

*Superintendent, Ohio Bureau of Criminal  
Investigations and Identification*

## **JANINE OMAN**

*Sr. Deputy Director of Athletics,  
The Ohio State University*

## **BERNIE OSTROWSKI**

*Retired Partner, Plante Moran*

## **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.



## Our Impact

**19** Olympic-Style Sports

**20,000** Athletes

**117** Community-Based Local Programs

**2,250** Volunteers

**\$0** Cost to Athletes

## Core Programs



Special Olympics  
**Sports**



Special Olympics  
**Unified Schools**

Special Olympics  
**Healthy Athletes<sup>®</sup>**



**ATHLETE  
LEADERSHIP**

## Ways To Get Involved

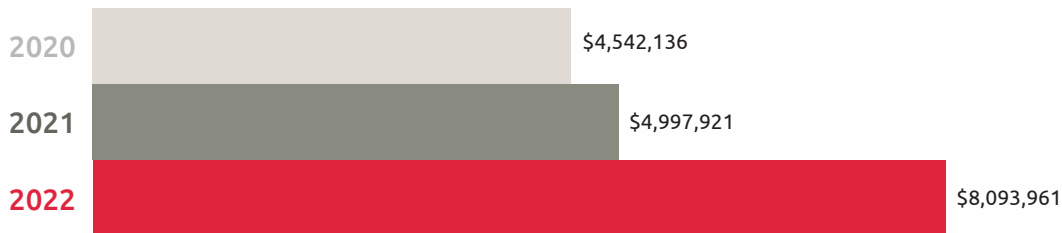
There are hundreds of opportunities to volunteer with Special Olympics Ohio! Start the journey to the most rewarding experience of your life.



# Financials

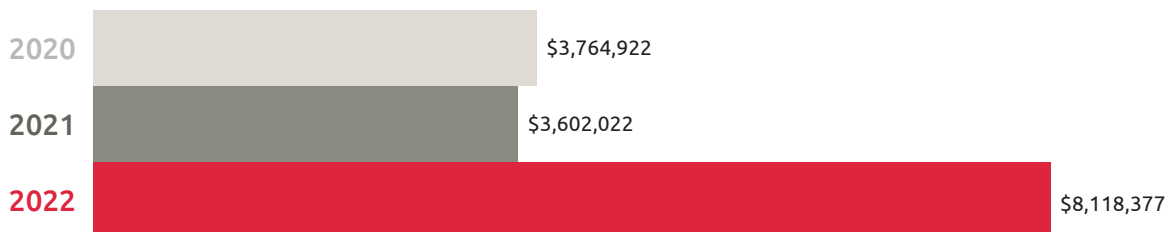
REVENUES, GAINS & SUPPORT	2020	2021	2022
Direct Marketing, Contributions & Grants	\$3,618,376	\$4,235,635	\$8,231,323
Interest, Gains & Other	\$923,760	\$762,286	(\$137,362)

## TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS & SUPPORT



EXPENSES	2020	2021	2022
Program Expenses	\$2,218,179	\$2,364,598	\$6,274,031
Fundraising, Development & Marketing	\$ 636,504	\$616,942	\$961,544
Management & General	\$910,239	\$620,482	\$882,802

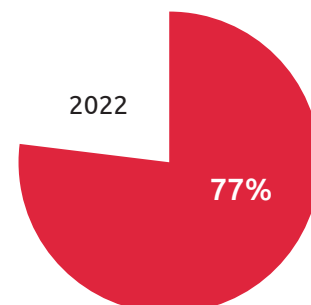
## TOTAL EXPENSES



	2020	2021	2022
Increase in Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$777,214	\$1,395,899	(\$24,416)
Net Assets	\$8,225,696	\$10,315,553	\$9,597,179

## PROGRAM EXPENSE PERCENTAGE

**77%** of the budget is allocated to program expenses





# USA Games

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games were held in Orlando, Florida, June 5-11, 2022, and were broadcasted live on ESPN & ABC. More than 4,000 athletes and coaches representing 50 state programs, the District of Columbia, and the Caribbean all competed in 14 team and individual sports. Tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators were also on hand, making the 2022 USA Games one of the largest ever!

Team Ohio's delegation included 96 Special Olympics Ohio athletes and Unified partners with 45 coaches and staff. Unified sports continue its mission to bring together equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities, of similar age and ability, to compete against other Unified sports teams. We would like to thank our sponsors, Jersey Mike's Subs and Resource Opportunities, Inc, for this once in a lifetime experience.





## USA Games *continued*

**Team Ohio shined on the national stage. Here are some of the highlights:**

Powerlifting athlete, Kevin Cantrell, went VIRAL as he displayed a mind-blowing feat of strength, deadlifting 501 pounds. His video was shared globally, receiving immediate recognition from powerlifters to celebrities. Our emcee, former college and NFL star, Tim Tebow, interviewed Kevin and the entire powerlifting team.

Bodybuilding legend, Arnold Schwarzenegger, shared the video of Kevin Cantrell joining the 500 pounds deadlift club on his official Instagram. Arnold also praised Kevin in the caption of the post, "You inspire me, Kevin!" You are correct governor, Kevin did, indeed, inspire us all!

When the Team Ohio Unified Volleyball team took to the courts at USA Games, their plan was to show off their hard work and competitive spirit while looking good doing it! Going into the week, Team Ohio knew they had a unique challenge, as they were the only all-female team in the competition. These ladies shocked their co-ed counterparts with their teamwork and can-do attitude. It all paid off in the end as they brought home the Bronze medal!

In the end, Team Ohio collected 47 medals for the Buckeye State: 16 Gold, 14 Silver, and 17 Bronze, along with 28 ribbons. Congratulations to TEAM OHIO!





# Sports

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

Alpine Skiing



Basketball



Bowling



Athletics



Bocce

Competitive Cheer



Flag Football



Gymnastics Artistic



Equestrian



Golf

Gymnastics Rhythmic



Snowboarding



Soccer



Power lifting



Snowshoeing

Softball



Tennis



Swimming



Volleyball



## 2022 Winter Games

Bowling Green State University hosted our State Indoor Winter Games for the second year. Over 750 athletes competed in basketball, basketball skills, competitive cheer, and swimming throughout the weekend event. Athletic competition was not the only focus at the Winter Games. From the Opening Ceremony to the dance, athletes had the opportunity to connect, bond and develop lasting friendships across the state. In addition, our athletes were provided free health screenings and health education through the Healthy Athletes program.





# 2022 Summer Games

Over 2,000 athletes, Unified partners and coaches participated at the State Summer Games presented by The OSU Wexner Medical Center and Health Science Colleges. Participants from 54 Ohio counties and 82 local Special Olympics organizations competed in athletics (track & field), bocce, bowling, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, tennis, and volleyball as well as our Unified Sports® events and Healthy Athletes® programs.





# 2022 Fall Games

In a normal year, Fall Games is a combination of four state sporting events– equestrian, softball, golf, and flag football, but 2022 had a mind of its own. Unfortunately, due to an equine virus outbreak, the equestrian events were postponed until 2023. Even with one state sport missing, we were still able to bring together over 700 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, 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.

## 137 Unified Champion Schools across 63 school districts in Ohio

In 2022, we offered leadership, skills development, competition, and inclusion opportunities across Ohio:

**5,578**

Unified Sports experiences

**44**

Whole School Engagement events

**40**

Inclusive Youth Leadership teams

Also, in 2022, two Youth Leaders, Kali Ohlemacher and Anisha Chopra from Sandusky High School, took part in the "Youth Leadership Experience" at USA Games in Orlando, Florida. Following this, they became Health Messengers, grew the Unified Club at their high school, and hosted their school's first-ever Unified basketball tournament. Leadership training really works!



### Anisha

"The USA Games made us grow closer and it also grew our passion for spreading inclusion. The minute we came home, we got to work."

### Kali

"With our training we spread inclusive health on an Instagram page called Special Olympics Ohio Health. We would love it if you could follow us!"



# 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 that individuals with intellectual disabilities often experience when faced with a visit to a medical professional.

Special Olympics  
**Healthy Athletes®**



We offer the following nine 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 YOUNG ATHLETES - Pediatric Screening**



Special Olympics  
**Healthy Young Athletes**





# 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.

Special Olympics  
**Healthy Athletes®**



## Data gathered across the US 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

In 2022, Special Olympics Ohio provided over 1200 health screenings to athletes across the state. Special Olympics Ohio also partnered with medical providers to refer athletes that were identified from the health screenings as needing additional medical care.

FitFeet screenings from Special Olympics programs across the United States have found that 51% of Special Olympics athletes are wearing the wrong size shoe. Special Olympics Ohio was able to partner with Finish Line and provide 300 athletes at State Summer Games an opportunity to get professionally fitted and receive a new pair of athletic shoes.

In the Fall of 2022, Special Olympics Ohio partnered with Studio West 117, Cuyahoga Board of Developmental Disabilities, and the Cleveland Cavaliers Youth Basketball program to offer unified health screenings to students at Cleveland Public Schools. Students participated in health screenings which enabled them to update their medical requirements for participation in Special Olympics, as well as work on their basketball skills with the Cavs.





# 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 introduce 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. Young Athletes is an important step in the lifelong experience that Special Olympics may have on a person and family. Special Olympics Ohio provides all equipment, training, and support necessary to host a program in the community or in schools.

2022 was a step forward in Young Athlete's advancement. Ohio was the first program in the world to pilot a Healthy Young Athletes event (a comprehensive pediatric screening) as a recruiting tool in Whitehall, Ohio. An inquiry form and system were created to field the interest of families, organizations, and community-based programs who may want to join or start the initiative. Informational sessions were held to educate the community-based programs about how critical Young Athletes is to recruiting efforts, retention, and the growth of their organizations. The foundations set in 2022 for Young Athletes were critical to the spread and creation of opportunities for children and families in Ohio.





# Athlete Leadership



2022 was Special Olympics Ohio's first year offering sports competitions and events unhindered by the restrictions of COVID. Athletes hungry for all things Special Olympics, joyfully returned to the field, enjoying all of Special Olympics Ohio's services. With this increase in activity came renewed interest in ways community-based leaders could involve their athletes in community engagement and leadership opportunities. This renewed drive brought the creation of a staff position in the state office that was solely dedicated to Ohio's Athlete Leadership program. This combination of demand and dedication has helped bring new life to Special Olympics Ohio's entire Athlete Leadership program.

- In 2022, the state Athlete Leadership Council, composed of athletes from all around Ohio, led themselves through updating their articles of operations, creating clearer guidelines, officer roles, expectations and terms. Meeting monthly, they offered leadership guidance, provided feedback to the state staff, and assisted with statewide guidance and planning.
- Leadership training took place throughout 2022, with all eight state Athlete Leadership Council members completing a one-day review of Special Olympics North America's "Introduction to Athlete Leadership".
- Local and state Athlete Leadership Council members spoke at several large group engagements and ceremonies, including: Sheetz grand openings, the Ohio Moose Lodge Bi-Annual State Conference, and Capitol Hill Day.
- The 2022 Winter Staff Retreat launched the first ever board member/ state Athlete Leadership Council member mentorship program, partnering five State ALC Members with three Special Olympics Ohio Board Members and two state staff.

This program allows athletes to have a voice in how and where they lead in Special Olympics Ohio. The outcome of training and experience is knowledge and skills that support them in being successful in their chosen leadership roles. As athletes grow and succeed, they share their abilities with teammates, coaches, families and their communities, making for a richer, more inclusive, Ohio.





# Community Fundraising

Through community collaborations and our peer-to-peer fundraising events, vital support is provided to assist in the expansion of 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 our fundraising events throughout the year.

## Polar Plunge

The Polar Plunge® is our largest fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics Ohio. In order to participate, individuals or teams commit to “Freezin’ for a Reason” and collect pledges from friends, family, and colleagues to take the icy plunge!

This year we were able to be back in person and hosted eight plunges throughout the state, while still offering a Plunge My Way option, and raised over \$400,700.





# Community Fundraising *continued*

## 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 throughout the state of Ohio and into our Summer Games Opening Ceremonies in unison each year.



Along with the support of hundreds of local law enforcement, athletes, community members and local partners, we hosted 66 Torch Run legs in 2022 and raised \$60,000!

## USA Games Final Leg

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics was a multi-state, two-week tour. The Guardians of the Flame of Hope carried the iconic torch through Cleveland during the Final Leg leading up to the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games which took place in Orlando, Florida, June 5th through June 12th. A ceremony was held at Strawbridge Plaza in downtown Cleveland while local athletes and officers carried the Flame of Hope around the city.





# Key Partnerships

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!

Special Olympics Ohio is always moving towards our mission thanks to the support of individual donors, corporate sponsors, and community partners. Thank you for your continued and generous support!



**ALTERNATIVE  
RESIDENCES TWO**



*Christine's*  
C·H·R·I·S·T·M·A·S

**THE DOUG DIEKEN  
FOUNDATION**



**Morgan Stanley**



**Resource Opportunities Inc.**





# Benefactor Spotlight

## Debra and Perry Schneider – Their Story

Debra and Perry Schneider have been incredibly loyal major gift donors to Special Olympics Ohio for the past several years. When asked WHY they wanted to donate to Special Olympics, the emotional response was delivered in the following love story:

"Perry Jr. "P" was born with significant cognitive disabilities on March 26, 1964 and truly was the light of our lives. As Perry's mom, I immediately decided to teach him all social graces; always saying thank you, table manners, dressing appropriately, chewing with his mouth closed, having his mouth closed when he wasn't talking, and so many more things from a long list of "this is how I'm going to develop our child". Much to my surprise, Perry Jr. taught our entire family how to be patient, support one another, and what the most important things in life are ~ how to be loving, how to forgive quickly, and how to laugh and be in the moment! He even taught us how to turn to him for his input.

In fact, once I attempted to drive him to a friend's house and drove around for 45 minutes when finally, I confessed to him that he couldn't visit that day because I could not locate his friend's street. Remarkably he responded, 'I know how to get there!'. We arrive to the friend's home in less than 5 minutes.



4B REGION NEWS JOURNAL

### Games a hit with players, coaches

#### Special Olympians gear up for state softball contest

By Amelia Robinson  
News Journal

ASHLAND — Tiffany Peters is an athlete's athlete. The 20 year-old Mansfield resident packs as many Special Olympic activities into her year as she can. "Basketball, swimming, track, volleyball," she said, "I love to compete. You get to meet new people from different counties."

Peters jumped at the chance to join Richland County's Special Olympic Division II softball team when it started this year.

The Richland County team practiced against Special Olympics teams from Ashland, Morrow, Summit and Crawford counties Saturday in Ashland's Brookside West Park.

The practice helped prepare the teams for the state Special Olympics softball tournament in Ashland on Sept. 11-13, said Tom Hehmeier, the Richland County coach.

Richland County's Division I team will defend its state title for the fourth time during the tournament.

Two levels of play allow everyone to participate according to their ability, said Hehmeier, also Special Olympics coordinator for seven area counties.

"The athletes are competing just for the sake of competing," he said. "It's just so rewarding to see them accomplish even the smallest task."

Each team has about 10 Special Olympians and about 10 partner volunteers.

Audra Koeber, 16, a volunteer from Lucas, said she enjoys playing softball with Richland County Special Olympians.

"They need me, and it's fun. I just like helping them play," said Koeber, who plays third base for the Lucas High School softball team.

She plays almost every position on the Special Olympics team.

Mary Ann Miller, an Ashland County coach, said Special Olympics gives many the opportunity to play sports that they wouldn't get to do in high school.

Handicapped athletes are just like other athletes, she said.

"We are all people," she said. "We should be treated the same."

Phil Ohler said his 23-year-old son, Matt, loves playing in Special Olympics events for the Morrow County.

"It makes me feel good something to look forward to," he said. "I'm focused on something."

Peters and smiles let Ed H. Dimmock, they are making Ashland Special Olympic coach.

"You look at them, and everything they've got," I said. "I've learned to love them."

Perry Schneider of the Richland Bears warms up prior to their game against Saturday's Special Olympics softball tournament. Teams are preparing for the title in September in Columbus. (Elizabeth Fisco/News Journal)



# Benefactor Spotlight *continued*

## Debra and Perry Schneider – Their Story

“P” attended several developmental programs during his life, but his most adored activity was Special Olympics. No matter what event, he always felt accepted as an athlete, allowing him to do his best and achieve his full potential without criticism. The community of Special Olympics Ohio provided Perry Jr. a host of friends who welcomed him as a peer, and the organization ensured Perry had the time of his life.

Perry was a #1 fan of all sports and competition. From an early age, he was very active in track and field, softball, basketball and bowling. “One of our family’s fondest memories was attending the Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games. Perry never quit nor lost a game because no matter the outcome he just wanted to know when his next competition was.”

Although he was older, Perry Jr. always looked up to his younger brother Eric and was his biggest fan. Eric played basketball at the University of Buffalo. Sundays were happy times around the house and the family always watched NFL Football together. He loved the Cincinnati Bengals and would always put on his favorite team jersey for the games. As much as he loved the NFL, P loved WWF wrestling and Hulk Hogan even more. We have so many fond memories of hosting PPV events for Perry and his friends at our house.

Perry Jr. was also a loyal OSU football fan. He passed away 3 days before the OSU vs Michigan game in 2002. Knowing that P would be watching from above, Perry Sr. placed a strong bet for OSU to beat “that other school” (Michigan). Thanks to P, the Buckeyes and Dad came out on top. The following January is when The Ohio State Buckeyes made it to the National Championship game. Anyone who recalls that incredible game knows it came down to one last play. A late flag came out of the referee’s pocket for pass interference and therefore OSU got another play and scored to tie the game and won in OT. Our family is fairly certain that it was P who snuck on the field and pulled the flag out of the referee’s pocket.

Lastly, Perry Jr. had strong faith and was a loyal Catholic parishioner his entire life serving many masses. He was a devoted Kroger employee in the produce department for years and was beloved by all both employees and customers”.

When it came time to “give back” to an organization that had such a positive influence on their family, it was simple decision for the Schneider family to direct their generous charitable donation to Special Olympics Ohio, who made such a lasting impression on their dear son. The Special Olympics Ohio family is honored to highlight the Schneider Family story and share what impact of Special Olympics has on those with intellectual disabilities and their beautiful families.



# Community Partner Spotlight

## Jersey Mike's Subs - A Commitment to Inclusion

Roger, Andrew, and Adam Sample personify the spirit of giving and inclusion embodied by our partners and donors. The Sample family, franchise owner of eleven Jersey Mike's Subs stores in Northeast Ohio, has elected for the past four years to donate 100 percent of sales on Jersey Mike's "Day of Giving" to Special Olympics Ohio.



The generosity of the family and the company culminated in 2022 when all 82 Jersey Mike's stores across the entire state united to support the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, raising \$369,000 for Special Olympics Ohio. Throughout the month of March, Jersey Mike's franchise owners and staff joined with our athletes to promote their partnership and feed tens of thousands of hungry people across Ohio.

The Sample family has continued to support Special Olympics Ohio beyond the Day of Giving, providing healthy meals for our athletes and volunteers, cheering on our athletes in local competitions and traveling to witness and support our athletes at Summer Games in Columbus. They also embody our shared value of inclusion, having long employed individuals with intellectual disabilities in their shops.

We are so genuinely grateful for the support of the Sample Family and Jersey Mike's Subs and especially the Sample Family, whose contributions allow us to provide many opportunities for our athletes to compete in the sports they love, and continue to inspire generosity and joy in Northeast Ohio.







*“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.

## Stay Connected: Visit us at [sooh.org](https://sooh.org)



SpecialOlympicsOhio



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SOOhio



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photos/soohio/albums

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