



Special Olympics
Indiana



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

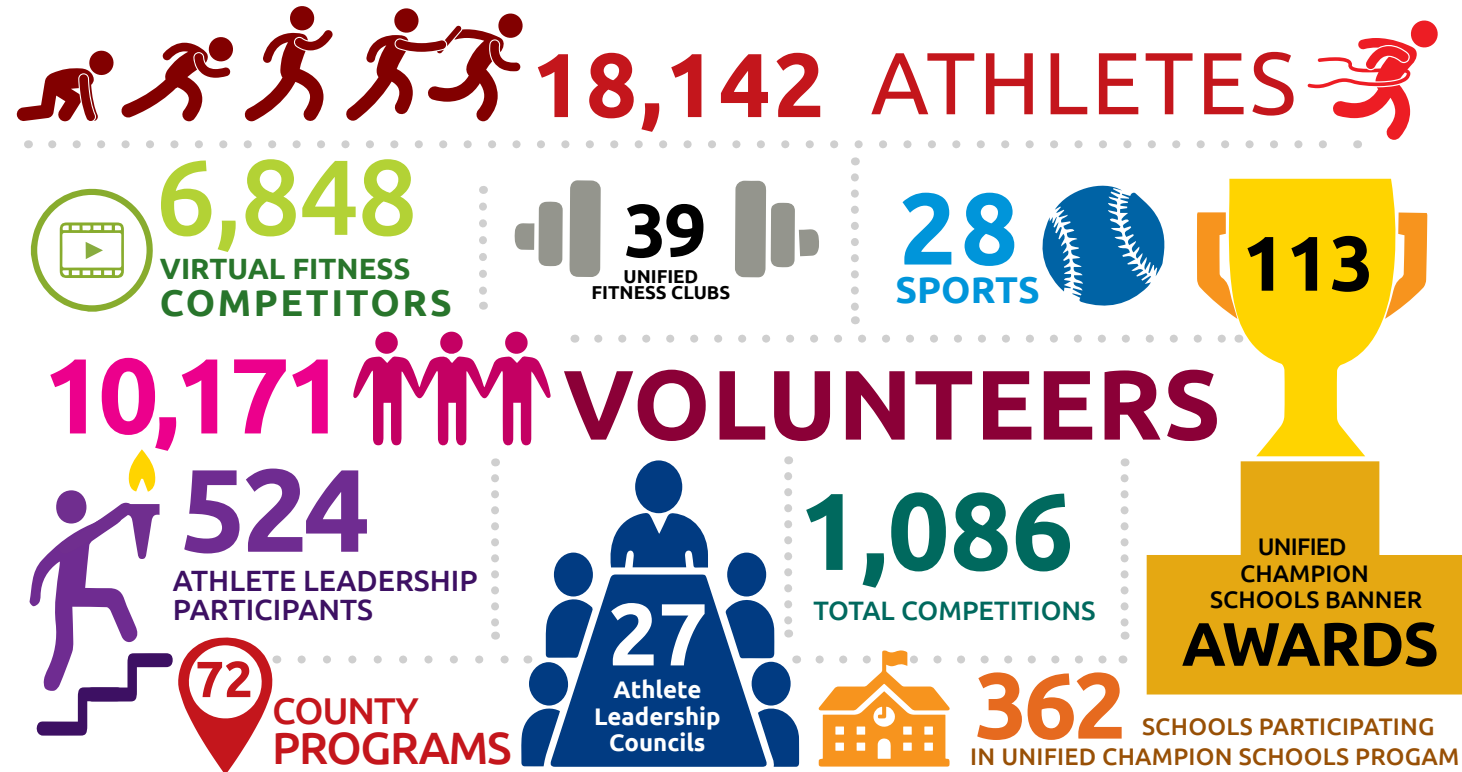


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01 JANUARY

Our annual sports calendar begins with the 2020 Indiana Winter Games, where dozens of athletes from across the state compete in alpine skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding at Lawrenceburg's Perfect North Slopes. The Finish Line Million Step Challenge begins, engaging athletes involved in Unified Fitness Clubs across the state.

02 FEBRUARY

Our signature fundraiser sets new high marks in terms of revenue and participation, as more than 3,000 individuals are "Freezin' for a Reason" at 18 Polar Plunge sites across the state, including three plunges dedicated to high school students. Nearly \$1 million is raised to benefit Special Olympics Indiana athletes and to support year-round programs and events.

03 MARCH

On March 11, 2020, Special Olympics Indiana announces that all in-person events, practices, and activities are suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upcoming State Basketball and Champions Together Unified Bowling State Tournament events are cancelled. The world as we know it, changes overnight and everything goes virtual.

04 APRIL

Virtual programs and events are developed to keep athletes engaged from home, beginning with the 2020 Shine Contest—providing opportunities for athletes, volunteers, families, and friends to connect with the outside world and have a chance to shine. Athlete Leadership goes virtual with the launch of the Athlete Leadership Webinar Series, covering a wide variety of topics each Saturday.

05 MAY

Special Olympics Indiana works to educate athletes about COVID-19 and promote the importance of social distancing, wearing a mask, sanitizing hands, and staying connected remotely.

06 JUNE

Special Olympics Indiana is proud to present the organizations' first-ever Virtual Summer Games, inviting more than 1,800 athletes across the state to be Unified By Hope and participate in a special at-home Sports & Fitness Challenge extending into July. The Games include a virtual Flame of Hope Torch Run, virtual Opening/Closing Ceremonies, and virtual dance parties.

07 JULY

A sign of normalcy, our 21st annual Charity Golf Classic is held in-person in Indianapolis (with health and safety protocols in place), where more than 20 foursomes hit the links at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Club to raise money for Special Olympics Indiana athletes.

08 AUGUST

Updated health and safety guidelines are released and County Programs slowly begin to resume some in-person activities. The annual Plane Pull Challenge is rescheduled for October.

09 SEPTEMBER

Nearly 800 athletes and Unified partners compete virtually in our 2020 Fall Games Sports & Fitness Challenge while state competitions are held remotely for Golf and Distance Run/Walk. The Fort Wayne Breakfast with Champions event is held in-person, drawing an audience of supporters new and old to learn about the Special Olympics movement. And we partner with Eli Lilly and Company to launch the 2020 Lilly 1,000 Mile Challenge, a virtual Unified competition bringing together Lilly employees and Special Olympics athletes to stay active and raise money, with more than 1200 participants and 111 teams combining to raise over \$64,000 and to log more than 201,000 miles.

10 OCTOBER

The 2020 Plane Pull Challenge is held in-person at the Indianapolis International Airport, with participants raising over \$94,000 despite the ongoing pandemic. The Spirit of Special Olympics Indiana Awards are officially presented at our (virtual) State Conference, where staff, volunteers, and athletes come together to learn from one another and to take part in leadership, team building, and coaches' trainings. The IHSAA hosts its 3rd annual Unified Flag Football State Tournament, with 32 schools and more than 250 students with and without disabilities competing together, while an additional 14 schools compete in the 4th Annual Champions Together Unified Bocce State Tournament.

11 NOVEMBER

Fundraising events dominate the month as our annual Indianapolis Breakfast with Champions inspires and our Strikes for Special Olympics Indiana bowling event unites. More than 20 elected Athletes Leaders from across the state take part virtually in the second meeting of the Indiana Athlete Leadership Council since its inception in November 2018.

12 DECEMBER

Bowling proves once again to be our most popular sport, as more than 1,333 athletes from across Indiana competed remotely for medals. The year concludes with a virtual New Year's Eve Dance Party to ring in the new year.

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A POST, TWEET, PIN, WORD FROM OUR CEO



Two years ago, Special Olympics Indiana celebrated a significant milestone: our 50th Anniversary of serving persons with intellectual disabilities. In 1969, one year after the first Special Olympics games saw 1,000 athletes compete in Chicago, the movement came to Indiana to stay. In the years since, Special Olympics Indiana has grown to become much, much more.

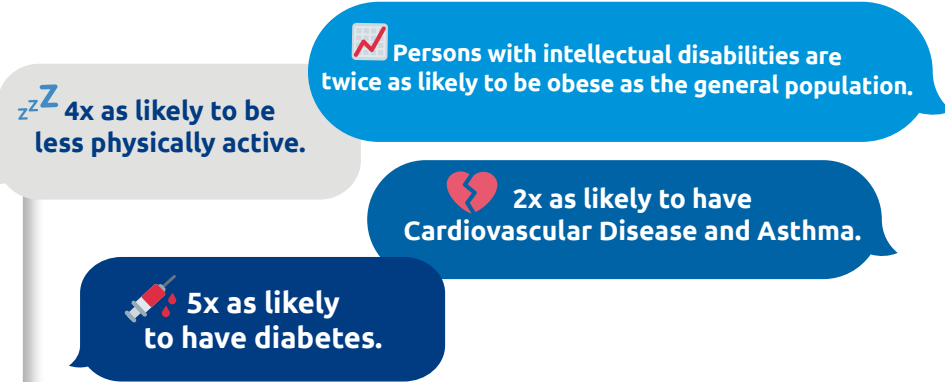
In the beginning, we offered sports for the people we serve.

Today we are a sports, health, education, advocacy, and leadership organization taking our cues FROM more than 18,000 people with intellectual disabilities across the state.

And in 2020, Special Olympics Indiana's programming may have been more important to our athletes than it was even in that very first year. In the midst of a global pandemic, it seemed last spring that there was no other choice but for us to shut down our programs and events until a better time.

But our athletes cannot afford to wait for that better time.

Here are some alarming statistics to express that need in terms of our athletes' health.



The result?... persons with intellectual disabilities have their life expectancy reduced by 16 years, on average, compared to you and me. That's the math that Special Olympics deals with every day. That's the math that our athletes deal with every day. And that was the math before COVID-19!

And look at the factors . . . obesity, cardiovascular disease, asthma, diabetes. All of which place individuals in the **"high risk" category for COVID-19.**

But that's not all. The data keeps getting worse.

In June, from research out of Syracuse University, we learned that persons with intellectual disabilities are four times as likely to contract COVID-19.

Engagement with our athletes is critical, even virtual engagement.

Last summer, Special Olympics surveyed over 6,000 American athletes, including several hundred from Indiana. Asking if they practiced social distancing, consistent handwashing, and wore a facemask, we learned that over two-thirds practiced all three. Of those who did all three, 92% learned to do so through Special Olympics and our resources.

Our athletes fight isolation. And our volunteers have stepped in to help. 69% of athletes have been contacted by their Special Olympics coach and/or teammates. Our athletes feel less isolated when they are in contact with their local Special Olympics program.

Our athletes need Special Olympics. We must continue on. And we are.

So how do we continue on during a pandemic? Virtually, of course.

Even though our largest event, Summer Games, did not happen in-person, Special Olympics Indiana hosted a 5-week virtual sports and fitness challenge in June and July. As we competed in our own backyards, our neighbors knew that Special Olympics was still here.

Of our usual 2,800 competitors qualifying for Summer Games, nearly 2,300 participated in our virtual challenge. 82% remained engaged!

In fact, Indiana hosted the largest virtual Summer Games among all US Special Olympics programs! Through the summer, fall, and into the winter, our athletes competed in numerous virtual fitness challenges and some actual in-person sports competitions . . . in small groups, of course.

What contributed to our success, even in a virtual environment? A mindset that we will make progress unhindered by circumstances. A unifying message of hope. Support from committed volunteers and donors. And most importantly, our athletes leading the way.



The most impactful result of 2020?

An empowered athlete!

Athletes who took control of their own health and fitness. Athletes who are healthier – physically and emotionally. **Athletes like Shelby Baker of Benton County.** It may have taken some of us time to adjust to this new virtual world, but not Shelby. She completed over 95 virtual 5K's as she challenges herself and other to stay active.

Athletes, like Shelby, faced the intimidating world of 2020 with hope.

In 2019, Special Olympics celebrated a significant milestone – our 50th Anniversary. Who would have thought that our 51st Anniversary would be even more significant?

In 2019, we celebrated.

In 2020, we had hope. Hope for a return to competition. Hope for a return to normalcy. Hope for a return to each other. Hope that Special Olympics' message of inclusion is heard by our leaders, by our friends, and by those in our communities.

What about 2021? Well, hope for a reunion. **A big reunion.**

And I hope you will join us . . .

If not in person ...

Virtually , of course!



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL Digital Edition

Now in their second year, Athlete Leadership Councils (ALCs) provide opportunities for athletes to have a voice in the discussion of how to best run Special Olympics Indiana. Founded on the belief that no one has a more important and informed opinion about the direction of Special Olympics than those who participate, ALCs establish the structure that will make it possible for every Special Olympics athlete to have their say.

What is an Athlete Leadership Council? It is a group of athletes who meet regularly using a well-thought-out agenda to discuss Special Olympics topics important to them and make recommendations to the leadership of the County or State Program. Having ALCs provides athletes opportunities to develop leadership skills, serve as volunteers, provide valuable input to the operation of Special Olympics and be role models for other athletes. Having athletes involved in meaningful ways conveys how much we respect and value them as an integral part of our organization. It also gives Program leaders valuable insight into what interests and motivates athletes in the Program.

As we bridge into 2021, almost half of Indiana's 72 County Programs have started an ALC or are in the process of organizing one. The Chair of a County ALC automatically becomes a member of the Indiana ALC, which meets quarterly (*including one in-person meeting*) to make recommendations to the state office. One current recommendation is to require all County SO Programs to have their own ALC.

“The leadership that Morgan has developed has been phenomenal. The pandemic afforded our athletes the opportunities they otherwise may not have had. Morgan was eager to volunteer in the community and her weekly workouts via Zoom have been well-received by her teammates.”

- Jenny Maddux



Morgan Hooten
Decatur County Athlete Leader

Follow

In a year when all activities have ground to a halt, it was a challenge for ALCs to stay engaged, especially when so many athletes have limited access to technology such as Zoom. However, it seems many Special Olympics athletes embrace a challenge. Most ALCs found a way to stay connected, including the one in Henry County.

Through the brief letter (*below*) sent by Henry County ALC Chair Kim Wood, it is easy to see the power of the athlete, lived out through the way this group found ways to keep their Special Olympics Program connected and serving the mission – even when they couldn't get together in person for training and competition.

The 2021 Indiana Athlete Leadership Council is scheduled to conduct its third annual in-person meeting on Saturday, October 23 in conjunction with the State Conference in Noblesville.



New message

To Special Olympics Indiana

Subject Quarantine Connect with Kim Wood

I'm writing to share with you all the ideas I have come up with for us to try to keep connected with each other, over the quarantine.

1. Making shout outs to Athlete once a week. **So far, we have done 43!**
2. A SHOUT OUT to the Birthdays of the month.
3. Having Group Chats.
4. Sending out Christmas cards to all the Athletes, Coaches, and all Volunteers.
5. We have had Virtual Dance Parties, Scavenger Hunts.
6. Tori and I do a workout every night on Facebook Messenger for about **15 to 20 minutes every day.**
**Trying to help Athletes get their steps in and to get them moving.*
7. The Athlete Leadership Council meets about every week to spin the wheel to pick the athlete of the week.
**And just to keep in touch with each other.*
8. We are helping Henry County with a great fundraiser selling pies.
9. We are going to send out spring cards to all The Athletes.

We have been keeping busy here. Have a wonderful day.



Kim Wood
Special Olympics Indiana ALC Chair
SO Henry County



Send

Athlete Spotlight Melony Salla

MY 2020

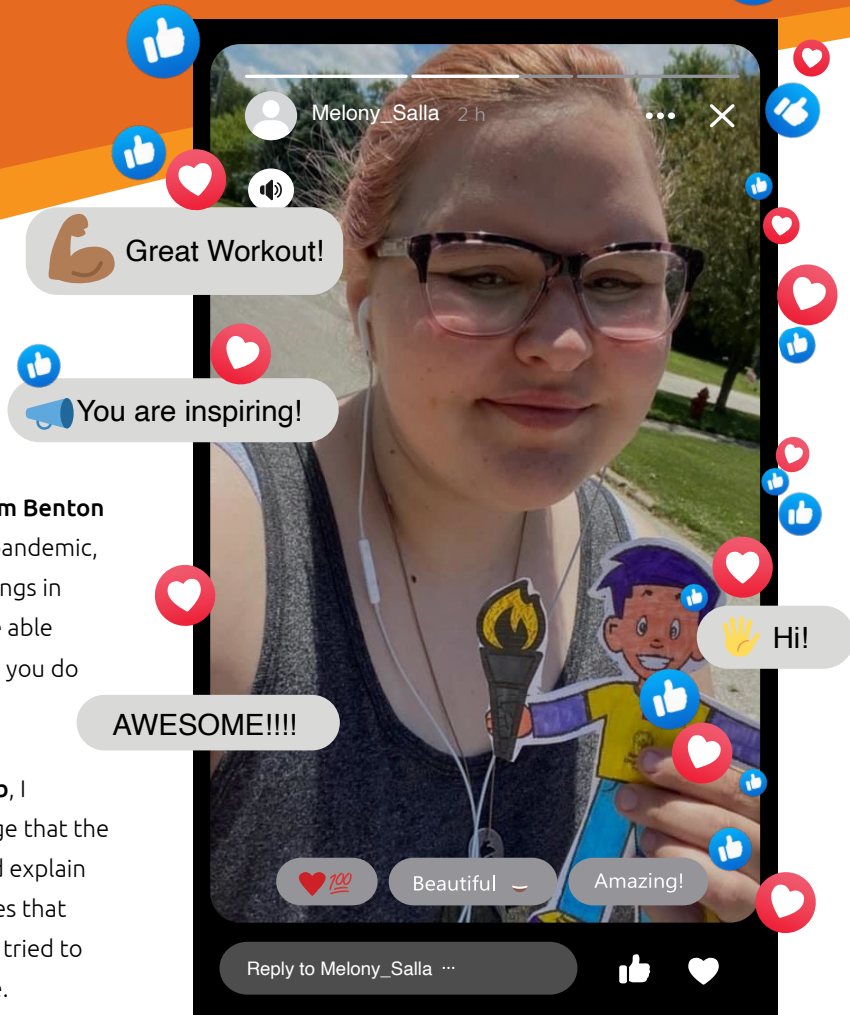
My name is Melony Salla and I am an athlete leader from Benton County. 2020 was a difficult year for everyone with this pandemic, especially for us athletes. When we had to stop doing things in person like most people, I didn't know when we would be able to get back to being in person. Many have asked what did you do during this time? How did you react to the pandemic?

Since I'm the athlete leader for our Unified Fitness Club, I decided I would post a daily workout on my Facebook page that the athletes could do. It started out as just something I would explain or write out on paper. I modified it somewhat for the ones that couldn't do certain things. I posted one for every day and tried to find different activities they could do to keep them active.

Then I started recording myself doing the workouts and posting videos to my personal Facebook page and the Benton County Special Olympics Facebook page every day. **My hope was to show the athletes if I could do the workout it would encourage them to do the workout too, keep them active.**

When these workouts were posted on my Facebook page, other athletes from different counties liked my workouts. The workout videos were also posted to our UFC page. So many athletes contacted me, asking if they couldn't do a certain exercise, what's another exercise they could do in the place of it. I even noticed some other athletes doing the same thing, videoing workouts and posting them.

I also participated in the Athlete Leadership Webinar Series and encouraged the athletes to keep active and do exercises or take walks. Speaking of walks, I started doing 5Ks. I found a 5K that sounded cool and signed up for it. I have actually done several 5Ks now. To me it was another way to show the athletes how they could stay active. It was and still is so much fun!



Our athletes were so bummed that we couldn't meet in person and do activities. So besides the workout videos, I started doing Zoom meetings for our athletes once a week. It was a chance to see our friends and talk about anything we wanted to. Many of the athletes looked forward to Zoom meetings. It was nice to see everyone even if it was through Zoom.

To let our athletes know I cared about them and to cheer them up, I colored pages with some sort of saying on them like "I'm Thinking of You" and mailed the page to them. It was nice to see some of the comments or thank you notes I got saying how it was to be remembered.

My goal was to show even through the pandemic we still could be active and still talk to one another through other ways. I believe it worked.

- Melony Salla



I don't look at Special Olympics as receiving medals but as growing towards the next goal!

- Hiawatha "H" Davis

Volunteer Spotlight Elesia Yoon

Elesia Yoon has an affinity for people that are marginalized and discriminated against.

She has a diverse family heritage and has experienced aggression living here in the Midwest. As a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee at Orbis Education, Elesia feels very passionate about this work.

And, like the athletes she serves, Elesia has found a rewarding place to spend her spare time. She has stayed connected to our movement for over 15 years, finding joy, fulfillment, and — as an introvert — life-giving energy from the athletes.

This past year, Elesia was instrumental in conducting a six-week Saturday morning Athlete Leadership Webinar Series and two weekend-long virtual sessions of Athlete Leadership University (ALU) to keep athletes engaged during the suspension of activities due to the pandemic.

Her professional experience as an instructional designer offers great synergy in her role as Dean of ALU. Elesia originally got involved with Special Olympics at the local level — volunteering through Katie Mortensen, who was a teacher at her daughters' school and the Area 8 Director.

The partnership has come full circle, as Katie is now an ALU instructor.

Special Olympics International also has tapped her talents and recruited her to be a global consultant for curricula development and athlete leadership training.

Elesia is an outstanding advocate for our athletes and has helped to spread her love of Special Olympics far and wide. She has recruited her family to become active as Area 8 volunteers, making the annual Spring Games a true family experience. In addition, her husband Bernie has donned the bear suit to help promote our annual Polar Plunge and her daughters Maddie and Molly have volunteered as mentors and ALU instructors.





UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT



Liam Price

Johnson County Athlete | Center Grove High School Alumnus

+ Add Story

Home About Photos Videos More

Hello, I'm Liam Price, and I have autism. I also have Tourette syndrome and an enormous level of anxiety. When my anxiety is triggered, certain things automatically happen to me that I can't control. Quirky behaviors, inappropriate laughter, squeaky noises and tics take over, and my focus is crushed. It doesn't matter if it's an inconvenient time for it to happen. It can be something as little as a light touch against my skin, a word that triggers a fearful image, or just too many sounds in one space that I can no longer filter out.

When I lose my focus, my mind can become paralyzed by a non-stop loop of obsessive-compulsive behaviors and tics that take over. This leads me down a deep hole that I sometimes can't climb out of without someone's help. There are times when I need a forced shut-down from everything and everyone in hopes that I can reset and re-boot my brain again. It's embarrassing, and I hate what it makes me feel about myself and what I think others think about me, too.

There have been times in my life when I couldn't make my brain stay engaged in school, much less any kind of social gathering. One of those times happened when I was in fifth grade, and it resulted with me choosing to be home-schooled. Being home-schooled did help me focus better on learning, but now I had NO network of friends, a LOT of time alone, and lousy eating and exercise habits. It was a choice of lifestyle that eventually left me very overweight and very lonely.

But then my parents started taking me to Special Olympics for swimming, and my outlook began to change. Over time, I expanded my activities to include basketball, flag football, and even ballroom dancing. By the time I was to be a freshman in high school, I was feeling ready to go back to school. At first, I felt like a little fish in a massive pond. But then one day, everything unexpectedly changed when a teacher saw me running in PE class and invited me to join the new Unified Track & Field team that he was coaching.

I was stunned. I was not a high school athlete, and I remember wondering how I could possibly contribute anything in a team sport.

But here was an opportunity to not only compete, but to also represent my school and wear my school colors. Thanks to the Champions Together partnership between Special Olympics Indiana and the IHSAA, Unified Track & Field is a real varsity sport. There are regular season meets, sectionals, regionals, and a trophy for winning state. Just like all other IHSAA sports.

Training alongside my new teammates gave me confidence in my athletic abilities and social skills. Our team made it to the state finals at Indiana University that year, where I finished 6th in shot put and 3rd in the 100-meter dash.

The opportunity to compete on my high school's Unified Track and Field team has changed my life.

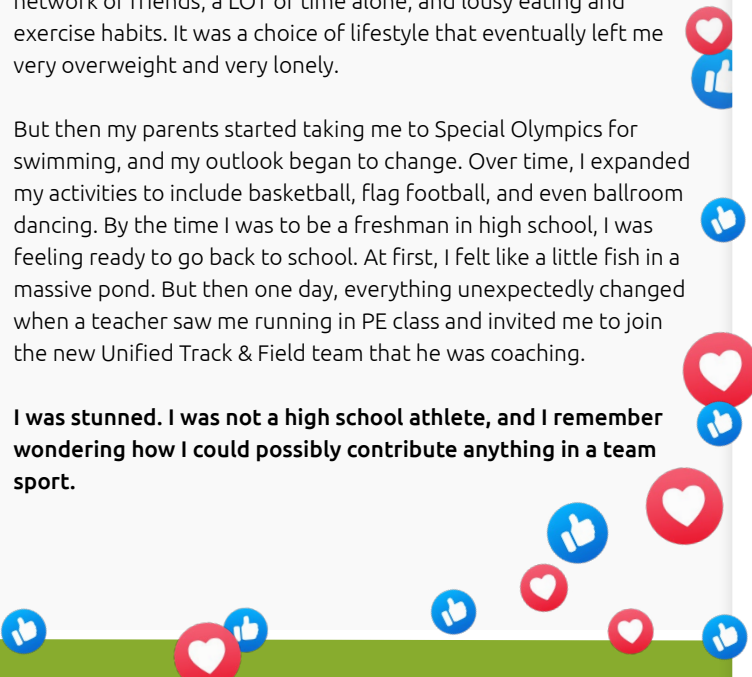
Create Post

Liam Price Public

"I know I have a disability, but I have learned to not let my disability define my limitations or who I am. My friends and colleagues have shown me that I have the ability to make impactful contributions to any team!"

Add to Post

Post



Notifications



Liam Price added a life event Just Now

"Today I have many good friends who seek me out and include me in activities inside and outside of school. I've become much healthier, earned varsity letters, and have built upon the confidence I gained from my peers to push forward, making bigger goals beyond sports."

It makes me proud to say I was the manager of our boys' basketball team. I was also voted Homecoming King of my senior class, attended my first school dance, and I am one of 12 students representing the U.S. as a Special Olympics Youth Ambassador, sharing my story and recruiting people to join the Inclusion Revolution at school assemblies across the state.

I graduated from high school in the spring of 2020 and was awarded the U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar Scholarship for Academic Recognition. And now I'm studying math and criminal justice at the University of Indianapolis, where I was also invited to join the swim and dive team as a walk-on athlete.

In the fall, I began my first paid internship as a college student when I was hired by the White River Township Fire Department to serve a three-month term as a firehouse assistant. My main duties were to help with data entry, maintaining fire equipment, and assisting Chief Pell with caring for Rosie, the department's new search and rescue canine.

Rosie and I quickly developed a connection, and by the time the internship was complete, we were nearly inseparable. When I left, I missed her so much that I decided to stay engaged with the department as a volunteer, visiting as often as I can and continuing to help out around the firehouse.

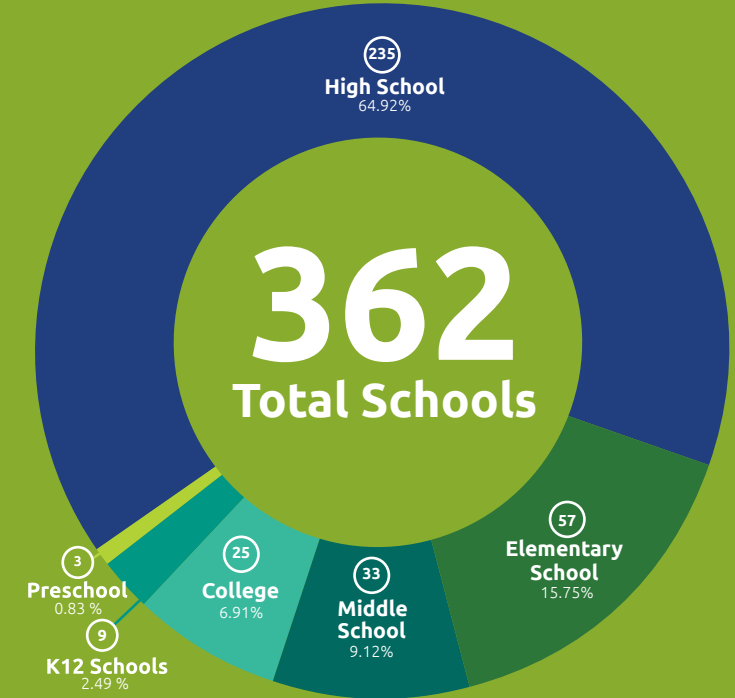
Through it all, I have grown by putting myself out there and working to achieve my goals. Whether I win or lose, I know that my effort counts — which makes me a stronger, happier, and better person.

Special Olympics and its Unified Champion Schools program are creating inclusive school environments, inclusive sports teams and leadership opportunities, which have played a significant role in motivating me to create a new outlook for my future and helped me to focus more on what is possible in my life. And my Unified partners and friends have shown me through their expressions in acceptance, inclusion, friendship, and sportsmanship that I can make myself a valued asset.

This has been a big year for me, but it has also been difficult to be so isolated during the pandemic. I have missed my friends, I've missed my teammates, and I've missed Special Olympics.

But thanks to my experiences over the past few years, I haven't lost hope. And I never will again.

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT IN NUMBERS



TOTAL TEACHERS EDUCATED



UNIFIED SPORTS

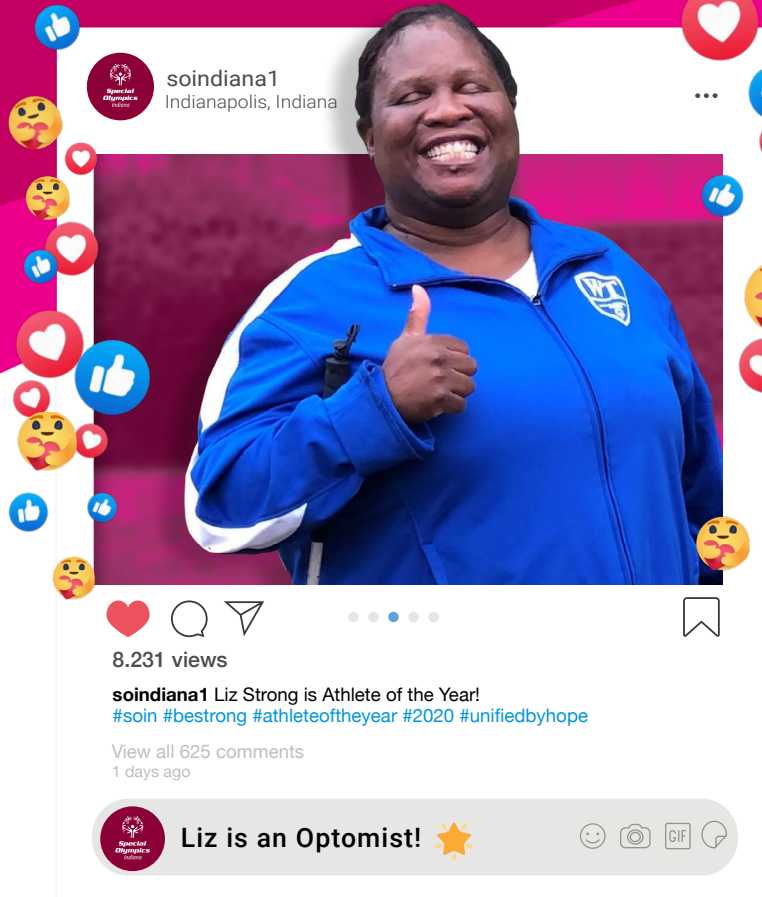


INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP



ATHLETE OF THE YEAR LIZ STRONG

Washington Township (Indianapolis) | Area 8



After recovering, Liz enrolled in the Indiana School for the Blind near her home in Indianapolis. It was there that a PE teacher suggested she join the local Special Olympics program at the age of 16, where she participated in bowling and track and field until graduation.

After taking a few years off and focusing on work, she joined Special Olympics Indiana's Washington Township program in 2010. And though she continues to work 10-hour shifts three days a week, **Liz has regularly competed in track and field, bowling, bocce, corn toss, and swimming.**

Outside of sports, Liz is active in raising money and awareness for Special Olympics Indiana, taking part in the annual Butler University Polar Plunge for the past several years. She appreciates the help from the safety team that assists participants up and down the pool ladders at the plunge, but she and another athlete were inspired last year to make a change and to take the lead in replacing those difficult ladders with steps. The result was a safer, better, and more enjoyable experience for everyone.

Liz's leadership efforts don't end there, however, as she is currently studying communications in Special Olympics Indiana's Athlete Leadership University. Her ultimate goal is to become a global messenger and to use her experiences, her incredible sense of humor, and her enduring optimism to be a self-advocate and to promote Special Olympics locally, nationally, and one day at the international level.

"Special Olympics is not just about sports to me," she says. "This is family — come on, it's the best thing you could ever do."

Nominated by her coaches and selected by our Board of Directors as the 2020 Spirit of Special Olympics Indiana Athlete of the Year, Liz continues to impress and inspire everyone she meets with her strength and ability to see the good in any situation

Liz is a victor, not a victim. And we can't wait for what she does next.

She is a hard worker who loves her job, an amateur comedian who knows how to laugh at herself, and an athlete leader who sets a positive example both on the playing field and off.

Liz also happens to be blind — but that doesn't stop her from seeing life in a positive light.

Unlike many Special Olympics athletes, Liz was not born with a disability. Instead, she was the victim of a horrendous crime when she was shot in the head by a fellow teenager, leaving her to **fight for her life in a coma.**

When she woke up, she was sightless and paralyzed on her left side. But Liz was so glad to be alive that, for her own peace of mind, she decided to forgive the shooter. She now says that's how she "got even" — and that positive attitude has served her well in the years since.

"I've learned that being blind doesn't mean I can't do the things I want to do."
-Liz Strong



SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS 20 WINNERS 20



DENNIS SCHMIDT IMPACT AWARD





28
Sports

18,142
Athletes

6,848
Virtual Competitors

Sports and Fitness

Special Olympics Indiana

Vision Statement

Sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities to create inclusive communities across the state.



Opening Ceremony



Records



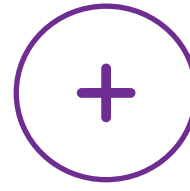
Closing Ceremony



2020 Volunteers



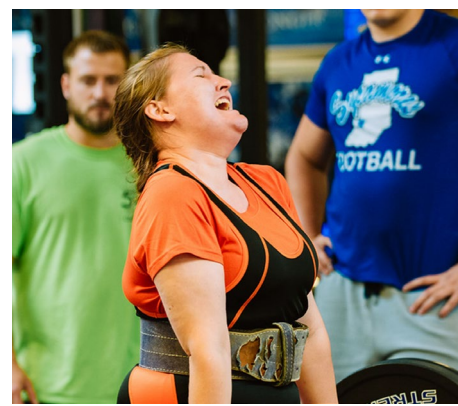
Games Highlights



NEW

Follow

Message



Unified By Hope!

Post

SUMMER

Summer Games Sports & Fitness Challenge

Way to engage everyone during pandemic

- Promote staying active with social distancing
- Competition between County Programs

Open to athletes, partners, coaches & Class A volunteers

First Half : June 13 – July 5

Second Half : July 6 – July 20

Included Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run Relay, Virtual Opening Ceremony, "Halftime" Virtual Dance Party, Virtual Closing Ceremony & Awards Show

Virtual Fundraising

51 Delegations

1849 Participants

Largest Virtual Summer Games out of 32 states

8316 Total Opening Ceremonies Video views

6534 Total Closing Ceremonies Video Views

Return to In-Person Events

Golf

58 Individual skills

72 Individual 3,6,9 Hole Golfers

91 Doubles

Bowling

57 Delegations

1333 Total Bowlers

97 Ramp Bowlers

964 Individual

68 Teams

Softball

4 Teams

Distance Run & Walk = 46

FALL

Fall Games Fitness Challenge

797

Total Participants

575 Athletes

222 Partners

645

Participants Earned Gold

All others earned at least bronze

Special Olympics North America (SONA) Stride Challenge

Indiana participants totaled over 31,000 miles

111

Total Participants

77 Athletes

34 Partners

102

Participants who hit at least 25 miles

68 Athletes

34 Partners

15 hit 50 miles

12 hit 100 miles

66 hit 150+ miles

Of these... 13 hit 500+...3 hit 1500+ miles

Winter Games

14 Delegations (2 new)

Basketball

243 Total Teams

194 Men's Teams

29 Women's Teams

20 Youth Years

WINTER

249

Total Participants

152 Athletes

30 Partners

Lilly 1,000 Mile Challenge Winners



Top Female SO Athlete
649 Miles



Top Male SO Athlete
987 Miles



Member of Winning Team
3,029 Team Miles
406 Individual Miles

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Ron & Catherine Stiver

Carl & Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society

Duke University's Fuqua School of Business is home to one of the top MBA programs in the world, bringing some **1,500 of the best and brightest business students to its Durham, North Carolina campus each year.** Known for emphasizing the value of teamwork in the classroom and in the workplace, Duke is also home to an inclusive student club centering on its annual MBA Games — raising money and awareness for Special Olympics North Carolina by hosting a collection of events throughout the academic year culminating in a weekend of competition each spring among MBA students from a dozen or more universities.

Since 1989, the MBA Games have raised over \$2.5 million and, more importantly, have engaged countless future leaders in the Special Olympics movement before sending them out into the world to make a difference in their local communities. For those who know Ron Stiver — a longtime supporter and Special Olympics Indiana board member — it should come as no surprise that he was not only actively involved in the MBA games during his time at Duke, but that he also served as the organization's vice president in his second year when more than \$200,000 was raised.

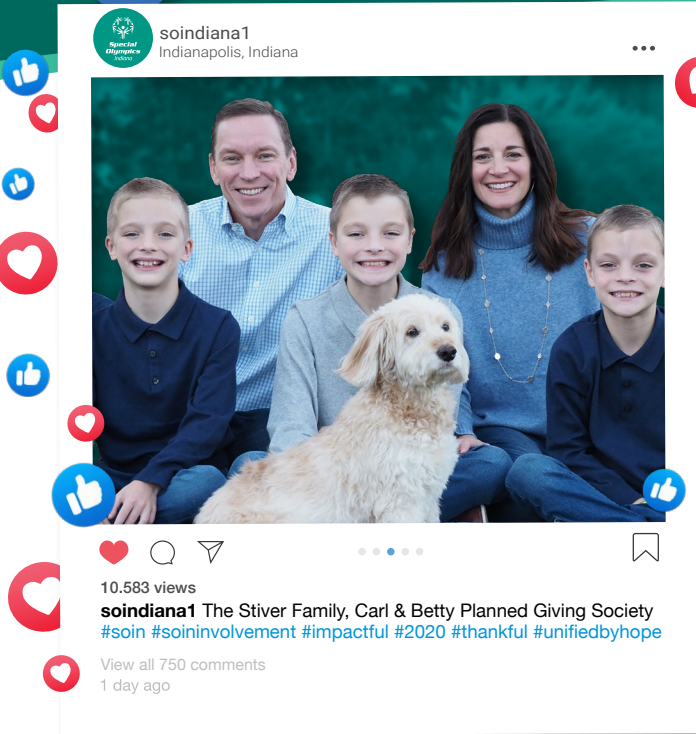
Before that, Ron had his first experiences with Special Olympics as an undergraduate student at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he says he "really got hooked" while working with athletes in the Putnam County area in the mid-1990s.

Looking back, Ron credits his involvement in the MBA Games for helping to cement those feelings at an early age and, perhaps not coincidentally, for bringing him together with his eventual wife, Catherine. After meeting at an MBA Games event in the fall of 2000, Ron and Catherine bonded over their shared love of Special Olympics and later moved to Indiana to start a family.

Ron has achieved a great deal of success in the years since returning to his home state, serving in leadership roles for Eli Lilly and Company and in the administration of former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, where he was Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development and, later, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Today he is President of System Health Solutions for IU Health, where he leads a business unit of nearly 3,000 team members focused on growing the company's presence in ambulatory service lines.

"If you interact with our athletes— well, that's the bottom line of the story, our athletes inspire."

-Ron Stiver



But despite a busy schedule and a growing family, he knew that he wanted to stay involved in the Special Olympics movement. During his time with the BMV, Ron helped to launch Special Olympics Indiana's license plate campaign — enabling supporters to purchase a specialty license plate supporting the organization and helping to generate \$25,000 in annual revenue — and was invited to join the Board of Directors in 2007.

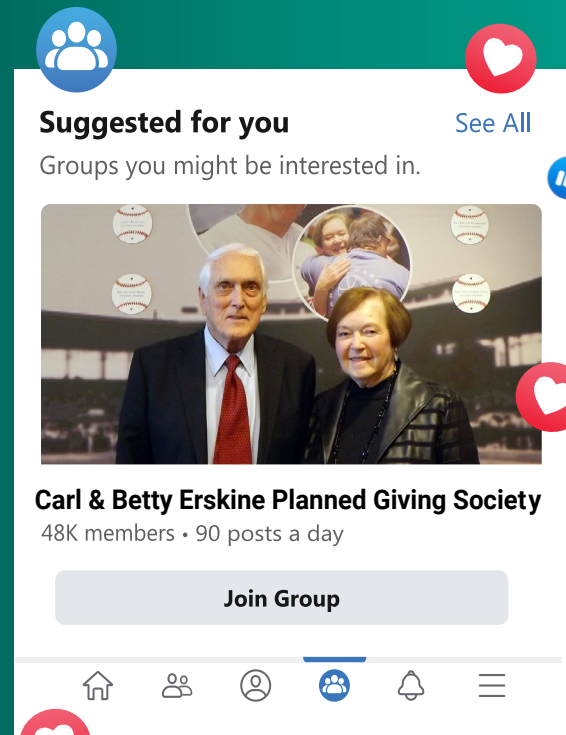
Through a total of 13 years on the board, including appointments to the Executive Committee (2014-2016) and as Vice Chair (2016-2018) and Chair (2018-2020), Ron has made a tremendous impact on the Special Olympics Indiana community already. He and Catherine have also been active as volunteers and donors, even bringing their three young sons — Liam, Braden, and Keegan — to help at events including our 50th anniversary Summer Games.

And as members of our Carl & Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society, the Stivers are committed to lending their support long into the future. "Special Olympics athletes are often overlooked and underestimated, and we have seen firsthand the role that Special Olympics plays in helping them to reach their full potential," he says. "And knowing how well the organization is run makes you feel comfortable that the investment is going to be put to great use."

For more information about donating to Special Olympics Indiana or joining the Carl & Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society, contact Vice President of Development & COO Scott Furnish at (317) 328-2000 or sfurnish@soindiana.org.

Carl & Betty Erskine Planned Giving Society

- Sherry and Bill Benner
- Judi and Phil Bounsall
- Tom and Deb Easterday
- Cathy and John Elzinga
- Carl & Betty Erskine
- Gerald Francis
- Rebecca and Michael Furnish
- Richard Edward Hay
- Mary Ellen Hission
- Victoria Johnson
- Genevieve Kubelius Trust
- Larkin (Buzz) Lail
- Lisa and Jeff Mohler
- Bob and Susan Pensec
- Barbara Reed
- Paul G. Reis and Mo Merhoff
- Kelly A. Ries
- Mark C. Sherman
- William Saler
- Karen S. Sostack
- Ron and Catherine Stiver
- James E. Teall
- John Vanderbilt – Brother of Ruth Judge
- Joan E. Wheatley
- Kathy Wyman



DUKE ENERGY

"We gain as much from Indiana Special Olympics as it gives to us. Over our years of involvement, Special Olympics has opened our hearts and minds to the gifts of people with disabilities, and we've seen firsthand the transformative power sports can have in their lives. The organization's committed leaders and volunteers make it all possible."

Stan Pinegar
President
Duke Energy Indiana

JD | FINISH LINE

"Our employees virtually engaged with many athletes in 2020, and we were most inspired by their level of resiliency and optimism. During challenging times, these athletes have a strong community, including the JD Finish Line Youth Foundation family, to lean on and keep pushing them forward."

Marty Posch
President
JD | Finish Line Youth Foundation

INDIANA STATE COUNCIL

"Now, more than ever, our support is desperately needed to sustain the quality programs that Special Olympics Indiana offers to their athletes. It is our privilege to do so each and every year."

Craig Hanusin
State Deputy
Knights of Columbus Indiana State Council

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS INDIANA

"The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has affected all of our lives in many ways. Special Olympics Indiana and the Law Enforcement Torch Run remained strong throughout and continue to endure. The Law Enforcement Torch Run looks forward to the return of full in-person competition, fellowship and participation of our athletes and will continue to provide opportunities for them to be 'brave in the attempt!' Thank you!"

Master Trooper Tommy Walker, Jr.
Indiana State Police

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

"The Indianapolis Indians and Special Olympics Indiana have had a great relationship over the last 50 years, and we were honored to add to that partnership by hosting two of its state softball championship games at beautiful Victory Field in October 2020. With over 70 athletes wearing Indianapolis Indians uniforms on game day, it was a warming experience for all involved to witness the fun, competitive nature those games provided. 2020 was challenging on many fronts, but we hope the opportunity gave Special Olympics Indiana and its athletes a memory they'll treasure forever."

Randy Lewandowski
President and General Manager
Indianapolis Indians

CHAMPION SPONSORS

PLANE PULL CHALLENGE

PLANE PULL PARTICIPANTS

2020 PLANE PULL TEAMS

CHAMPION \$5,000+

Orchy's Airplane Movers
CHAviator's
Butler Fairman & Seufert - Pulling for Toby
Team MDC
Team Anthem
Pacers Sports & Entertainment

CAPTAIN

Merry Ricketts
Todd Schultheis
Craig Swearingen
Kayla Danforth
David Watt
Kelli Towles

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$2,000-\$4,999

Metro Mean Machine
Johnson County Super Troopers
Shelby County MV Warriors
Ian's Team
Indianapolis NATCA
All The Whey
Knights of Columbus Council 6138

CAPTAIN

Mark Luther
Tom Ashley Jr.
Abigail Shuck
Sarah Tellechea
Jennyfer Rivera
Jim Beebe
Greg Bendel



CIRCLE OF HONOR \$1,000+

Arlington/Roe
Bellinger's Power team
Candy's Angels
Cargill #FeedingTheWorld
Cargill Kornies
CEC Crushers
Dakota's Chosen Brothers
Dakota's Chosen Prospects
Diverse Families Community / Barangay
Earthinators
EY
FedEx Dayside Simps
FedExtreme
Ferris Property Group
Ft. Ben Barbell Club
Guns and Mowers
IPL Transformers
Joink Juggernauts
Knights of Columbus Team 1
Monroe County Cavaliers
Plainfield Correctional Facility
Pulling my Hamstring
Shelbyville Golden Bears
Team Reno
Valve + Meter
Wilhelm Warriors
SOIN Young Professionals Board

CAPTAIN

Heather Slusser
Lisa Hooper
Candice Vaughn
Toni Connell
Toni Connell
Simon Davies
Tonya Moody
Tonya Moody
Marife Callender
Heather Worley
Nick Warner
Kenneth Sutton
Chris Gentry
Todd & Megan Ferris
Tony Farison
Thaddeus Thomas
Shelby Dyson
Tim McCombs
Scott Schutte
Mark Norris
Antoine Stewart
Scott Furnish
Renee Gardner
Michael Mack
Logan Glaze
John Knipe
Ben Gregory

2020 POLAR PLUNGE TOP FUNDRAISERS

CHAMPION \$5000+

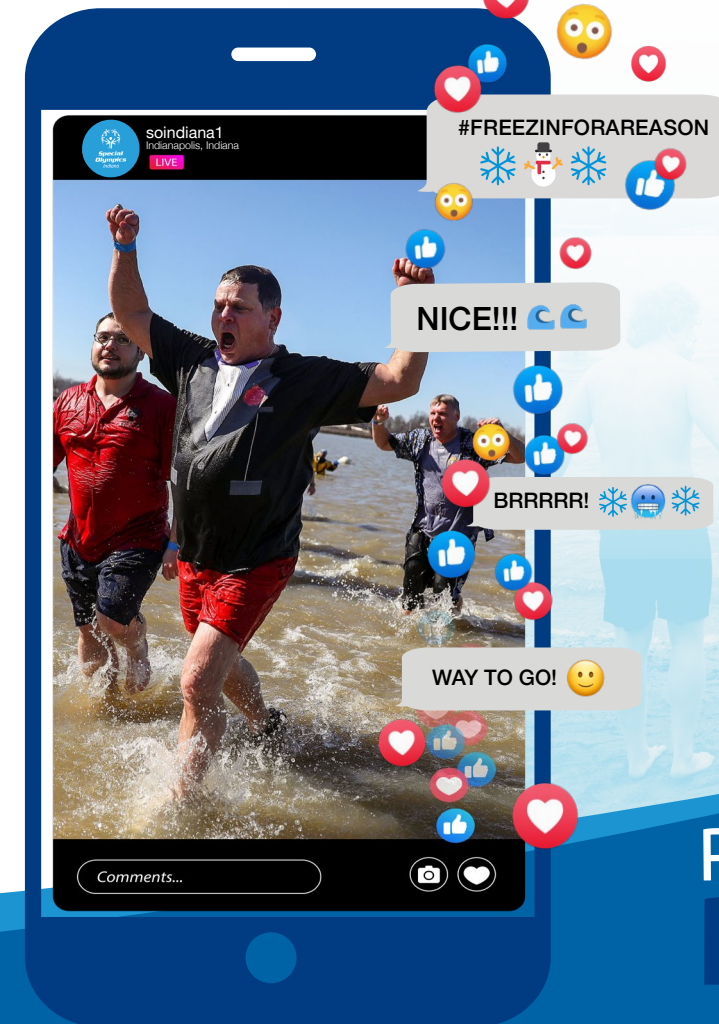
Phil Baker
Linda D. Bedwell
Bobbie R. Binggeli
Steve L. Binggeli
Steven Binggeli
Scott Ernstberger
Garnett S. Kirk
Mary L. McClamroch
Dustin Mehringer
Doug J. Melton
Lynne E. Buckley Noble
Randy Parker
John Rawlings
Stacy Reese
Erin Stout
Jeremy Stout
Rose A. Terwiske

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$2,000-\$4,999

Patrick Baikauskas OP
Sydney K. Baines
Beau Baldwin
Brian Bauer
Doug Beebe
Jay F. Beere
Billy Blundell
Alan Bodenstein
Buck Buchanan
Cindy M. Denney
Matt Dixon
Mike Falk
Samuel D. Fawley
Brenda Hassfurther
Alex Heck
James T. Helfrich
Lisa Jegen
Paul Kaiser
Michael Lewis
Matthew Menchhofer
Chris Morrison
Olivia Morrison
Gary Payne
Kelley N. Schreiner
Mindy A. Schultz
Mark C. Sherman
Katlin D. Slough
Connie Steinhart
Lesley J. Thomas
Becky Warren
Vernon M. Stonestreet
Erin Stout
Katie Summitt
Lesley J. Thomas
Jake A. Zupancic

CIRCLE OF HONOR \$1,000-\$1,999

Austin Ames
Kiel Atkinson
Michelle Bauer
Tara C. Beere
Greg Bendel
Vivian A. Block
Renee Bodkin
Pam J. Bond
Brendan Bridges
Shannon Bunker
David Burford
Debby Burton
Cody Carley
Jennifer S. Chalmers
Angela Comer
Jack Cunningham
Scott Cunningham
Sheri Cunningham
Amanda Dellion
Kerenee Dellion
Max Duarte
Robin Ellnor
Sandra Engleman
Jayden Fackelman
Mark Flegge
Rayna Fordahl
Pat Fortunato
Lydia Frentsos
Joe Gallo
Chuck Garber
J. T. Gardner
Renee Gardner
Paul Giefing
Kerry Gill
Addyson Halter
Lin C. Hanna
Ellen A. Hanselman
Luke Harris
Cicely Hart
Christopher Hile
Carey Huls
Brian Kellems
Darcey Kellenburger
Lexy King
Tony Kleinschmidt
Timothy E. Kramer
Danielle Langdon
Jason Langhorn
Daniel LeRose
James Lustig
Catie Martin
Kim McGuffin
Sean McLane
Jan Meier
Owen Menchhofer
Lydia Mohler
Jaylen Morgan
Jillian R. Moss
Ben J. Mundy
Cady Munk
Ria Narayanan
Brandon Painter
Andrew D. Peterson
Michael Peterson
Evan Preston
David Rambow
Mark Reno
Vicki A. Roby
Liam Rowley
Aaron Russell
Vickie Sample
Bill Schenkel
Brent Seibert
Kelsey Sermersheim
Ryan Sermersheim
Todd Sheely
Kaleb Shewman
Peyton Short
Madison Shuman
Veronika Slivova
Daniel Smith
Jerry Spindler
Libby Steinhart
Amy A. Stevens
Sanford Swanson
Ali Thompson
Chris Tucker
Jackie S. Waggoner
Douglas Wardlow
Allison Werne
Grace Wiley
Lorrie A. Woycik
Hannah Wright
Allen Wyatt
Kristi Yarbrough
Dorothy Zipperle



POLAR PLUNGE

**Special
Olympics**
Indiana



“Let me win.

But if I cannot

win, let me be brave

in the attempt.”

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE OATH