OUR MISSION

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.


If you would like to receive copies of the 2016 Special Olympics Louisiana Annual Report or the annual audit, please call 1-800-345-6644. You may also request current lists of Area Team Leaders, Board of Directors and Staff.
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December 31, 2016
Dear Family, Friends and Supporters:

2016 was an inspirational year for Special Olympics Louisiana (SOLA), despite the floods which devastated our state, and the State of Louisiana budget cuts which adversely affected us.

We saw energetic volunteer leaders join our team resulting in tremendous athlete growth in the northern part of our state.

Our relationship with the Louisiana High School Athletics Association blossomed under the new Association leadership which included Special Olympics in demonstration events alongside high school athletes.

Interest in Special Olympics programming in schools gained momentum with the Louisiana Superintendent of Education. Our athletes partnered with students without disabilities and became more accepted and included in their school environment.

Athletes joined more of our leadership teams and became confident leaders in our Movement. They continue to overcome adversity to rise to new heights through our Program.

Our fundraising events continued to grow financially this year, as more people participated in events.

We were also able to bring another level of medical safety for our athletes as new medical personnel began to work diligently to expand our coverage at events and added new medical equipment which is very important to athlete safety.

Two of our athletes underwent heart surgery. They wanted to schedule around Special Olympics events so they could continue to be as involved as possible. I am happy to report they are doing well and were overjoyed when released by their doctors to continue their practice sessions with Special Olympics.

Special Olympics is not only about sports, it is about athlete friendships, it is about the inclusion and acceptance our athletes gain through Special Olympics.

Thank you all for making our Program possible!

Sincerely,
Pat Carpenter Bourgeois | President and CEO
ON THE PLAYING FIELD

Special Olympics Louisiana offers numerous Olympic-type individual and team sports that provide meaningful training and competition opportunities for persons with and without intellectual disabilities.

In 2016, over 100 competitive events were held. We added 241 new athletes to the program and now serve 14,880 people with intellectual disabilities across the state. In 2016, we held 55 training schools for over 2,200 coaches.

SPORTS OFFERED

Aquatics  
Bocce  
Equestrian  
Horseshoes  
Tennis  
Athletics  
Bowling  
Powerlifting  
Flag Football  
Volleyball  
Basketball  
Cycling  
Golf  
Softball  
Soccer
UNIFIED SPORTS

Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an initiative that combines Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (called Unified Partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Unified Sports athletes improve their physical fitness, sharpen their skills, challenge the competition and have fun, too. In 2016, we increased the number of unified events and added 10 new unified teams.

Camp Shriver brings together people with and without intellectual disabilities for training and competition each summer. The primary goals are to provide another level of challenge and promote inclusion. In 2016, 4 Camp Shrivers were hosted in different cities throughout Louisiana.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a vital role in our movement, and we are proud to announce that we have approximately 15,000 volunteers across Louisiana. In 2016, we recruited 4,726 new general volunteers. This number includes 2,472 youth volunteers and 1,730 college aged volunteers.
BREAKING BARRIERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Off the playing field and in the community, Special Olympics Louisiana offers programs to promote health, education, inclusion and leadership.

OUR IMPACT IN 2016

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (formerly Project UNIFY) is a movement to initiate inclusion in all schools with the purpose to promote school communities that exercise all young people as agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. Unified Champion schools incorporates several programs. This year 188 schools in Louisiana were engaged in the program as well as 9 colleges.

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Special Olympics’ Athlete Leadership Program empowers athletes to explore opportunities for greater participation in our movement beyond sports training and competition: as coaches, officials, spokespeople, and board and committee members. Athlete leaders are an integral part of the Special Olympics Movement and help Special Olympics leaders stay in touch with athletes’ interests. In 2016, 8 leaders served on the Athlete Leadership Council.

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Our Family Support Network helps families help each other. With the assistance of similar agencies, families have a support system within Special Olympics. Families have the opportunity to mentor, learn and provide resources and emotional support to one another.
YOUNG ATHLETES

Young Athletes is an innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports. It strengthens physical development and self-esteem for children ages 2 through 7 by building skills for future sports participation and socialization. The skills learned will increase the participant’s motor tracking and eye-hand coordination. In 2016, 94 young athletes participated.

HEALTHY ATHLETES

Healthy Athletes currently offers health examinations in six areas: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), Opening Eyes (vision) and Special Smiles (dentistry). The examinations educate athletes on healthy lifestyle choices and identify problems that may need additional follow-up while educating health care professionals as well. In 2016, 998 athletes were examined through Healthy Athletes.
Special Olympics Louisiana works hard each year to provide unique programs. To sustain the programs and keep them growing, FUNdraising plays a vital role. Fundraisers allow people in the community to support our mission in a fun and interactive way, as well as share the message of Special Olympics. In 2016, numerous fundraisers were held across the state.

The 8th Annual Polar Plunge in Gonzales was held with great success. Overall, more than 200 people took part in "Freezin' for a Reason" raising more than $87,801 for Special Olympics Louisiana.

SOL Bowl was held for the 14th year. More than 102 businesses took part in this event and raised over $15,311 for Special Olympics Louisiana athletes.
The 9th Annual Rotary Club of Lafayette South Golf Tournament was held in May of 2016. Numerous people participated in the 4-person scramble and $16,809 was raised.

Special Olympics Louisiana staff and key Law Enforcement Officers attended the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Thousands gathered from around the world to reignite their passion, learn more about the movement and share progressive ideas in order to grow their local programs.

In the fall, New Orleans Over the Edge: S.W.A.T. Edition was held once again. There were 77 participants who rappelled down the side of Benson Tower, flew in a helicopter across the Mississippi River and became Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office SWAT Team members for the day. This year’s Over the Edge brought in more than $74,067 for Special Olympics athletes across Louisiana!

For more information on these fundraisers, or to see when they will happen in 2017, visit our website at www.laso.org.
GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics Louisiana, or LETR, unites officers from law enforcement agencies and corrections departments across the state in an effort to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Louisiana. Torch Run efforts to raise funds include collecting corporate sponsorships, selling T-shirts, running and hosting unique fundraising events.

Each summer, law enforcement officials carry the Flame of Hope across the state culminating with the Torch Run Final Leg and the lighting of the cauldron to officially open the Special Olympics Louisiana Summer Games in Hammond. The members of the LETR are aptly named “Guardians of the Flame”. The Torch Run involves more than 1,600 law enforcement officers and personnel representing more than 200 law enforcement agencies across Louisiana.

*The Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run celebrated its 32nd year in 2016 and raised over $313,969.*
LETR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Torch Run State Director,
Chief Carl Dabadie
Baton Rouge Police Department

Executive Council Vice-Chair,
Lt. Col. Ward Webb
Ascension Parish Sheriff’s Office

Officer Ninoska Guggenheim
Kenner Police Department

Officer James Virgil
Kenner Police Department

Officer Susie Gauthier
St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s Office

Officer Michelle Joseph
St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s Office

Ashley Arceneaux
SOLA Athlete

LETR HONORARY COMMITTEE

Colonel Michael Edmonson
Louisiana State Police

Colonel Joseph Broussard
Louisiana Department of Wildlife Enforcement

Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning, Jr.
The Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s Office

Executive Director Fabian Blache, Jr.
Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police

Executive Director Michael Ranatza
Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association

Secretary James LeBlanc
Department of Corrections
THANK YOU SPONSORS

Special Olympics Louisiana is truly grateful to all of our donors and sponsors who give financially to support the movement. We especially would like to recognize our Mission Partners.

STATE GAMES SPONSORS

Medallion Sponsors
Valero St. Charles Refinery
Knights of Columbus

Gold Medal Sponsors
Amerigroup
The Rotary Club of Lafayette South
The CarMax Foundation
The P&G Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Silver Medal Sponsors
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
The Fred B. & Ruth B. Zigler Foundation
Hammond Smokin’ BBQ Challenge
Smitty’s Supply
SwimmingPool.com
Roseburg Forest Product Company
Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation
Kohl’s
Toys R Us

Bronze Medal Sponsors
Acadiana Dodge
Exxon Mobil
Williams Companies
The Dow Chemical
Team Mattel

OLYMPIC TORCH PARTNER

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN SPONSORS

Medallion Sponsors
Entergy Waterford 3
AT&T

Bronze Medal Sponsors
Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association
Louisiana Sheriff’s Association
Louisiana Lottery
Louisiana Masons
Marshalls
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2016, Special Olympics Louisiana held two “Champions Together” breakfasts. The breakfast in Mandeville was held for the second time, and the breakfast in Baton Rouge was held for the first time. The events raised awareness for Special Olympics Louisiana and engaged the local community by showcasing some of the unique programs Special Olympics Louisiana has to offer. Participants met our athletes and heard stories of how Special Olympics transforms their lives every day. The events were a huge success and brought in over $44,206 (over the next five years).

SPECIAL OLYMPICS LOUISIANA AT ENVISION

SOLA athlete, Nick Noel, accompanied Special Olympics Chairman, Timothy Shriver, as he spoke at Microsoft’s Envision conference in New Orleans in April. As Special Olympics’ Official Technology Partner, Microsoft has been collaborating with Special Olympics since October 2014, when the two organizations launched a multi-year, global partnership with the goal of empowering Programs and athletes through technology. Microsoft provides both financial and in-kind support to Special Olympics, including free software suites for all Special Olympics’ 220 accredited Programs globally, empowering efficient Programs for people with intellectual disabilities around the globe.
2016 TEAM LEADERS

Acadiana Area: Teri Hagius
Bayouland Area: Theresa Theriot
Capital Area: Charles Guillory
Cenla Area: Vacant
Delta Area: Paul Frey
Florida Parishes Area: Texas Rigsby
Jefferson Area: Pudge Doucet & Ann Hulse
North Central Area: Kimber Hanchey
Northeast Area: Kimber Hanchey
Northwest Area: Vacant
Orleans Area: Gabe Feldman
Red River Area: Vacant
Southwest Area: Julie Montague

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Saye
Board Chair | Monroe

Colonel Mike Edmondson
Baton Rouge

Emily Jeffcott
Vice Chair | New Orleans

Kevin Arbaugh
Loranger

Rhonda Blanford-Green
Secretary | Baton Rouge

B.J. Guzzardo
Baton Rouge

Kathleen Quatroy
Treasurer | Slidell

Gayle Horaist
Carencro

Sean Adams
SOLA Athlete | LaRose

Ricky Ouber
Alexandria
2016 SOLA STAFF

Pat Carpenter Bourgeois
President & CEO

Sylvia Alaniz
Vice President of Finance

Chardon McCoy
Director of Program & Fund Development

Matt Gore
Director of Sports & Competition

Carlos Alessi
Director of Program & Fund Development

Cherie Ourso
Executive Assistant

Charlie Courville
Director of Programs

Laird Brian
Director of Volunteers

Amanda Bittola
Director of Corporate Relations

Glenn Drude, Jr.
Office Assistant

Keyanta Morrison
Director of Special Projects Southwest

Lexie Grush
Director of Special Projects Southeast

Roxann Balado
Office Assistant

Colin Laborde
Director of Health & Unified Strategies

Sharon Bravata
Assistant Accountant

Sharon Lambert
Office Manager

Casey Minton
Director of Communications & Marketing
FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets $1,455,038
- Current Assets, $1,103,377
- Other Assets, $61,300
- Property and Equipment (net), $290,461

Liabilities & Net Assets $1,455,038
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets, $249,350
- Current Liabilities, $92,070
- Permanently Restricted Net Assets, $10,000
- Unrestricted Net Assets, $1,112,675

Revenue $2,687,352
- State of Louisiana, $139,760
- Interest and Other Income, $14,852
- Contributions, $1,040,454
- Fundraising Revenues, $701,050
- Donated Services, Materials & Equipment, $765,497

Expenses $2,603,605
- Fundraising Expenses, $490,614
- Program Expenses, $1,537,453
- Administrative Expenses, $179,953