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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 2017 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.
Dear Special Olympics Louisiana Friends and Family:

It is with great pride we share with you our reach is 15,106 athletes in 2017! This is an increase from 7,237 in 2006, or over the last eleven years.

Our athletes learn so much more than sports skills from Special Olympics. Athletes learn life lessons – it is not always about winning. They learn to be on time, to get along with their peers, to follow sports rules in order to perform to the best of their ability. These skills transfer to employment situations. Almost 50% more Special Olympics athletes have jobs than do their counterparts who are not in Special Olympics.

Thank you to those who have partnered with us in support of our athletes over time, and to those of you who may be new partners. Growth of this magnitude demands more resources so we can continue to reach additional athletes and continue to offer quality programming for them.

Yet, we continue to flourish in offering health exams in dentistry, podiatry, hearing, vision, health promotion and strong minds. We continue to reach out to schools who wish to partner with us to incorporate diversity and inclusion techniques within their school. Your continued partnership will assist us in achieving new heights.

We do not charge a fee for participation in Special Olympics, as do most organizations. We want those who cannot afford to “pay to play” to continue to participate because the life lessons are so important for persons with intellectual disabilities. Athletes will become more confident. Families will see their skills grow through Special Olympics and begin to ask about the possibilities for their son or daughter in other realms of life.

Thank you for giving our athletes these challenges to excel, opportunities to grow and successes in achievement!

Sincerest Thanks,

Pat Carpenter Bourgeois
President & CEO
Special Olympics Louisiana
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 2017, over 100 competitive events were held. We added 626 new athletes to the program and now serve 15,106 people with intellectual disabilities across the state. In 2017, we held 39 training schools for over 3,021 coaches.
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 2017, we increased the number of unified events and added 6 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 2017, 4 Camp Shivers 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 18,000 volunteers across Louisiana.

In 2017, we recruited 2,334 new general volunteers. This number includes 996 youth volunteers and 970 college aged volunteers.

For more information on volunteering visit laso.org.
Off the playing field and in the community, Special Olympics Louisiana offers programs to promote health, education, inclusion and leadership.

**OUR IMPACT IN 2017**

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (UCS) 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. UCS incorporates several programs.

This year 150 schools in Louisiana were engaged in the program as well as 9 colleges.

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 2017, 12 leaders served on the Athlete Leadership Council.

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 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 2017, 503 young athletes participated.

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 2017, 1,118 Healthy Athletes screenings were completed by Special Olympics Louisiana.
SOLA IN ACTION

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 2017, numerous fundraisers were held across the state.

The 10th Annual Rotary Club of Lafayette South Golf Tournament was held in May of 2017. Shortly followed by the 15th Annual SOL Bowl in June. Numerous people participated in the events and a combined total of $19,162 was raised.

Special thanks to our hardworking and dedicated volunteers and sponsors for making these events possible.

Three annual Polar Plunges were held in Louisiana with great success. Overall, more than 200 people took part in the challenge by “Freezin’ for a Reason”. raising more than $73,419 for Special Olympics Louisiana.
Special Olympics Louisiana staff and key Law Enforcement Officers attended the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference in Nashville, TN.

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 64 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 $76,916 for Special Olympics athletes across Louisiana!

SOLA held the annual “Champions Together” breakfast in Mandeville for the third time. 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 $50,970 (over the next five years).

For more information on these fundraisers, or to see when they will happen in 2018, visit our website at www.laso.org.
GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® Movement 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 33rd year in 2017 and raised over $208,350.
LETOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

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

Officer Ninoska
Guggenheim
Kenner Police Department

Deputy Susie Gauthier
St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s
Office

Deputy Michelle Joseph
St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s
Office

Deputy Wendy Charrier
Rapides Parish Sheriff’s
Office

Trooper James Pittman
Louisiana State Police

LETOR HONORARY COMMITTEE

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
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

LETR SPONSORS

Medallion Sponsors
- Entergy Waterford 3
- AT&T

Bronze Medal Sponsors
- Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association
- Louisiana Sheriff’s Association
- Louisiana Lottery
- Louisiana Masons
- Marshalls
FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS $1,119,125
Other Assets $44,702
Current Asset $859,849

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS $1,119,125
Permanently Restricted Net Assets, $10,000
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets, $182,230
Current Liabilities, $77,787
Unrestricted Net Assets, $849,108

REVENUE $2,368,465
Donated Services, Materials, & Equipment, $897,712
Fundraising Revenues, $753,343
Interest and Other Income, $12,765
State of Louisiana, $100,000
Contributions, $604,645

EXPENSES $2,719,195
Administrative Expenses, $200,425
Fundraising Expenses, $462,500
Program Expenses, $2,056,270
2017 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
North Central Area: Kimber Hanchey

Northeast Area: Kimber Hanchey
Northwest Area: Elaine Ramoz
Orleans Area: Gabe Feldman
Southwest Area: Julie Montague

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Saye, Board Chair
Monroe

Emily Jeffcott, Vice Chair
New Orleans

Kathleen Quatroy, Treasurer
Slidell

Sean Adams, SOLA Athlete
LaRose

Mary Saporito
Prairieville

Fallon Buckner
Laplace

Ricky Ouber
Alexandria

Mirenda McCray, SOLA Athlete
Shreveport

Eddie Brown
New Orleans
2017 SOLA STAFF

President & CEO
Pat Carpenter Bourgeois

Director of Volunteers
Laird Brian

Director of Programs
Charlie Courville

Vice President of Finance
Sylvia Alaniz

Director of Corporate Relations
Ashlyna Hemingway

Assistant Accountant
Sharon Bravata

Director of Program & Fund Development
Chardonn McCoy

Office Assistant
Glenn Drude, Jr.

Office Manager
Sharon Lambert

Director of Sports and Competition
Matt Gore

Director of Special Projects West
Keyanta Morrison

Director of Communications & Marketing
Casey Minton

Director of Program & Fund Development
Carlos Alessi

Director of Special Projects East
Jordyn Barlow

Executive Assistant
Cherie Ourso

Office Assistant
Roxann Balado

Director of Health & Unified Strategies
Colin Laborde