

## Felisa and Artis Leary – NW Area

Felisa Leary has been involved as a coach with Special Olympics for more than 14 years and her passion for our movement is evident when you speak with her. She coaches softball, bowling, and basketball, with the latter being her favorite because she “sees the athletes compete on so many different skill levels.” Over the last eight years, Felisa has had the opportunity to coach her son, Artis, which has made her very happy.

Artis was shy when he first started competing with SOLA, but quickly opened up. During his first Summer Games, Felisa tells the story where Artis stayed up late writing a letter to her about how great his experience was! He competed in athletics that year and brought home Silver. Now, Artis is involved in our Leadership Council and also works at as a server/bus boy which he really enjoys. Artis stated, “I really love interacting with people when I am working.”

When asked what you like most about your involvement in Special Olympics Louisiana Artis says, “when we all [athletes] get together and compete. We are one big happy family.” Similarly, Felisa states, “I love when areas come together and experience something new. The unity.”

When asked what you would tell other that are thinking about joining Special Olympics Artis says, “it is the most fun and joy that you will do!”

