



## Michigan

23,317 athletes

24 sports offered

6 state-level competitions, 4 district basketball tournaments and more than 600 competitions statewide

Year-round sports training and competitions

31,933 volunteers

Programs provided at no cost to athletes or their families

Budget funded almost entirely by private donations

### Sports include:

Alpine Skiing

Athletics

Basketball

Bocce

Bowling

Cross-Country Skiing

Cycling

Figure Skating

Flag Football

Golf

Gymnastics (Artistic & Rhythmic)

Handball

Horseshoes

Kayaking

Poly Hockey

Powerlifting

Snowboarding

Snowshoeing

Soccer

Softball

Speed Skating

Swimming

Volleyball

Weightlifting

\*Plus: Unified Sports®

Healthy Athletes®

Young Athletes™

Motor Activities Training Program

## OUR MISSION

- The mission of Special Olympics Michigan is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Sport provides athletes a path to empowerment and opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, showcase their abilities, and experience inclusion, acceptance, respect, dignity, joy and friendship.
- The athletes achieve their dreams with the support of caring volunteers, coaches, family members and staff. Donations from Michigan citizens and businesses provide funding for the program.

## ATHLETE PARTICIPANTS & COMMUNITIES

- At competitions athletes are placed into divisions based on age, gender, and ability. Competitions take place at local, regional, state, national, and world levels.
- For a small investment in sports equipment and volunteers' time, Special Olympics has the potential to become a vehicle for bringing people together, changing attitudes, and engaging a portion of the community that is otherwise forgotten.
- In the United States, 52% of Special Olympics athletes are employed; approximately half of these athletes are "competitively employed" – employed alongside people without intellectual disabilities.

## HEALTHY ATHLETES® PROGRAM

- For more than a decade, the Healthy Athletes® program has offered free health screenings and information to athletes. And in the process, Special Olympics has become the largest public health organization dedicated to serving people with intellectual disabilities in the world.

## YOUNG ATHLETES™

- The Young Athletes™ program introduces children ages two through seven with intellectual disabilities to the world of sports; engaging them in activities designed to foster physical, cognitive and social development while also welcoming family members to the Special Olympics Network.

## Unified Champion Schools

- Students across Michigan take part in Project UNIFY®, which uses sports and education programs to change school culture while nurturing respect, dignity, advocacy and friendship between those with and without intellectual disabilities.
- Unified Champion Schools helps build better communities. It consists of three core activities involving students with and without intellectual disabilities: Inclusive Sports, Youth Leadership & Advocacy, and Whole-School Engagement.

## FUNDING

- Special Olympics Michigan is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported almost entirely through corporate funding and individual gifts. All Special Olympics Michigan programs and activities are available at no cost to Michigan athletes or their families. The generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals, and statewide businesses enable the program to continue.

To donate call (800) 644-6404, mail a check to: **Special Olympics Michigan**, and send to us at **Special Olympics Michigan, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48859**; or donate online at [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org)

