



Being brave.

Special Olympics Minnesota 2016 Annual Report



Mission

Special Olympics Minnesota offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round sports training and competition. Through Special Olympics' athletic, health and leadership programs, people with intellectual disabilities transform themselves, their communities and the world.

“

Inclusion is a mindset. It is a way of thinking. It is not a program that we run or a classroom in our school or a favor we do for someone. Inclusion is who we are. It is who we must strive to be.

”

-- Lisa Friedman



WHAT'S ADVANCED IN 2016

BIG news for 2016! We are excited to announce that our team has moved to a new location in downtown Minneapolis. We spent the previous ten years in a building about a quarter of a mile away from our new location. While our old office served us well and great memories were made there, it was time for a new and bigger space as we continue to grow our initiatives. With increasing rent costs at our old space, we decided to incur some up front, one-time costs for lower monthly rent expenses, saving us unnecessary expenses in the long term. At the end of November, we moved our office to 900 2nd Ave S, Suite 300, Minneapolis, MN 55402. If you'd like to stop by for a tour of our new facility, be sure to let us know.

As is the case every year, we started the year off in full force with our frozen (but fun) Polar Plunge events! In 2016, our 20 Plunges across the great state of Minnesota raised a grand total of \$4,000,000. Our Minneapolis Plunge at Lake Calhoun continues to be our premier annual fundraiser of the year--raising more than \$1,200,000.

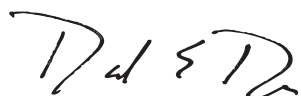
Last year, we reported that our Unified Programs will work to pave the way for our inclusive movement worldwide. We are happy to celebrate the growth of this very important initiative in Minnesota. Our Unified Sports program is the fastest growing part of our movement and one of the most powerful ways to achieve our goal of full inclusion. In 2016, we hosted more than 1,000 Unified events!

Another initiative that continues to be in the forefront of Special Olympics Minnesota is our SOfit program. We are ecstatic to report that because of the great work we are doing in right here in Minnesota, Special Olympics International has implemented our model to numerous other chapters around the WORLD.

Finally, in 2016, we officially partnered with PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center to provide in-depth, quality, inclusive advocacy programming, information and activities that students can implement in their school. By partnering together, we believe we are stronger and are able to reduce bullying and offensive language in schools at an even faster rate.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for helping us grow these amazing programs. Together, we can make an impact with the most inclusive community on the planet: Special Olympics.

Thank you



David E. Dorn
President/CEO

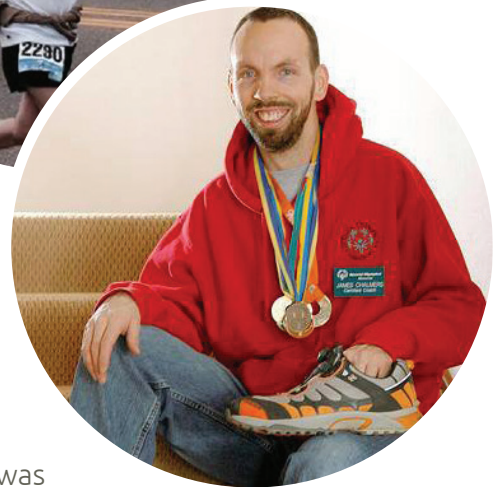


Pam Byrd
Individual Giving Director

2016

ATHLETE HIGHLIGHT

Meet Jim Chalmers: also known as the Marathon Man. Jim was born on November 2, 1971, with a birth defect (or "birth gift" as Jim likes to refer to it) called Cri du Chat syndrome. "Imagine this water glass is like one of my chromosomes," explains Jim. "The water is between half-full and full. That's what Cri du Chat is like." Being born with Cri du Chat, Jim's life was more limited than his family, friends and classmates. In 1992, Jim joined Special Olympics Minnesota (SOMN). Not only did SOMN fill that glass of water, but it also "transformed it into a big pitcher of water full of life!" says Jim. In 2008, Jim had the chance to run in Twin Cities Marathon with fellow friends from the Law Enforcement Torch Run to support SOMN. While running, a spectator called out to Jim and asked, "Why do you run?" Jim raised his arm that was holding the Special Olympics Minnesota Law Enforcement Torch Run flag and said, "This is why I run!" Fast forward to 2010 when Jim was one of nine athletes selected to run in the final leg of the Torch Run leading up to Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska. "I have been on both sides of life," says Jim. "I was a boy with an intellectual disability from 1971 to 1992. Now, from 1992 to now, I am a man with intellectual abilities." Jim invites each of you to come along for the Special Olympics journey: "We would love your support as we take the next stride toward acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities."



2016

VOLUNTEER QUOTES

"I have fallen in love with this organization. Not only do I love seeing all of the athletes do so well and feel so good about themselves, they make me feel so good about myself. No matter what it was I needed to do to help, I had so much fun. I don't think I stopped smiling all weekend because it made my life brighter!"

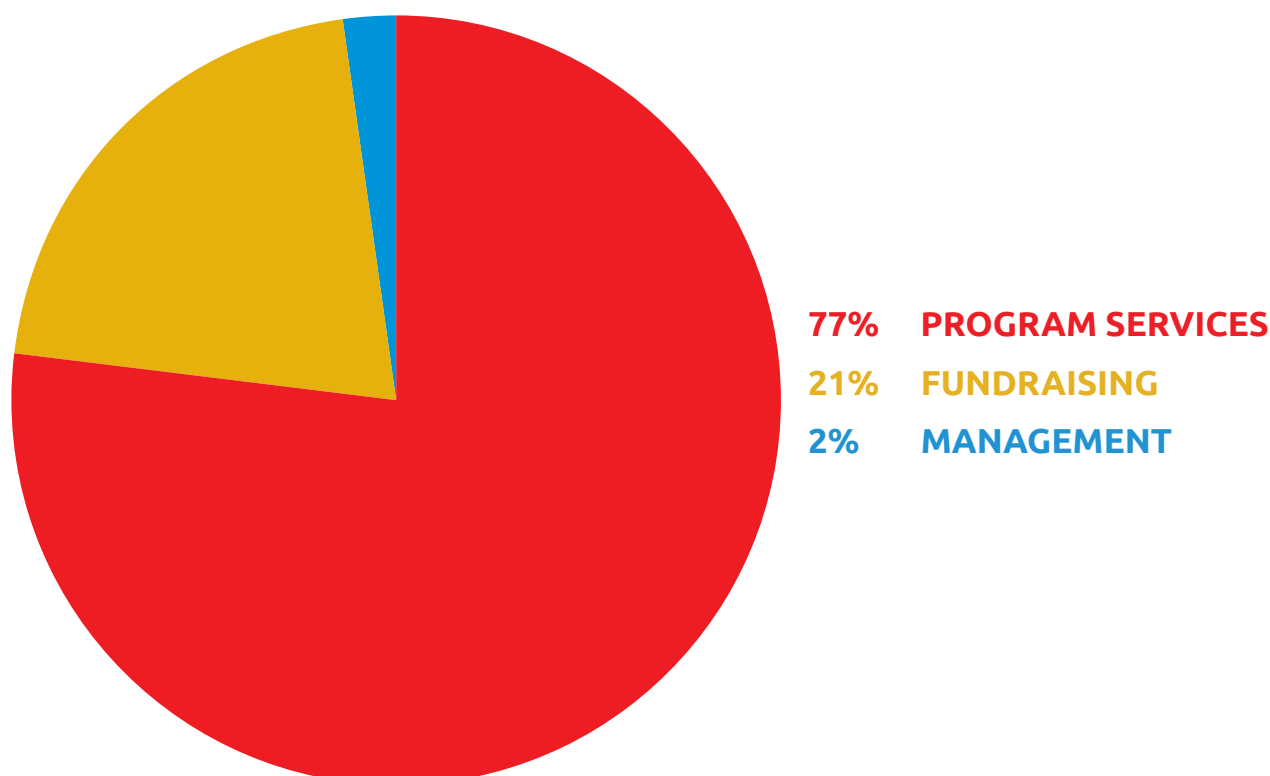
"It was inspiring to see the athletes play with all their hearts! MANY people could learn a lesson (or two) about sportsmanship from them. Thank you for the opportunity to volunteer. It was an amazing experience to see the excitement of the athletes and their joy as they received the gift of new shoes."



2015-16**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Years end December 31, 2015 and 2016

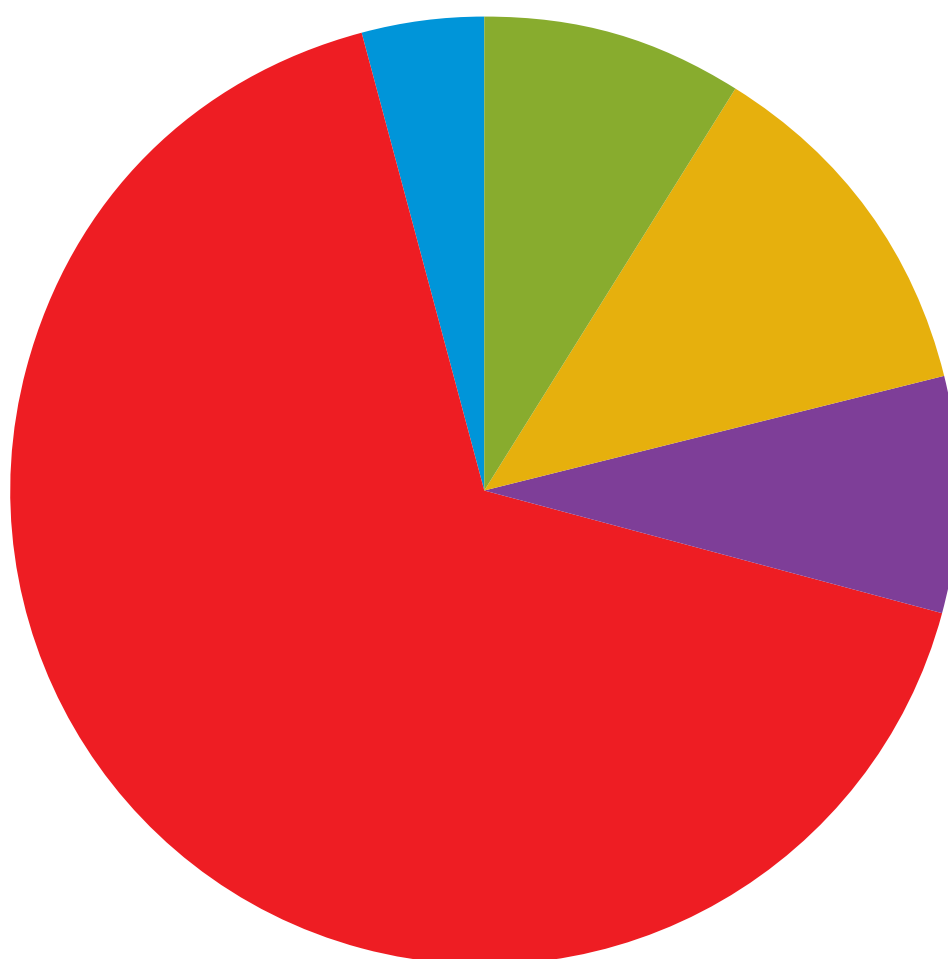
	2016	2015
Revenue & Other Support		
Contributions, grants & allocations	\$2,236,786	\$1,992,441
Fundraising	\$4,436,802	\$4,452,964
Total Revenue & Other Support	\$6,673,588	\$6,445,405
Expenses		
Program Services	\$4,762,619	\$4,743,470
Fundraising	\$1,331,142	\$1,357,581
Management	\$124,792	\$119,300
Total Expenses	\$6,218,553	\$6,220,351
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$455,035	\$225,054

2016**EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT**

2015-16 FINANCIALS

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Years end December 31, 2015 and 2016.

	2016		2015	
Individual Giving	\$615,904	9%	\$475,918	7%
Institutional Giving	\$815,596	12%	\$687,675	11%
Direct Marketing	\$563,174	8%	\$690,620	11%
Fundraising Events	\$4,436,802	66%	\$4,452,964	69%
Earned Income & Others	\$242,112	4%	\$138,228	2%
Operating Revenue	\$6,673,588	100%	\$6,445,405	100%



9%	INDIVIDUAL GIVING
12%	INSTITUTIONAL GIVING
8%	DIRECT MARKETING
66%	FUNDRAISING EVENTS
4%	EARNED INCOME & OTHERS

2016 METRICS

In 2016, Special Olympics Minnesota served more than 8,200 active athletes. Some highlights from the past year include:

Unified Movement

We currently have more than 30 Champion Schools participating in our Unified Programs--from preschool through college. Champion Schools integrate all three components of the Unified Strategy: Unified Sports, Youth Leadership and Advocacy and Whole School Engagement.

Athletes

We have approximately 8,200 active athletes competing throughout the year in more than 90 area level competitions, six regional level competitions and 5 state competitions. In addition, we offer more than 75 initiatives including Health Programs, Athlete Leadership programs, Unified Partners, Leadership Conference, Distinguished Services Awards and Summer Sports Camp.

Volunteers

More than 14,000 Minnesotans volunteered with Special Olympics Minnesota in 2016, helping out at state competitions, area and local competitions and other events throughout the year.

Young Athletes

This program continues to grow! In 2016, we offered 51 community based sessions and 25 school based sessions, totaling more than 1,850 Young Athletes in attendance. We are also pleased to report that we had 367 new participants with Intellectual Disabilities along with an amazing 1,000 new Unified Peer Partners.

SOfit

By the end of 2016, SOfit will expand on its pilot of 100 individuals to increasing participation to nearly 400 individuals. We are in the midst of implementing the SOfit curriculum by developing materials that can be used for lessons for each eight-week program.



LOOKING AHEAD 2017 & BEYOND

Transcending the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, culture and religion, the world will come together to celebrate inclusion around the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Graz, Schladming-Rohrmoos and Ramsau, Austria. The games will run from March 14-25, 2017.

Special Olympics has many thousands of competitions around the world every year. Our athletes train in more than 30 sports in nearly 170 countries. Every two years, World Games is held and shows off the best the Special Olympics movement has to offer. For many athletes, competing in World Games is the dream of a lifetime.

For almost 3,000 Special Olympics athletes, that dream will come true in 2017 at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. We are pleased to announce that two of our very own athletes from Minnesota will have the honor and privilege of competing: Megan Gartzke of the Hastings Sharks and Camilo Mejia of the St. Croix Valley Lumberjacks. Camilo will be skiing at the advanced level and Megan at the intermediate. We know they will be excellent representatives of our great Minnesota program.

More than 2,600 athletes and 1,000 coaches representing 106 countries, along with 10,000 volunteers and thousands more spectators, will travel to the mountains of Austria to compete in Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Floorball, Short Track Speed Skating, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing and Stick Shooting to see who will win the gold.

This is the second time Austria has hosted the World Winter Games, having also staged the event in 1993 where they hosted the very first Special Olympics World Winter Games held outside the U.S. A lot has changed since those 1993 Games. This time, an even larger worldwide audience will get the chance to see many moments from the Games. ESPN will be broadcasting stories and events during the 2017 Games in Austria.

For more information on the 2017 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit **AUSTRIA2017.org**.



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2016

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Leah Wolkow
Joe Zander

***Let me win.
But if I cannot win, let me
be brave in the attempt.***

- Special Olympics Athlete Oath

Questions?

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SOMN.ORG