



Being brave.

Special Olympics Minnesota 2017 Annual Report



Who We Are

Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time. These efforts help advance our mission to change attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities and to transform lives through the joy of sport, every day, everywhere.

“

“Inclusion works to the advantage of everyone. We all have things to learn and we all have something to teach.”

”

-- Helen Henderson



WHAT'S ADVANCED IN 2017

A big change this year was our State Bowling Competition! Due to rapid growth and interest, we implemented a new format. In the past, the competition was held at numerous bowling alleys in the Twin Cities. This year, bowling alleys across the state hosted competitions, giving opportunity for athletes outside of the cities to compete. For many athletes, this was the first time they bowled for a medal! A virtual Celebration Ceremonies was hosted by Ian Leonard, Fox 9 Chief Meteorologist, with special appearances by local celebrities and athletes (view the video at somn.org/celebrate). We had an astounding **3,609** athletes and **564** Unified Partners participate in the state competition with **1,016** coaches and **791** event volunteers in attendance.

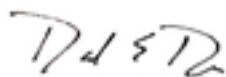
Also new in 2017 was our Athlete Leadership Programs University (ALPs U). This was a week-end-long experience to build community among athletes and introduce skills in a retreat-like format -- rather than discrete sessions throughout the year. Athletes learned public speaking skills to serve as ambassadors for SOMN, took courses in youth leadership and coaching and heard from speakers Richard Pitino, Head Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Minnesota, and Loretta Claiborne, Chief Inspiration Officer at Special Olympics International. ALPs University is an excellent way to help athletes improve their leadership skills to serve on boards and other advisory councils within Special Olympics. There were 130 athletes in attendance.

"ALPs University was fun and it had a lot more room! I like that there were different courses you can choose from. I chose the Health and Wellness course and it was a lot of fun and very informative ... It was a great time with my mentor and friends. And I made a lot of new friends. I can't wait for next year's ALPs University!" -- Abby Pearson, SOMN athlete

In addition, we reported last year that our Unified Programs will pave the way for the Unified movement worldwide. We continue to celebrate the growth of this very important initiative in Minnesota. It is the fastest growing part of the Special Olympics movement and one of the most powerful ways to achieve our goal of full inclusion. In 2017, we hosted more than 1,000 Unified events and are excited to host even more in the future!

We have accomplished all of this because of you! Please accept our sincere gratitude for helping us grow these programs. Together, we can make an impact with the most inclusive community on the planet -- a global community that is growing every day.

Thank you



David E. Dorn
President/CEO



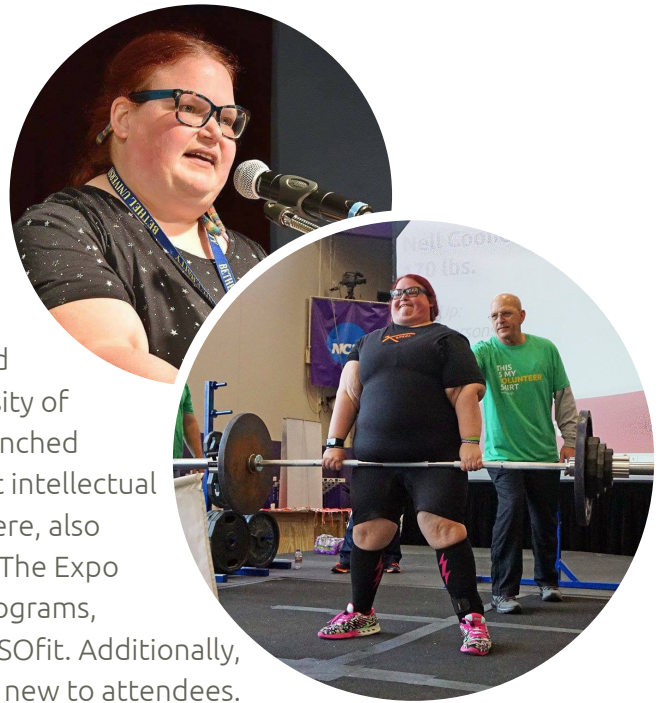
Pam Byrd
Individual Giving Director



2017

ATHLETE HIGHLIGHT

In 2017, the number of Healthy Athletes screenings have increased by 250. This is due in part by expanding athletes' access to screenings via transportable clinics at state competitions to take the screening "outside of the tent." Opportunities for follow-up care were also expanded through various community partners, including the University of Minnesota Mobile Dental Clinic. Additionally, the newly launched Wellness Expo aims to engage individuals with and without intellectual disabilities in physical fitness in a fun and inviting atmosphere, also serving as the initial step in the journey to improve health. The Expo provides educational materials about Special Olympics' programs, including Unified opportunities such as Unified Sports and SOfit. Additionally, the Expo encourages participation in activities that may be new to attendees.



By the end of this year, we anticipate our SOfit program to expand to more than 400 participants. With its Unified component, SOfit has helped many athletes make lifestyle changes. One athlete who has made a world of difference in her lifestyle is Nell Coonen-Korte. Nell was one of the first to join our SOfit program several years ago. At that time, Nell never drank a drop of water, ate only processed and fried foods and exercised minimally. Nell now drinks water every day, eats much healthier and works out daily. She has lost over 160 pounds and continues to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Because of her accomplishments, Nell was selected to join 14 other athletes from around the continent to go through Special Olympics North America's Health Messenger training in Washington, D.C. We are so proud of Nell!

2017

VOLUNTEER QUOTES

"I was umpiring for the softball tournament and really enjoyed seeing the competition among the athletes, as well as the passion in many! ... I made a call at second base that was a 'bang-bang' play, and called the runner safe. The second baseman turned around, pleading that I made the wrong call. It was awesome to see the player passionately plead her case and showed how seriously they took it. Never was it disrespectful -- I just loved seeing the competitive spirit! It validated the time that I volunteered."



"I loved interacting with the athletes while being a golf caddy. Their bright, warm, and joyful personalities put a permanent smile on my face and had us laughing throughout the day."

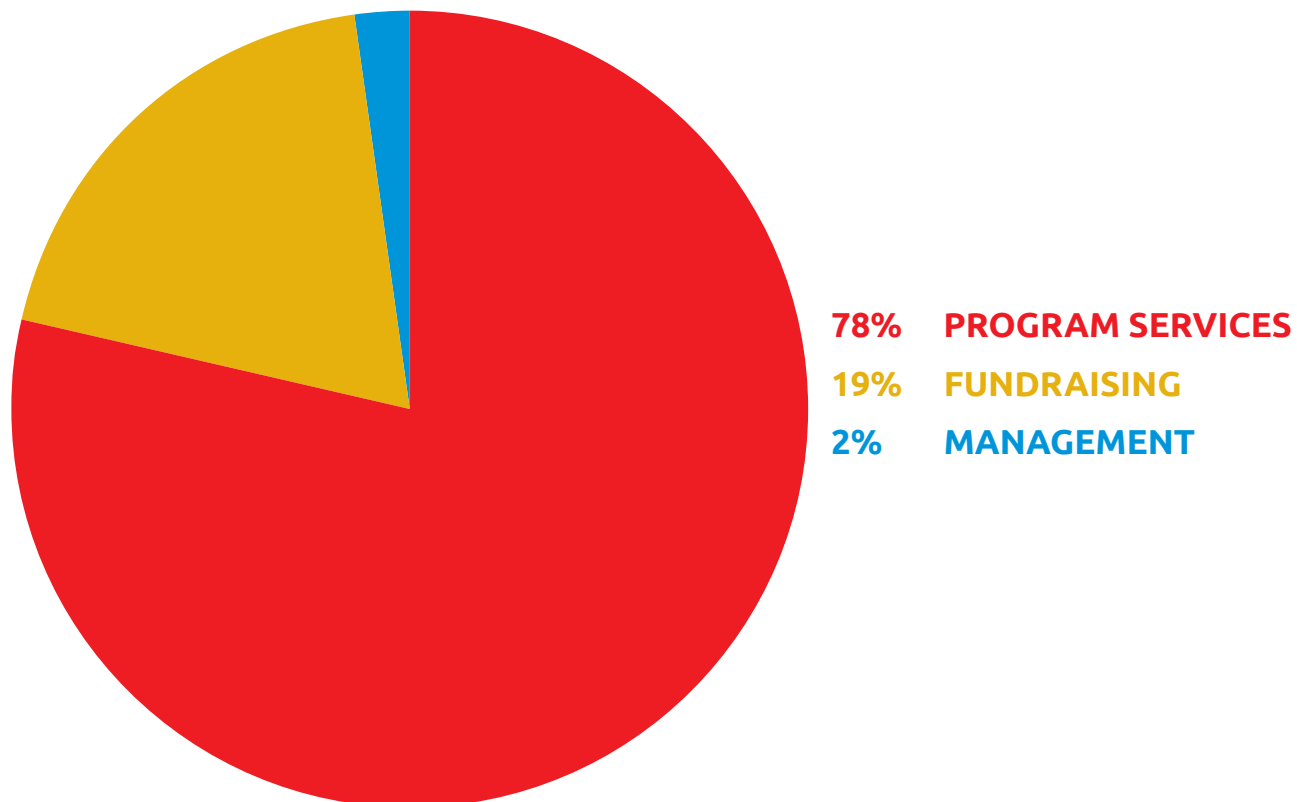
"It was my 12th year as a reception area person in the Healthy Hearing section of Healthy Athletes. I love seeing so many of the returning athletes and the fun they exude. You have to smile all day!"

2016-17 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Years end December 31, 2016 and 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue & Other Support		
Contributions, grants & allocations	\$2,194,143	\$2,236,786
Fundraising	\$4,521,639	\$4,436,802
Total Revenue & Other Support	\$6,715,782	\$6,673,588
Expenses		
Program Services	\$5,127,447	\$4,762,619
Fundraising	\$1,275,212	\$1,331,142
Management	\$154,419	\$124,792
Total Expenses	\$6,557,077	\$6,218,553
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$158,705	\$455,035

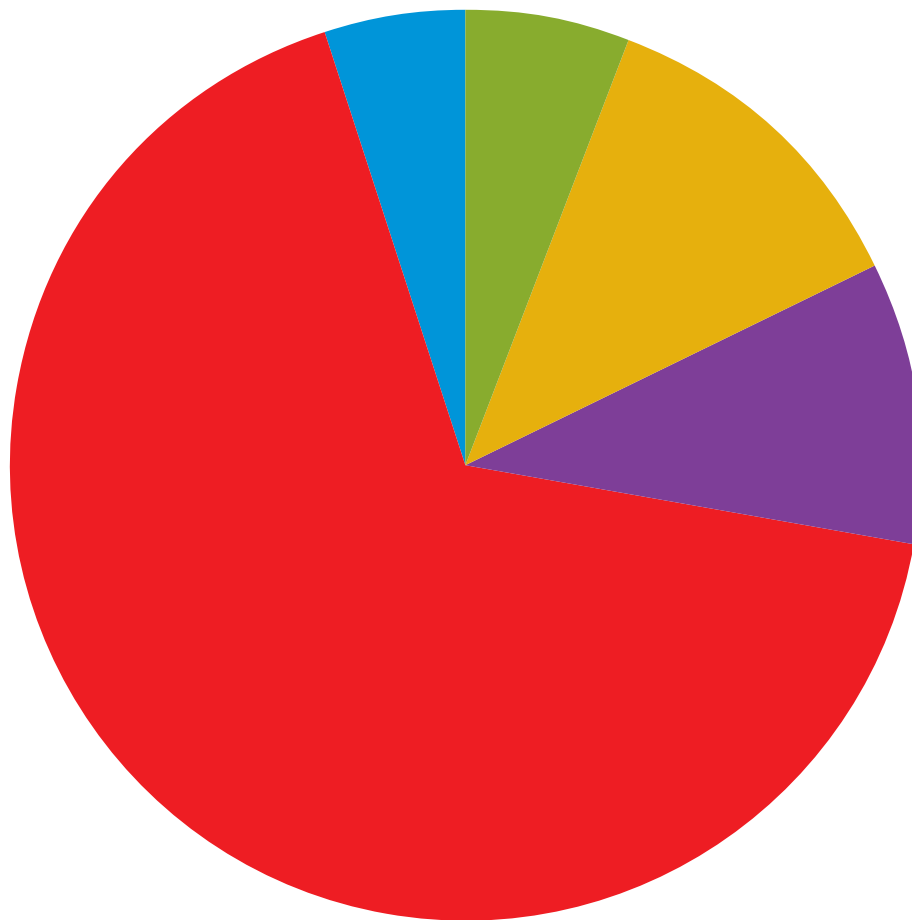
2017 EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



2016-17 FINANCIALS

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Years end December 31, 2016 and 2017.

	2017		2016	
Individual Giving	\$407,160	6%	\$615,904	9%
Institutional Giving	\$787,644	12%	\$815,596	12%
Direct Marketing	\$688,670	10%	\$563,174	8%
Fundraising Events	\$4,521,639	67%	\$4,436,802	66%
Earned Income & Others	\$310,669	5%	\$242,112	4%
Operating Revenue	\$6,715,782	100%	\$6,673,588	100%



6%	INDIVIDUAL GIVING
12%	INSTITUTIONAL GIVING
10%	DIRECT MARKETING
67%	FUNDRAISING EVENTS
5%	EARNED INCOME & OTHERS

2017 METRICS

In 2017, Special Olympics Minnesota served more than 8,100 people with intellectual disabilities and engaged with thousands of Minnesotans of all abilities through innovative and life-changing programs. Some highlights from the past year include:

- Nearly 600 new athletes registered in 2017
- Nearly 5,000 volunteers participated
- Training and competitive opportunities in 16 sports were offered
- More than 70 area level competitions, two regional level competitions and seven state level competitions were held, for which athletes and Unified Partners prepared during nearly 100,000 training sessions with the guidance of more than 7,500 certified volunteer coaches.
- A brand new Athlete Leadership University provided training in several disciplines to more than 50 Unified Pairs of people with and without intellectual disabilities.
- More than 20,000 health and wellness experiences were provided through health programs such as Healthy Athletes, Wellness Expo and SOMN's Unified Wellness Program: SOfit.
- 4,000 youth participated in the Young Athletes program
- The 2016-2017 school year of Unified Schools programming wrapped up in June, engaging 40 Unified Champion Schools and providing Unified Sports and inclusive leadership opportunities to more than 6,000 students and more than 17,000 connections with students through Unified Schools programming.
- 23,000 students took the pledge to eliminate the use of the 'r-word'



LOOKING AHEAD 2018 & BEYOND

Changes to competition scheduling required a change in venue. Hosting the 2018 Summer Games at the University of St. Thomas will allow athletes to have an immersive experience, complete with exposure to an Olympic Village and fellowship with fellow athletes at meals and in dormitories. Our thinking now aligns with the adage “quality over quantity.”

Our goal in the past was to offer as many competitions as possible. Moving ahead in the 2018 sports season, we will consolidate competitions to improve the athlete experience. Some Special Olympics Minnesota families attend competitions nearly every weekend, which can be a draining experience for both athletes and families. Under the new competition scheduling model, athletes and their families will have opportunities to compete at venues closer to their hometowns while looking forward to a truly spectacular experience at UST for Summer Games!

Get ready for one of Special Olympics’ biggest competitions ever--also happening in 2018! Next year’s Special Olympics USA Games will highlight athletes with intellectual disabilities who find power and joy in sports. From July 1-6, 2018, more than 3,500 Special Olympics athletes from all over the United States--as well as 1,000 coaches, 10,000 family members, 10,000 volunteers and an estimated 50,000 spectators--will take part in this premier national sports competition that promotes the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport and celebrates the transformative power of Special Olympics.

We’re so proud of the 60 athletes and Unified Partners who have been selected to represent Minnesota at USA Games. They’ll join thousands of their fellow athletes in Seattle to compete in Unified Basketball, Unified Flag Football, Track and Field, Artistic Gymnastics, Aquatics, Bowling and Tennis events. An additional 16 coaches will join them, along with a Unified pair who will showcase Team Minnesota’s leadership skills by helping to put on events, shadowing others from around the country, and taking their experiences back to their schools.

2018 also marks the 50th anniversary of the Special Olympics movement. Every day for nearly five decades, Special Olympics has been changing lives through sports training activities; local, state and world competitions; outreach efforts and innovative programs to bring more athletes, families, coaches, volunteers and supporters into the movement. We’re so excited to celebrate this incredible milestone in July!



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Joe Zander

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

- Special Olympics Athlete Oath

Questions?

Contact Pam Byrd, Individual Giving Director
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SOMN.ORG