



2022 Annual Report

Special Olympics
Arkansas



Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends and Stakeholders,

Our Athletes, Volunteers and Coaches took on 2022 with lots of energy and excitement!

Providing more programming for Athletes is key to our mission. This year we added a new sport, strengthened some of our training opportunities, and added regional competitions. 2022 was host to the first RecFest event, an event designed to give athletes a chance to try new sports, learn leadership skills, and receive health education.

Unified Champion Schools deepened our partnership with Arkansas Activities Association by enhancing team competitions. There was a focus on dividing the state into conferences for play in tournaments and providing more events for UCS schools. UCS also reestablished a State Youth Activation Committee naming 27 youth leaders. 2022 marked the first statewide youth summit since the pandemic. The event hosted 188 youth and coaches from all over the state.

Our Health program added a new discipline, Strong Minds, focused on mental health and emotion wellness. Statewide, we increased the number of certified clinical directors for Healthy Athletes events. Athletes participated in new fitness programs. We welcomed back health partners to in person events and grew the number of professionals trained in inclusive health.

We were thrilled to welcome back in person fundraising for 2022. Truck Convoy held their first in person event since 2019 and raised \$47,000. Law enforcement Torch Run increased overall number of events and added two new signature events for 2022. Arkansas Realtors Association hit an all-time high raising just over \$220,000.

Last but certainly not least, Team Arkansas excelled on and off the field for 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida. Team Arkansas was recognized for their sportsmanship, respectful and polite behavior and their awesome athletic talent. We were very proud to take a delegation of 153 athletes, coaches, and Unified Partners.

2022 is also the year that we began our Capital Campaign: Launching a Legacy for Inclusion. Plans have been developed to move back to SOAR's original location in North Little Rock. We are excited for what this future home means for our athletes, families, and volunteers.

Sincerely,

Terri Weir

Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Arkansas



Most Impactful Moments 2022



10 Athlete Input Council restructures to launches to improve competition and events.

Emerging from the pandemic Athlete Input Council restructures and launches with new energy to improve Special Olympics Arkansas competitions and programs! This council is a forum for athletes to report to other athletes and Program leaders what is happening in their areas, voice their opinions about important issues, and gain leadership training and experience.

9 Family Health Forum sees record attendance.

Family Health Forum sees largest attendance at 85 people. Topics were presented by our partners Michael Thornton, Kiah Hall, and Roberta Sick and Stephanie Rose and Tisha Jenkins.

8 Launch the Legacy for Inclusion, Special Olympics Arkansas' Capital Campaign went live!

Special Olympics Arkansas launches first Capital Campaign to create new forever home! During the 2020 Ice and Snow storm there was a flood affecting many of the rooms and overall building structure. Since then Special Olympics Arkansas has been operating in a temporary space that is not meeting the needs of our growing program. While much of our programming is not held within the walls of the home office many relate to the building as their home. It is where everything comes together and it is where the future of the program will be visualized and implemented. We are excited to rebuild our foundation on the same lot that so many have come to know as their SOAR home. It is with much anticipation that we await the opportunity to welcome everyone back to 2115 Main Street North Little Rock, so that we can all Launch a Legacy for Inclusion!

7 Special Olympics Arkansas welcomes a new staff member for Marketing and Development.

Brianna Himschoot joins the SOAR staff bringing the total number of staff members to 11 statewide. Brianna brings with her expertise in social media marketing and graphic design. She jumped right in to work directly with Area Directors, Games Management teams, and Law Enforcement Torch Run!

6 Partnerships and Fundraisers and Social Meida see overwhelming success!

Law Enforcement Torch Run events see impressive numbers Charity Olive Hour hits fundraising high of \$75,000, Rob Williams hits fundraising high of \$21,000 and 2022 Truck Convoy comes back to an in person event for the first time since 2019 with 130 registered trucks! Arkansas Realtors Association exceeds \$220,000 in fundraising, setting their all-time high once again! Special Olympics Arkansas media and social media sees SOARING numbers; creating fantastic awareness about the talents of our 19,500 athletes statewide! The details: Facebook reaches 10K followers, 15% increase in Followers since 2021 (FB), 10% increase in followers since 2021 (IG)!

Most Impactful Moments 2022

5 Opening Ceremonies is BACK!

Fall Games 2022 marked the first large gathering since 2019. Athletes, Coaches, and volunteers felt the energy as the Flame of Hope entered a room full of excitement!

4 Special Olympics Arkansas introduces first RecFest!

In an effort to introduce athletes to more sports we hosted the first statewide RecFest with the help of partner Benton Parks and Recreation. RecFest consisted of Floorball, Cheerleading, Live Healthy Education, Athlete Input Council, Powerlifting, and Flag Football

3 State Youth Activation Committee offers first Youth Summit at Fall Games.

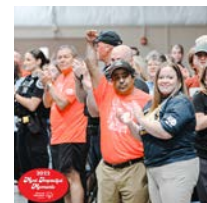
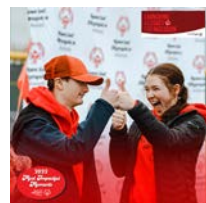
State Youth Activation restructures leading to the first statewide Youth Summit. This youth summit has a record 200 attendees learning about ideas for inclusion in their schools!

2 2022 was the start of Healthy Athletes Discipline, Strong Minds!

Strong Minds is an interactive learning activity focused on developing adaptive coping skills. Competition provides a natural opportunity to develop active strategies for maintaining emotional wellness under stress, such as: thinking positive thoughts, releasing stress and connecting with others. We are excited to welcome our two Clinical Directors: Stephanie Rose and Tisha Jenkins from UCA.

1 2022 Special Olympics USA Games

Team Arkansas represents during 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando Florida with 11 sports bringing home 143 medals and completing 94% Healthy Athletes screenings!





Mission

The mission of Special Olympics Arkansas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for all 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 friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Purpose

Special Olympics Arkansas is an organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, everyday around the state. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics Arkansas is changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, solving the global injustice, isolation, intolerance and inactivity they face. Special Olympics Arkansas is providing opportunities for more than 19,500 athletes and 16,000 volunteers in all counties across the State of Arkansas.



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Vision Statement

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are at the heart of all that we do at Special Olympics Arkansas. We strive to promote unity and create a world where everyone belongs.

We value, celebrate, and respect all differences, backgrounds, and perspectives and understand that greater diversity and inclusion creates a stronger and more innovative organization that delivers better results as we work with athletes in all communities.



Competition

Special Olympics Arkansas currently runs 245 competitions statewide for over 19,500 Athletes. Sports competitions across the state are broken into 17 geographical areas. Athletes then have the opportunity to compete in 6 different statewide competitions throughout the year. The events consist of 15 different types of sports; Athletics (Track and Field), Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Swimming, Powerlifting, Softball, and Cheerleading. Special Olympics Arkansas also offers 8 Unified sports to promote social inclusion.

2022 Statistics:

- Floorball was introduced to areas and was part of RecFest in Benton.
- All areas hosted a competition for the first time since 2019.
- Team Arkansas competed in 2022 Special Olympics USA Games (See Team Arkansas page)
- 100 competitions hosted as program begins to strengthen from COVID-19



2022 Special Olympics USA Games

On June 5-12, 2022 athletes from across Arkansas traveled to Orlando for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, to represent their state with pride and excellence as they competed against the nation's best. Our athletes and coaches trained for months, and in June they showcased their skills, sportsmanship, and inspirational spirit while competing.

Special Olympics Arkansas had a 153 member team made up of 111 athletes and Unified Partners, and 42 coaches who competed in 11 sports at the Games, including track & field, basketball, bocce, bowling, golf, powerlifting, soccer, softball, stand up paddle, swimming, and tennis. Unified Pairs also participated in Youth Leadership and represented Team Arkansas as US Ambassadors.

About the Games

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games were held in Orlando, Florida on June 5-12, 2022. More than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Caribbean competed in 19 Olympic-type team and individual sports. They were cheered on by the support of tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators. These fierce and courageous competitors demonstrated the power of the human spirit and use sport to showcase the limitless talents of people with intellectual disabilities. They inspired the city and the country to embrace the ideals of diversity, acceptance and inclusion, creating more unified communities.

Arkansas Athletes Take Home 143 Medals at 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando

"Over the past week Team Special Olympics Arkansas has cheered for their opponent, encouraged their teammates and left their hearts on their respective competition platforms. We could not be more proud of the athletes, unified partners, and coaches that have made Arkansas a team to be respected. We really did #ShineAsOne this week," said Terri Weir CEO Special Olympics Arkansas.

There were so many highlights during the week. So many members of Team Arkansas walked away from Orlando with new personal bests and stories of triumph in the face of adversity.





Training

Special Olympics Arkansas is a pure sport organization focused on truly bringing each athlete to their personal best. Training is a key factor in meeting this part of our mission. Training refers to both coaches education and athlete sport focused training. Quality competitions are achieved through determined training.

2022 Statistics:

- Hosted first RecFest in which athletes were able to experience brand new sports and coaches had the opportunity to become certified in multiple sports.
- Team Arkansas coaches led virtual trainings to help fellow coaches in the state become certified.
- In-person coaches trainings returned to allow hands on experience.
- In-person trainings provided opportunities for coaches to be certified in multiple sports.



Unified Champion Schools

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools promotes communities where all young people are agents of change, fostering acceptance, respect, dignity, and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities and thereby anyone who is perceived as different. Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools integrates Special Olympics programs with ongoing youth activities and focuses on creating and sustaining education systems, classroom practices, school climate and community engagement to ensure all students develop intellectual, physical, civic, and emotional competencies.

2022 Statistics:

- 68 UCS Schools meeting all 3 pillars
- 34 active School Districts
- 12 College programs
- 32 Inclusive Youth Leadership Experiences
- 28 Whole School Engagement Experiences
- Added e-sports as an official Unified Champion Schools opportunity with 3 schools offering this to students
- Reactivated State Youth Activation Committee with 27 members
- Developed regional playoffs for Unified Bowling with 156 Athletes and Unified Partners competing



Young Athletes

Young Athletes is a unique sport and play program for children with intellectual disabilities. The focus is on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth. Children ages 2 to 7 enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and to the world of Special Olympics Arkansas. The children learn new things, play and have lots of fun. These building blocks result in notable improvements in a child's motor skills, cognitive development, social skills, emotional development and communication skills.

2022 Statistics:

- Added Libraries as a partner for Young Athletes Kits
- Distributed Young Athletes Kits to 42 locations (libraries and preschools)
- 25,00 Young Athletes participating statewide
- Provided 150 early childhood education teachers with Young Athletes training at 3 conferences
- Added High 5 fitness and health resources to Young Athletes program



Health

Special Olympics' vision of its health program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, is to create a world where people with intellectual disabilities have the same opportunities and access to health care as people without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics' 19 years of experience identifying and addressing the unmet health needs of people with intellectual disabilities has revealed the myriad of complex barriers to health faced by this population. Barriers to this vision include lack of access to quality health care, education, and resources. Through this multi-layered effort, Special Olympics is working to create a tipping point where health becomes inclusive for people with intellectual disabilities globally by changing curriculum, training health care professionals and policymakers, influencing policy, advocating for inclusive health programming, building partnerships for follow up care and harnessing the power of the Special Olympics Movement to build awareness.

2022 Statistics:

- 200 partners working together to improve health care quality and access for people with intellectual disabilities
- 418 coaches received training on increasing health and wellness into practice.
- 7 Wellness Integration Internships: Addition of new internship partnerships with UCA. Also added masters level students. Became a preceptor site for UAMS MPH students to complete their applied practice experience and integrated learning experience.
- 875 athletes screened in Healthy Athletes Disciplines during competitions
- 195 Medicals completed/MedFest: Searcy, Hot Springs, Magnolia
- 11 different inclusive health trainings
- 354 Health care professionals, students, and community health workers trained
- 10 Health Messenger Trainings
- 15 New Health Messengers
- 129 Fitness Challenge Participants
- 4 new clinical directors– Strong Minds (2), MedFest (1), Fit Feet (1). Held first full Strong Minds event at Fall Games 2022.



Athlete Leadership

Through sports training and competitions, Special Olympics Arkansas helps people with intellectual disabilities achieve joy, acceptance and success. They gain the confidence that comes with achievement. They feel empowered. Our Athlete Leadership Programs can take athletes even farther -- as leaders and spokespeople respected in their communities.

Special Olympics Arkansas Athlete Leadership Program allows athletes to explore opportunities for greater participation in our movement beyond sports training and competition: as coaches, officials, team captains, spokespeople and board and committee members. These roles give athletes a voice in shaping the Special Olympics movement, and a chance to spread the word about the transformations Special Olympics can bring to individuals and families. The Athlete Leadership Programs also provides a way for athletes to showcase talents and interests that may have gone unnoticed.

2022 Statistics:

- 15 New Health Messengers added
- 8 Health Messengers activated to provide inclusive health education to providers and health care students. 7 activated in fundraising and sporting events.
- Participated in virtual Capitol Hill Day with more athlete leaders present to tell their story
- Increased Athlete leaders in key roles



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas

Who We Are:

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots for Special Olympics fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games. Annually, more than 1600 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members from all over the state carry the “Flame of Hope,” symbolizing courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the state. Arkansas is a part of a global movement that involves more than 110,000 members year-round.

What We Do:

The LETR for Special Olympics Arkansas engages law enforcement statewide championing acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities, starting first with their own communities. Over the years the Torch Run has evolved and now encompasses a variety of innovative fundraising platforms to include Plane Pull®, Polar Plunge®, Tip-A-Cop®, and more. Arkansas members host over 100 fundraising events year-round and consistently ranks in the emerald level of excellence raising over \$500,000 each year since 2010 for Special Olympics Arkansas athletes.

2022 Statistics:

- Raised \$464,508.96
- Trained 75 officers in Crisis Communication for people with ID professional development
- Held first in person Truck Convoy in 3 years – raising \$47,926
- Added Casino Night and Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament as signature events
- Hit all time high of \$76,007 for Charity Olive Hour
- Increased officer presence at competitions

Financials

Special Olympics Arkansas

Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2022

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses

Federal and state awards	\$ 499,243
Contributions	665,555
Program activities	2,500
Fundraising events	485,942
Donated services, materials and supplies	39,441
Net investment loss	(291,270)
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	(332)
Miscellaneous	16,192
Total Support, Revenue, Gains and Losses	1,417,271

Expenses

Program services	1,402,252
Management and general	210,657
Fundraising	274,209
Total Expenses	1,887,118

Decrease in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions (469,847)

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

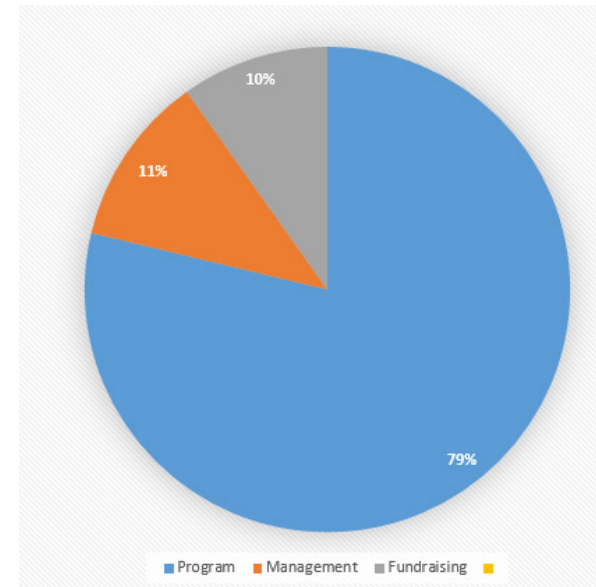
Net depreciation in fair value of beneficial interest in assets held at the Arkansas Community Foundation	(75,609)
Contributions	42,000

Decrease in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions (33,609)

DECREASE IN TOTAL NET ASSETS (503,456)

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR 3,738,349

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$ 3,234,893



On average \$.79 of every dollar spent goes to support and grow our program
Figures are taken from our 2022 Form 990

Audited fiscal year 2022
Financial statement audited by Landmark CPA

Special Olympics Arkansas 2022

Board of Directors & Staff

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Irvin Humphrey

Director of Field Services, Initiatives, & Volunteers

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Director of Marketing & Partnerships

Camie Powell

Director of Operations

Angela Stormo

Coordinator of Wellness & Coach Advancement

Jennifer Avery

Marketing & Development Assistant

Brianna Himschoot

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Leopard

Northwest Arkansas Field Representative

Donna Kilmer

Northeast Arkansas Field Representative

Theresa Book

South Arkansas Field Representative

Ann Hudson

2022 Partners (Cash and/or in-kind)

Mission Champion Partner



Premier Partners



Platinum Partners



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



Blue Ribbon Partners



2022 Special Event Partners

Thank you Sponsors!

CASINO Night
 HIGH ROLLER
 DOUBLE DOWN
 SNAKE EYES
 LUCKY 7

Horton Brothers
 FASTSIGNS
 GDT
 STALLION
 James A. Rogers EXCAVATING INC.
 The Anderle's
 The McClains

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARKANSAS

Special Olympics Arkansas

2022 TRUCK CONVOY PARTNERS

FedEx Freight
 Maverick TRANSPORTATION LLC
 STALLION TRANSPORTATION GROUP
 ABF Freight
 James A. Rogers EXCAVATING INC.
 ARKANSAS TRUCKING
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 Boyd Consulting Group
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Thank you 2022 Summer Games Partners!
 Your support keeps us going!

Special Olympics Arkansas

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 DELTA DENTAL
 Walmart
 TRUITY CREDIT UNION
 STALLION TRANSPORTATION GROUP
 NorthStar Emergency Medical Services
 Casey's
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 Good Sam
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Thank you to our sponsors

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 Arkansas REALTORS
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 SUMMIT COMMUNITY CARE
 MAX PRO
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LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARKANSAS

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 Fort Smith Parks & Rec
 Lake Charles State Park
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 Centerpoint Energy
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 Woody Incline State Park
 Y107 My Country
 Mountain Lake Estates POA
 Robert & Mary Zwick
 Michelle Strouse @ Legacy Law Group
 Hot Springs Health & Fitness
 City of Maumelle

US 97
 Cove Lake Recreation Area US Forestry Service
 Kay Eddy
 Burrehead Farming
 Joe Eli's Lodge 800
 Crowley's Ridge State Park
 Batesville Aquatics Center
 Village Creek State Park
 Wolf Creek Apartments
 Hampton Inn @ Blytheville
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 Society swim center
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2022 POLAR PLUNGE

FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARKANSAS