



Special Olympics
Wisconsin



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



A Message from an Athlete

Hi there! My name is **Megan Galarowicz**.

I am a Special Olympics Wisconsin Athlete Leader. I am also one of two athletes employed by Special Olympics Wisconsin as an Athlete Leadership Specialist. I also work at Walgreens, one of Special Olympics Wisconsin's proud partners.

2020 was a big year for me personally as I graduated from UW-Stout with a Bachelor of Science in Hotel, Restaurants and Tourism Management in May.

It was a little strange though since the graduation was virtual due to the pandemic.

But 2020 was strange for everybody.

It started just like a normal year with Winter Games and the Polar Plunge. Basketball regional tournaments were going on and people were excitedly getting ready for State. Then the world was flipped upside down and everything stopped.

I wish I could truly impress upon you how disappointing it was for everyone in the Special Olympics Wisconsin community when everything shut down and we couldn't do anything with our friends or go to different places for the competitions we love so much.



Eventually things started to come back slowly but it was hard and people didn't know what would be safe. But Special Olympics Wisconsin was there through it all, helping their athletes stay strong, connected and healthy.

2020 has made us look at things differently, that's for sure. One of the biggest things that helped was the adoption of virtual technologies like Zoom. Special Olympics Wisconsin found many ways to use technology to keep the community connected. Virtual programming included fitness classes, celebrations, awards ceremonies, at-home sports competitions, leadership classes and so much more.

There were lots of challenges throughout the year, but the Special Olympics Wisconsin community rose to the occasion and I believe we are stronger for it.

While I'm grateful for the creative ways we stayed together during the pandemic, I sure am looking forward to being together again as a community in 2021!

Hoping to see you soon,

Megan Galarowicz
Megan Galarowicz



A Message from Leadership

2020...where do we even begin? To say 2020 was a tough year would be an understatement, to say the least.

As tough as the pandemic was for all of us, it was especially difficult for Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes who just wanted to see their teammates and coaches, play their sports and have some fun... but instead faced unprecedented anxiety, isolation and stress.

The year tested us all in so many ways we never could have predicted, and Special Olympics Wisconsin was no exception. We had no idea how the year would play out when society came to a screeching halt in March. While we didn't know what would happen, we did know that our community would be ready for whatever was thrown its way. After all, Special Olympics is built on resilience and fortitude... on being **Brave in the Attempt**.

Sitting at what we hope is the tail end of the pandemic and reflecting back, we couldn't be prouder of how our community adapted and rallied around one another. Through virtual fitness programming and celebrations, at-home sports competitions, modified fundraisers, and even a few social distancing-friendly in-person events, our community stayed connected, engaged and motivated during the most trying year in our 50-year history. It was truly incredible to witness!

To every athlete who continued to demonstrate perseverance and exemplify strength, hope and inclusion: **Thank you** for living out the Athlete Oath every day by remaining **Brave in the Attempt**. You continue to inspire us daily, even through the darkest of times.

To the many parents and guardians who remained our athletes' biggest fans and served as their support systems during an isolating and scary time: **Thank you**.

To the coaches and volunteers who have continued to stand with us and find new and engaging ways to connect with our athletes when we couldn't be together in person: **Thank you**.

To the many generous supporters who stepped up to help us through such trying financial times, often in spite of their own hardships: **Thank you**.

To everyone who continued to fight discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities by standing up to bullying and fighting for inclusion, even in the midst of a global pandemic: **Thank you**.

Thank you all for being part of this movement that is still as strong as ever. Together we're changing the world, and nothing... not even a global pandemic... is going to change that. We can't wait to see what we accomplish together next.

But for now, please enjoy our Annual Report, a snapshot of all the wonderful things our incredible community accomplished during a very unique 2020.

Respectfully,



Kathleen J. Roach, MPH, MBA

Kathleen J. Roach, MPH, MBA
President & CEO
Special Olympics Wisconsin



Vince Vitrano

Vince Vitrano
Chairman of the Board
Special Olympics Wisconsin



2020 Highlights



Daina Shilts earns first X Games Gold

Special Olympics Wisconsin snowboarder Daina Shilts of Neillsville won her first X Games gold medal during the X Games Aspen Unified Snowboarding competition on January 23.



Shilts secured first place after having the fastest combined score along with her partner, X Games athlete Mike Schultz of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Shilts has now competed in all six of the X Games Aspen Unified Snowboarding competitions since its inception in 2015, but she was thrilled to finally take home the gold.

"I was instantly crying, I was so excited," Shilts said. "Everything was heightened: my emotions, everything. My knees even kind of gave out."

SOWI goes virtual

The coronavirus pandemic has been incredibly hard for Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes for many reasons.

It deprived them of athletic experiences as well as critical opportunities for social interaction. While nothing can match the energy and excitement of an in-person Special Olympics event, our staff and volunteers were hard at work in 2020 trying to keep athletes connected and healthy through virtual programming.

From the very beginning of the pandemic in March, we began offering virtual programs



Pro sports making an impact on board of directors

With the December addition of Leslie Stachowiak, the Director of Business Communications for the Milwaukee Brewers, we're lucky to now be represented by four of the major professional sports teams in the state.

Stachowiak joined representatives from the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Bucks and Milwaukee Admirals on the Board when she was appointed.

Gabrielle Dow, Vice President of Marketing and Fan Engagement for the Green Bay Packers; Arvind Gopalratnam, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility for the Milwaukee Bucks and Executive Director of the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation; and Jon Greenberg, the President of the Milwaukee Admirals, also serve on the Board of Directors.

"I look forward to supporting the mission to continue to create inclusive communities and positive lifelong experiences for the thousands of athletes embraced by the devoted Special Olympics community," Stachowiak said.

to athletes, Young Athletes, Unified Partners, coaches and volunteers alike. These at-home activities ranged from workouts, to educational sessions, Young Athletes arts and crafts, game nights, dances, and so much more. When all was said and done, we offered 110 virtual activities in 2020!





OUR WORK



SPORTS & UNIFIED SPORTS

Sports is at the foundation of the Special Olympics movement. Special Olympics Wisconsin delivers year-round, high-quality training and competition in an inclusive culture that stresses athletic excellence, rewards determination, emphasizes health and celebrates personal achievement.

We offer 19 Olympic-style individual and team sports that provide meaningful training and competition opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) 8 years and older. Children between the ages of 2 to 10 years old may participate in our Young Athletes program. Athletes train in their sport, compete at an area level and may progress to state-level competitions.

Play Unified. Live Unified. Unified Sports® is an inclusive program which combines individuals with ID (athletes) and individuals without ID (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Unified Sports promotes social inclusion and leads to new friendships, improved self-esteem and positive

changes in attitude. Inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding; Unified Sports is available to all people of all ages.

Sports offered:

- Alpine Skiing
- Athletics (Track & Field)
- Basketball (Team)
- Basketball (Skills)
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cross Country Skiing
- Flag Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Powerlifting
- Sailing
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoe Racing
- Soccer
- Softball and Tee Ball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball

"We will just keep being safe and happy and it will be okay."

– Gabby Kelley



2020 Highlight:

Winter Games adds events for Young Athletes and Unified Partners

"Adding Unified elements to Winter Games brings our athletes and Unified partners new experiences and opportunities to bond." – Erin Muehlenkamp, Director of Unified Programs



In February, more winter warriors were able to enjoy the thrill of winter sports during the Winter Games in Wausau with the introduction of several new events geared toward Unified Sports and Young Athletes.

A new Unified Alpine Skiing event debuted where Special Olympics athletes were paired with Unified Partners from the Granite Peak Ski Team for a competition similar to the popular X Games Unified Snowboarding that Special Olympics Wisconsin athlete Daina Shilts has competed in since 2015.

Meanwhile, at Nine Mile Forest a Unified Cross-Country Skiing Relay brought Special Olympics athletes together with Unified Partners on the same team.

And for the first time, little ones were able to get in on the action at the 2020 Winter Games. The event featured a fun 50-meter snowshoe dash for Young Athletes, who are children with and without intellectual disabilities from ages 2-10.



19 Sports

155 Delegations (local programs)

8,447 Athletes

1,610 Unified Partners

36 Competitions
(local, regional and state)

10 Unified experiences

2,157 Coaches

110 virtual activities during the pandemic

\$0 To participate

82% of family members in the United States report that athletes improved their self-esteem after participating in Unified Sports®

79% of Unified Sports partners report increased understanding of people with ID

"We are all in a competition to fight this awful virus. When we have an end to it, we all will be in first place."

– Steve Woodard



UNIFIED SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

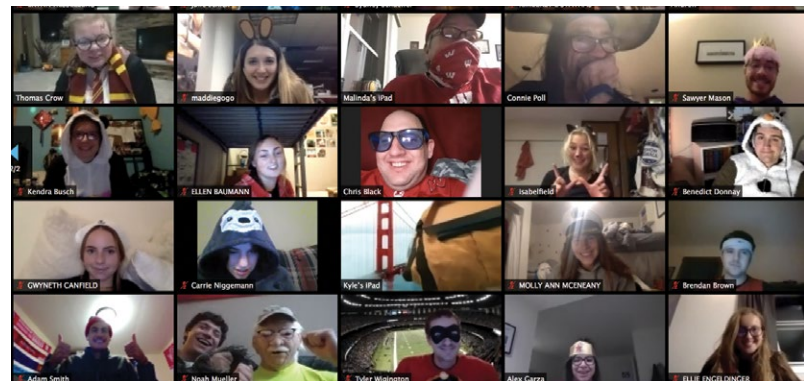
Together we are creating a Unified Generation that Chooses to Include. Students of all abilities have the power to positively impact their school communities by promoting social inclusion. Special Olympics Unified Schools empowers youth and educators to be leaders of change. By playing and learning we will create a more inclusive world.

Unified Champion Schools (UCS) promote social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities through sports and other activities. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions leading to long-term societal change.

Special Olympics College (SO College) functions as an official club on campus and connects college students and individuals with intellectual disabilities through sport to build friendships and help lead the social justice movement of Special Olympics.

Unified Schools & Colleges:

- ✓ reduce bullying and exclusion
- ✓ promote inclusive friendships
- ✓ overturn negative attitudes
- ✓ decrease hurtful language in schools and the community
- ✓ develop students' leadership skills
- ✓ create communities of caring and respect





2020 Highlight:

Neenah schools receives national recognition for achievements in inclusion

"The fact that we will see inclusive efforts at a young age all the way to adulthood and follow our students and families along the journey is amazing."

– Jenni Oeftger, Shattuck Middle School teacher and UCS liaison



In October, ESPN recognized Neenah High School as one of just 36 schools in the country to make their 2020 ESPN Honor Roll, the annual Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools National Recognition Program.

It was truly a banner year for students in Neenah. In August, Special Olympics North America announced that Neenah High School and Shattuck Middle School in Neenah were selected as nationally recognized National Banner Unified Champion Schools.

The two programs were among just 155 schools in the country recognized for their commitment to inclusion and the Unified Champion Schools program. In order to earn recognition as a Banner School or make the ESPN Honor Roll, a Unified Champion School must meet 10 standards of excellence developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community.

Neenah High School and Shattuck Middle School have gone above and beyond for years now in their dedication to their students and commitment to inclusion and the recognition they received in 2020 is incredibly well deserved. Congratulations!



92 Schools

8 Colleges

807 Students with ID

1,307 Students without ID

96% of youth involved say they feel comfortable carrying on a conversation with an individual with a disability

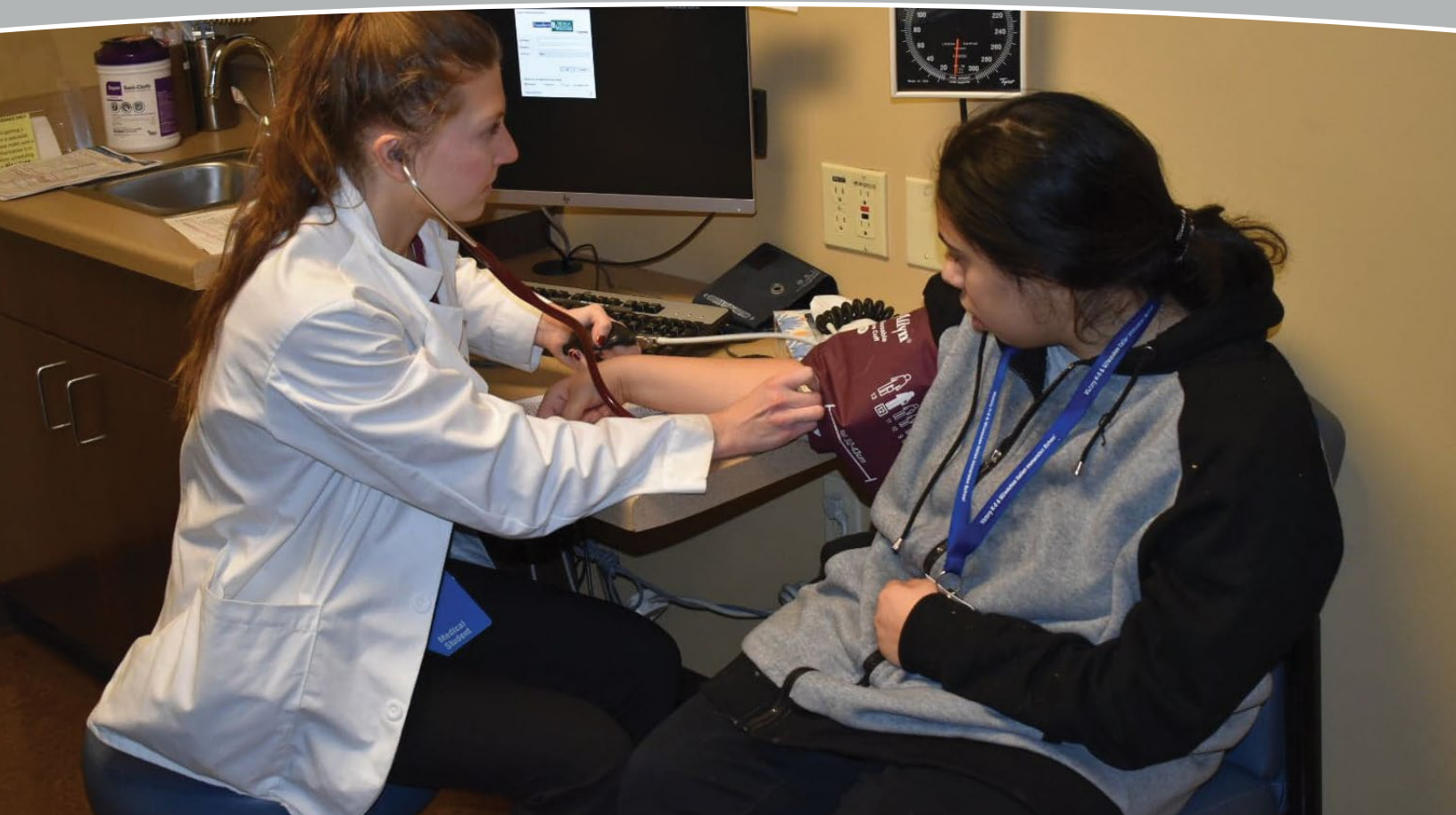
100% of teachers said the UCS program eased the transition from middle to high school by fostering a sense of belonging and building relationships

86% generally regard participation in the program as a positive turning point in their lives

87% learned that standing up for something they believe in is the right thing to do

"Special Olympics has impacted my life by showing me good sportsmanship... that it isn't if you win or lose, it's about trying your hardest and having fun."

– Coach Rick



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

People with ID face significant challenges in accessing quality health care and obtaining opportunities that promote fitness and wellness, resulting in pronounced health disparities and reduced life expectancy. Special Olympics Health, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, and in the United States in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is creating a world where people with intellectual disabilities have every opportunity to be healthy.

In Wisconsin, our Inclusive Health and Wellness programming focuses on:

- Reducing lifestyle-related risk factors for chronic disease to help athletes have optimal health
- Incorporate health education and/or health awareness at events to increase health knowledge of athletes, coaches, and parents/caregivers
- Make appropriate referrals for follow-up to community health professionals

- Train health care professionals and students about the needs of people with ID
- Collect, analyze and disseminate data on the health needs of people with ID
- Train athletes to serve as Athlete Health Leaders to mentor and inspire other athletes to live a healthy lifestyle





2020 Highlight:

Virtual options help keep Jennifer Fuerstenau fit and connected

"She looks forward to doing the Fit 5 exercises and getting onto the chats on Zoom. She is so proud of herself at the end of the week when she sees that she worked out five or six days that week."

– Jennifer's sister, Malinda



The coronavirus pandemic has been incredibly hard for Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes for many reasons.

It deprived them of athletic experiences as well as critical opportunities for social interaction. While nothing can match the energy and excitement of an in-person Special Olympics event, our staff and volunteers were hard at work in 2020 trying to keep athletes connected and healthy through virtual programming.

One athlete who fully embraced our virtual options was Jennifer Fuerstenau of Dodge County Special Olympics. Like many of us, she started the pandemic in a funk. She was home from work and not doing much besides watching TV and playing on her phone. However, in part thanks to our virtual programming, she would go on to thrive during the summer and fall.

Fuerstenau stayed busy, active and connected to Special Olympics by participating in Fit 5 workouts, interactive SOWI Live meetings on Zoom, School of Strength workouts, and weekly Anytime Fitness



8 Healthy Athletes disciplines

203 total athletes screened

37 Athlete Health Leaders

76 volunteers donating **471** hours

38 virtual health programs offered during the pandemic



"I have met so many new friends at Special Olympics."

– Janessa Cisewski

workouts live on Facebook. "It gave me something to work on," Fuerstenau said.

In addition to keeping her connected, the virtual classes helped her lose weight and get in shape to try new activities like kayaking. Taking fitness seriously paid off in other ways too. Fuerstenau won two of our fitness challenges during the year and she was recognized during the Virtual Celebration Ceremony for her commitment to fitness!



YOUNG ATHLETES

Future champions. Young Athletes is a sport and play program for children ages 2-10 with and without intellectual disabilities. This fun and inclusive program offers families, teachers, caregivers, and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with all children and abilities. The program gives children with and without intellectual disabilities the chance to play together and, more importantly, learn about one another. Additional benefits include improved motor skills, increased acceptance and understanding of others, and social, emotional and learning skills.

91% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that participation in Young Athletes made them more hopeful about their child's future

184 participants*

7 active Young Athlete sites (before the pandemic)*

19 virtual activities during the pandemic

After 2 months of participation in Special Olympics Young Athletes, children with intellectual disabilities experienced a **7-month gain in motor skills**

*Numbers significantly reduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

2020 Highlight:

Virtual Young Athletes helps the Zwicke family navigate the pandemic

"This was a regular activity that we looked forward to each week where we were able to have fun as a family, exercise and not think about the pandemic."

– Tami Zwicke, Cody's mom

In the summer, our Young Athletes program went virtual so that we could continue to meet the needs of our Young Athletes and their families during the pandemic. The classes were held weekly and they covered athletic skills like kicking, throwing or catching.



One of the families who participated consistently was the Zwicke family from Milwaukee. Even though he wasn't able to participate in person with his friends, he was still able to see them virtually through our practices and he and his family had a blast participating during the pandemic. Cody and other participating Young Athletes even received kits in the mail with gear to help them do the activities at home!



UNIFIED LEADERSHIP

Driving change through leadership. Special Olympics is shaping a new understanding of leadership, inspired by our athletes and youth partners, and unleashing leadership potential in people of all abilities. Unified Leadership teaches leaders of all abilities to value and learn from each other, and create environments where people with ID succeed in meaningful roles.

Through our Unified Leadership program, athletes can become spokespersons, coaches, trainers, health mentors, members of the Athlete Input Council. They also have the ability to create their own leadership positions in their community. Through our Youth Activation Committee, students with and without intellectual disabilities promote school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with ID.

174 athlete leaders

36 youth leaders

4 leadership events

2 athletes serving on the Board of Directors

3 athletes serving on national/international committees



2020 Highlight:

Special Olympics Wisconsin Unified Leaders Champion Inclusion on Capitol Hill



“The lawmakers really listened to my story and my message about how Special Olympics is very important to me and the rest of Wisconsin.” – athlete Danny Cox

The Unified Leadership team of athlete Danny Cox of Eau Claire, President & CEO Kathleen Roach, Director of Unified Programs Erin Muehlenkamp, coach Deborah Moore-Gruenloh, and Unified Partners Tomer Korabelnikov and Cecilia Rosborough of UW-Madison traveled to Washington D.C. in February for Special Olympics’ 18th annual “Capitol Hill Day.”

They were among 260 delegates representing 46 states and the District of Columbia participating in face-to-face meetings with members of Congress in both the House and Senate, inviting their elected officials to partner with them to support inclusive education and health initiatives for people with intellectual disabilities.

Serving as a self-advocate, Cox educated lawmakers and their staff about the stigma faced by people with ID, and how high-impact and cost-effective Special Olympics programming in sports, health, and education can reduce discrimination. Cox and his fellow Unified Leadership team also requested continued support from legislators for evidence-based programming that benefits all Americans, regardless of ability.



OUR IMPACT



ATHLETES

Athletes are the heart of Special Olympics.

Our athletes are children and adults who have been identified as having an intellectual disability or closely related developmental disability and is age 8 or older. Athletes ages 2-10 may enroll in our Young Athletes program. There is no upper age limit to be a Special Olympics athlete, and in fact, more than 60% of our athletes are age 25 or older.

Our 19 sports are seasonal - some are winter sports and some are summer sports. So whatever the age or skill level, Special Olympics Wisconsin offers something for everyone. Many athletes start in one sport, then go on to try others. There is no cost to the athlete to join Special Olympics Wisconsin.

Through sports, our athletes see themselves for their abilities, not disabilities. Their world is opened with acceptance and understanding. They become confident and empowered by their accomplishments. They can become mentors for other athletes. They can train to become coaches

and officials. They can also move toward a more public role as a speaker or spokesperson about the positive changes that Special Olympics helped bring about in their lives. At Special Olympics Wisconsin, our athletes are empowered to share their many gifts and talents with society.

Special Olympics Athlete Oath

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



2020 Highlight:

Return to Play makes for a special reunion for two athletes

"It was just thrilling when they saw each other for the first time. The smiles started and never ended. That's how awesome Special Olympics is. It's just like one big family."
 – Jacob's mom, Anne Zydowsky



Athletes and Unified Partners were thrilled to compete in Special Olympics Wisconsin's first sports tournament in six months when they participated in the Southern State Golf Tournament in September at Kestrel Ridge Golf Course in Columbus.

But for Jacob Zydowsky of Silver Lake Special Olympics and David Hagens of the West Madison Area Special Olympics, the event held extra special meaning.

The best friends and longtime friendly rivals had been looking forward to this moment for quite a while. Although they had been able to talk by telephone during the pandemic, this was their first time being able to see each other in person.

While Zydowsky earned the gold this time around and Hagens took silver, that was far from their only concern. Over the years, a special bond that transcends competition blossomed out of their friendly rivalry.

"I had a fun time playing with Dave. We're like a family together," Jacob Zydowsky said.

Like most athletes, Hagens and Zydowsky struggled at times with the restrictions put in place during the pandemic. Hagens wasn't even able to come

8,447 Incredible athletes breaking down barriers and bringing home hardware

184 Young Athletes

Gender

M	61%
F	39%

Age Range

1-12	3%
13-18	15%
19-24	17%
25-55	53%
56+	11%



33 Average age of an athlete

Ethnic Background

White Non-Hispanic	70%
Native American/Aleutian	1%
African-American	5%
Asian/Pacific	1%
Hispanic	2%
Not Specified	19%
Multi-racial	2%

23.2% of athletes are employed

Longevity in Special Olympics

1-5 years	30%
5-10 years	18%
10-15 years	14%
More than 15 years	39%

over to the Zydowsky home for fun dinners like he was accustomed to. Social distancing during the pandemic sometimes meant social isolation for athletes.

That's why after six months without Special Olympics, both athletes were just happy to be out on a golf course with their best friend.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics movement. They are coaches, trainers, officials, event organizers, fundraisers and managers. They can also be Unified partners—playing alongside athletes with intellectual disabilities—or fans cheering in the stands.

Special Olympics Volunteer Oath

"I promise to give of the time in my life so that Special Olympics athletes can have the time of their lives. I promise to support Special Olympics, not just as an expression of charity, but as a form of respect for my fellow human beings. I promise to spread the word of volunteerism because, in giving, I receive so much more in return."

2020 Highlight:

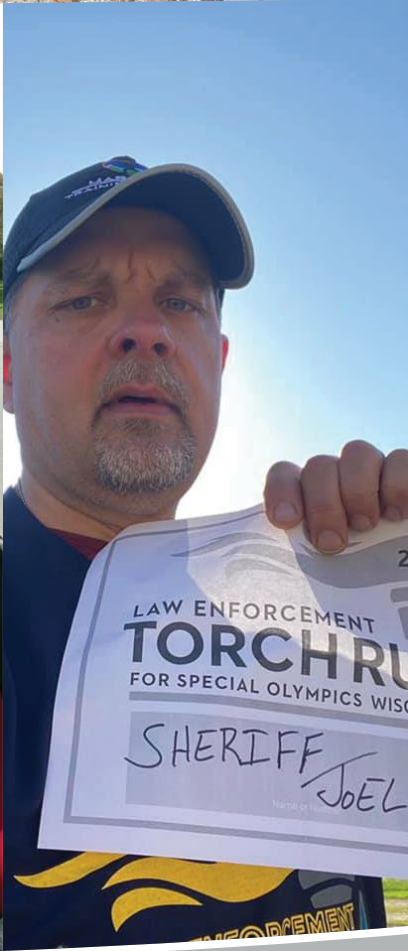
Amy Eicksteadt, Stephanie McDonald and Rachel Riedel of St. Coletta of Wisconsin were just three of the many volunteers who went above and beyond during the pandemic to support our athletes. But boy did they go the extra mile to make sure athletes had ample opportunities to reduce their social isolation or pandemic-related anxiety.



721 day-of volunteers
4,677 long-term volunteers
5,398 total volunteers sharing their time and talents
1,650 of all volunteers are youth



Their contributions were as varied as assisting St. Coletta athlete Dan Brand as he served as Marshal of the Truck Convoy, helping 45 athletes participate in the bowling league in the fall, and supporting aspiring athlete leaders in leadership opportunities like our Athlete Health Messenger or Athlete Health Research Advocate workshops. In a multitude of ways, this trio was instrumental in keeping the St. Coletta athletes healthy, engaged and supported through this difficult year.



OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Plenty to smile about during the 2020 Polar Plunge

2020 was a Plunge season to remember. Here are just a few of the highlights:



Cole Cleworth helps kick off new Rapids location with a splash

Plungers enjoyed the beautiful new location of the Wisconsin Rapids Plunge, which moved to the scenic Ridges Golf Course.

Perhaps no one enjoyed it as much as athlete and longtime plunger, Cole Cleworth. Always a fundraising dynamo, Cleworth outdid himself in 2020 by raising more than \$9,500!

Milton High brings home the trophy

Milton High School was among the first schools to take home one of our new Cool Schools trophies awarded to top fundraising schools when their team raised more than \$11,000 at the Whitewater Plunge!

Detective Fischer helps the Muskego Plunge join him in retirement

Fans in Muskego celebrated the 20th anniversary and conclusion of the Muskego Plunge. After 20 incredible years, the location is now retired.

On that note, retired New Berlin PD detective John Fischer, who plunged every year of the Muskego Plunge, marked the end of an era and his own retirement from plunging by going out in style.

Team Sawyer launches Kenosha to new heights

With a final tally of \$72,000, the Kenosha Polar Plunge had a banner year in 2020. This is a whopping 41% increase over the 2019 Plunge revenue.



This giant leap was spearheaded by Kenosha's dedicated teams like Team Sawyer. The perennial powerhouse reached new heights this year by raising almost \$15,000! To top it off, the toga-clad crew won best team costume!

Greendale Middle School's Principal spends the night on the roof

Greendale Middle School Principal John Weiss made a splash with the Milwaukee-area media before he even took the Plunge. After his students reached their fundraising goal of \$3,000 for the Milwaukee Zoo Plunge, he spent the night on the roof and then ran the 10 miles to the Plunge the next morning!

Adam Domino celebrates 20 years of the Plunge

Everest Area Special Olympics athlete Adam Domino cemented his status as "Wausau Plunge Royalty" when he plunged in his 20th consecutive Plunge! Congratulations, Adam!

Community First Credit Union puts athletes first

In addition to serving as Presenting Partner for both the Oshkosh and Green Bay Polar Plunges, the incredible crew at Community First Credit Union also raised more than \$25,000 in 2020 — exceeding their goal by more than \$10,000!



We can't wait to see what happens when we can be back together in person for the Polar Plunge in 2022!



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known honorably as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the “Flame of Hope” into the Opening Ceremony of local, state, national and world Games. Annually, more than 110,000 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members carry the “Flame of Hope,” symbolizing courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the globe.



The LETR engages law enforcement worldwide championing acceptance and inclusion for people with ID, starting first in their own communities. In Wisconsin, LETR partners with Special Olympics WI

to host well-known fundraising events including the Polar Plunge®, Run with the Cops, Truck Convoy®, Nine at Night golf outing and Tip-A-Cops.

2020 Highlight:

The LETR helps our athletes stay positive during the pandemic

For the athletes of Special Olympics Wisconsin, one of the most difficult parts of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic was not being able to see their good friends with the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Since in-person events were hard to come by during the pandemic, the officers of the LETR got creative in finding ways to stay connected with athletes. One of the ways they did that was by creating a video with heartfelt messages and words of encouragement that was released in May during National Police Week.

This uplifting video helped our athletes stay positive and upbeat during the pandemic, a stressful and scary time for everyone. The athletes are always incredibly grateful for the support of the LETR and they were so happy to know that the LETR was in their corner through the difficult year.



Corporate and Community Partners

MISSION PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS

\$100,000 +



GOLD MEDAL PARTNERS

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Walgreens Trusted since 1901™

SILVER MEDAL PARTNERS

\$25,000 - \$49,999

ADAMM Charitable Foundation Inc.
Community First Credit Union
Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation Inc.
Green Bay Packers Give Back

BRONZE MEDAL PARTNERS

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
Mega Charities
MP Systems Inc.
Network for Good
Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association

COACH PARTNERS

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Anonymous (2)
Aurora Health Care
Brat Fest, Inc./Metcalf's Market
Catholic Financial Life
Daniel and Julie Hartung Charitable Foundation Inc.
Department of Corrections
Dudley Foundation Inc.
E C Styberg Foundation
EH Wolf & Sons
Enterprise Holdings
Francie Luke Silverman Foundation
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Ho-Chunk Nation
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Walter Alexander Foundation
Waupun Truck-N-Show
We Energies Foundation
West Bend Community Foundation
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Wisconsin Independent Network LLC
Wisconsin Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.
Wisconsin State Council Knights Of Columbus

FRIENDS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS WISCONSIN

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Badger Crew MC
Burlington Area Schools
Conney Safety Products
Fraternal Order of Eagles
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Haferman Bar Management
Inpro Corporation
Iron Order Motorcycle Club
James P. Bigley Foundation Inc.
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Knights of Columbus Council #4240



Corporate and Community Partners

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 Neillsville Rotary Club
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 Paddock Lake Area Lions Club
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 Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter Inc.
 Saint Mary's Lutheran Church
 Sonnentag Foundation
 Bob's Discount Furniture
 SPI Lighting Inc.
 State Collection Service, Inc.
 Toyota Dealer Match Program
 TTI Inc.
 WEL Companies Inc.
 Winter Miracle Splash
 Wisconsin Association of Adult Family Home
 Coordinators
 Wisconsin Motor Carriers Foundation

OTHER PARTNERS

Ameriprise Financial
 BMO Harris Bank
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 Greater Milwaukee Foundation
 JP Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
 National Philanthropic Trust
 Northern Trust Company
 Robert W Baird Co Foundation Inc.
 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund
 The Blackbaud Giving Fund
 United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
 YourCause, LLC

IN-KIND DONORS

Battle on Bago Foundation
 Beaty, Mary
 Binner Pools, Spas & Fireplaces
 Brat Stop Inc.
 City of Whitewater

Cornerstone Processing Solutions Inc.
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"All the athletes who have been and are in our agency are truly amazing people and athletes. They all have found strength, courage, joy, enthusiasm and most of all inclusion! I have learned many life lessons from these athletes, who are all my friends, most importantly, no matter who you are, we are all people first."

– Kristy Bridenhagen



2020 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2020 and 2019

ASSETS

	2020	2019
<i>Current assets:</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,960,159	\$ 2,943,947
Certificates of deposit, current portion	415,781	200,252
Contributions receivable	272,348	740,658
Prepaid expenses	99,470	140,412
Total current assets	4,747,758	4,025,269
<i>Other assets:</i>		
Investments	1,524,662	1,535,542
Certificates of deposits	859,078	948,290
Contributions receivable	1,680	28,920
Total other assets	2,385,420	2,512,752
Property and equipment, net	8,105	11,080
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,141,283	\$ 6,549,101

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<i>Current liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	\$48,002	\$ 116,426
Grant funds received in advance	42,666	97,415
Other liabilities	23,543	34,038
Accrued payroll and related	71,874	113,856
Total current liabilities	186,085	361,735
Long-term liabilities: Loan payable	150,000	0
Total liabilities	336,085	361,735
<i>Net assets:</i>		
Without donor restriction:		
Undesignated	5,651,005	3,082,940
Board designated	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total without donor restriction	6,651,005	4,082,940
With donor restriction	154,193	2,104,426
Total net assets	6,805,198	6,187,366
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$7,141,283	\$ 6,549,101



Statement of Activities

December 31, 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
<i>Changes in net assets without donor restriction:</i>		
Public support and revenue:		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$537,346	\$ 908,698
Fundraising	3,187,014	4,164,328
In-kind	663,469	2,202,846
Total public support	4,387,829	7,275,872
Revenue:		
Registration fees	8,835	70,139
Investment income (loss)	176,388	261,468
Other	430,466	42,852
Total revenue	615,689	374,459
Net assets released from restriction	2,015,063	47,836
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTION	7,018,581	7,698,167
<i>Expenses:</i>		
Program activities:		
Public education	471,185	524,693
Training	1,106,596	2,538,124
Games and competition	614,233	1,140,979
Outreach	563,407	692,797
Agency	190,392	606,438
Total program services	2,945,813	5,503,031
Support services:		
Administration and management	436,219	486,193
Fund-raising	1,068,484	1,336,327
Total support services	1,504,703	1,822,520
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,450,516	7,325,551
Changes in net assets without donor restriction	2,568,065	372,616
Contributions	64,830	2,065,861
Net assets released from restriction	(2,015,063)	(47,836)
Changes in assets with donor restriction	(1,950,233)	2,018,025
Changes in net assets	617,832	2,390,641
Net assets - Beginning of year	6,187,366	3,796,725
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$6,805,198	\$ 6,187,366



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(800) 552-1324

Region 4 & 5

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Appleton, WI 54915
(920) 659-5911

Region 6

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(608) 222-1324

Region 7 & 8

10224 N. Port Washington
Mequon, WI 53092
(262) 241-7786

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Director of Development, Special Events

Vickie Eiden
Grant Manager

Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Region 7
Director of Development, Special Events

Sarah Graper, Region 4 & 5
Director of Development, Special Events

Allison Grosenick
Coordinator, Sports and Fund
Development

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Mai Xiong, Region 3
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Tommy Jaime
Director of Communications

Lindsay Meyer
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Jennifer Wagner
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Local Programs

REGION 2

Antigo Unified Schools 2-01
Wausau Metro Adult SO 2-03
Rhineland Area Special Olympics 2-05
Mosinee Schools 2-09
Northern Access SO 2-11
Neillsville SO 2-12
South Wood County 2-13
Stevens Point Public Schools 2-14
Marshfield Area SO 2-17
Golden Eagles SO 2-20
Merrill Schools Special Olympics 2-21
Tomahawk Schools SO 2-22
Merrill Adult Special Olympics 2-24
Stevens Point Area YMCA 2-25
Everest Area SO 2-28
School District of Rhineland SO 2-29
Lakeland Area SO 2-30
Mosinee Adult SO 2-32
Spencer SO 2-39
Colby SO 2-43
Wisconsin Rapids Special Sports SO 2-44
Wausau Area Youth SO 2-50

REGION 3

Eau Claire Adult 3-06
Northern Lights SO 3-08
Chippewa County Adults SO 3-09
Chippewa Falls Schools S.O. 3-10
Burnett County Adult Special Olympics 3-11
Chequamegon Bay Area Athletes SO 3-12
River Valley Special Olympics 3-15
Thorp Adult Special Olympics 3-18
Trempealeau Co Hlth CC SO 3-19
Ventures Athletics SO 3-20
Ellsworth Area SO 3-21
Menomonie Red Cedar SO 3-25
Eau Claire Rascals 3-26
Barron County SO 3-30
Spooner Special Olympics 3-31
Eau Claire Champions 3-33
Hayward SO 3-34
Polk County SO 3-36

B.T.I.A.W. 3-37
Challenge Center Inc 3-41
Eau Claire Flying All Stars 3-43

REGION 4

Oshkosh Special Olympics 4-02
Dodge County Special Olympics 4-04
Neenah Schools 4-06
Valley Packaging Industries 4-07
Green Lake County SO 4-08
Brillion SO 4-10
The Arc Fond du Lac 4-12
Champions of Fond du Lac 4-14
Waupaca Area SO 4-15
Winnro Action 4-16
Kaukauna Area Schools 4-18
Wausara County SO 4-19
Chilton Schools/CESA 7 4-20
SOAR Fox Cities 4-25
Oshkosh Schools SO 4-27
Neenah Alumni 4-29

REGION 5

Shawano All Stars 5-01
Sheboygan County Super Eights 5-02
Syble Hopp School 5-03
Door County SO 5-04
Camp Daniel 5-06
Sheboygan Adult Program 5-07
Oconto Special Olympics 5-09
Packerland Jets 5-10
Hopp Alumni SO 5-12
Manitowoc Co Miracles 5-14
Green Bay Metros 5-15
Kewaunee County SO 5-16
Shawano County Youth Special Olympics 5-17
The Able Church SO 5-19
Cerebral Palsy Center SO 5-20
Western Shawano Cty 5-21
Green Bay Area Youth Program 5-22
Oaks Family Care Center 5-23
Marinette County SO 5-25
Bay Navigators 5-26



REGION 6

Sauk Prairie SO 6-01
Prairie du Chien Area SO 6-02
Belmont Braves SO 6-03
Baraboo Special Olympics 6-04
Oregon Area SO 6-05
Silver Lake Special Olympics 6-06
DeForest SO 6-07
Reedsburg Area Schools SO 6-09
West Madison Area SO 6-12
Verona Area Special Olympics 6-14
Green County 6-15
Waunakee SO 6-16
Cuba City SO 6-18
Platteville Schools 6-19
Middleton Area SO 6-20
Richland County 6-25
Tomah SO 6-26
Holmen Schools 6-29
Sun Prairie Schools 6-33
Sparta Special Olympics 6-34
YMCA of Dane County 6-35
La Crosse Parks & Rec 6-36
Viroqua Area Special Olympics 6-40
Columbus Area SO 6-44
Lancaster 6-47
Stoughton SO 6-50
Iowa County Special Olympics 6-51
Sauk County SO 6-52
Brookwood Special Olympics 6-53
Mt. Horeb Vikings A-Team SO 6-58
Monona Grove Special Olympics 6-60
Sugar River Special Olympics 6-62

REGION 7

Wisconsin School for the Deaf 7-01
Janesville Area Special Olympics 7-02
Saint Coletta Adult 7-04
Lakeland School SO 7-05
Greater Beloit 7-06
Western Kenosha Co SO 7-07
Walworth Co Adult Pgm 7-08
Watertown Special Olympics 7-09
Kenosha Special Olympics 7-11
Productive Living Systems 7-14
Racine Special Olympics 7-15
Western Racine County 7-19

Shepherds 7-20
Fort Atkinson Area 7-21
Racine Unified School District SO 7-22

REGION 8

Waukesha A's 8-01
North Suburban 8-02
Greendale Special Olympics 8-03
South Milwaukee Special Olympics 8-04
Wauwatosa SO 8-05
Fairview South School 8-07
Pewaukee 8-08
YMCA at Pabst Farms 8-10
Milwaukee Public Schools 8-11
West Allis SO 8-14
St Francis Special Olympics 8-15
Team Elmbrook 8-17
Arrowhead 8-19
Greenfield SO 8-22
Prader Willi Homes of Oconomowoc 8-24
Greenfield/Franklin Colts 8-25
Greenfield Jr Hawks SO 8-26
Spring City-Waukesha 8-27
Ozaukee County 8-28
Hartford Parks & Rec Dept 8-31
School Dist of Waukesha 8-32
West Bend Recreation 8-33
New Berlin SO 8-34
Genesee Lake School 8-35
Team Franklin 8-37
Mukwonago Area Special Olympics 8-40
Team Milwaukee 8-42
Bi-County Spec Olympics 8-44
Shorewood SO 8-46

"It has made me a more disciplined person.

*It also has taught me that being part of a
team is better than trying to do it on my own.*

*I have made new friends and learned that
winning isn't everything, team work is more
important. Doing your best is what matters."*

– Brett Peterson



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We are better together. By playing and leading together, we are creating an inclusive and welcoming world for all. Join the #InclusionRevolution and become part of a powerful movement that celebrates ALL abilities!



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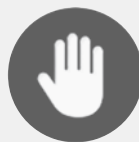
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