



# 2021 Annual Report

**Special  
Olympics**  
Wisconsin



# Our Mission



The mission of Special Olympics is to provide **year-round sports training** and athletic competition in a variety of **Olympic-type** sports for **children and adults** with **intellectual disabilities**.

This gives 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.



# Our Vision



Sport will **open hearts and minds** towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities across Wisconsin. Globally, we will strive to **end discrimination against people with ID.**



# Our Work

Special Olympics Wisconsin is the authority of inclusion.



**Leveling the  
Field through  
Sport**

**Creating  
Leaders Across  
all Spectrums**

**Delivering Life-  
Changing  
Healthcare**

**Unifying  
Generations in  
Schools**



# Leveling the Field through Sport



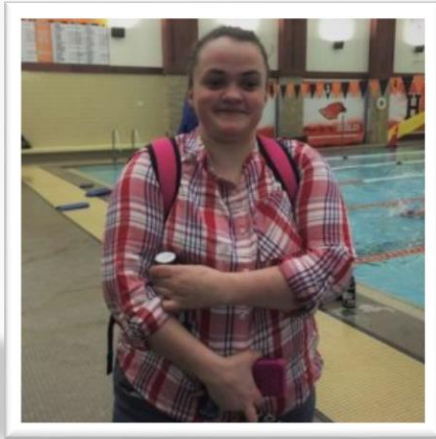
*Inspiring athletes to compete at the highest level while serving as society's great equalizer for those of all abilities.*

- Year-round sports training and athletic competition
- 19 Olympic-type sports for individuals with ID, of any age and skill level
- Athletes train, compete locally and advance to higher levels of competition
- 1,707 dedicated coaches
- 40 competitions
- Unified sports opportunities
- USA Games
- World Games
- ESPN X Games





# Leveling the Field through Sport



*“By joining SOWI people can show their communities, states, our country, and the entire world that people with intellectual disabilities are equal humans.”*

- Sara Byrd, 200m Gold Medalist



# Statewide Sports Competitions



## **Winter Sports Season**

### Winter Games

February

Wausau

Sports:

- Alpine Skiing
- Cross-country Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoe Racing

## **Indoor Sports Season**

### State Basketball Skills

March

Neenah

### Indoor Sports Tournament

April

Oshkosh

Sports:

- Team Basketball

## **Summer Sports Season**

### Summer Games

June

Stevens Point

Sports:

- Athletics (Track & Field)
- Soccer
- Swimming

## **Outdoor Sports Season**

### State Golf

July

Green Bay & Columbus

### Outdoor Sports Tournament

August

Waukesha

Sports:

- Bocce
- Softball
- Tennis

## **Fall Sports Season**

### State Flag Football

October

Neenah

### State Volleyball

November

Menomonee Falls

### State Bowling

November

Southern/Northern

# Delivering Life-Changing Healthcare



Special Olympics is the **world's largest public health organization** for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID).



Healthy Athletes is changing the way health systems interact with individuals with intellectual disabilities.



SOWI is providing a transformative resource for physicians and health systems to serve as an advocate for inclusive health.



# Healthy Athletes<sup>®</sup> Disciplines



Special Olympics Wisconsin provides FREE health screenings in 8 different disciplines.



Fit Feet  
(Podiatry)



Fun Fitness  
(Physical  
Therapy)



Health Promotion  
(Health and  
Wellness)



Healthy  
Hearing  
(Audiology)



MedFest  
(Sports  
Physicals)



Opening  
Eyes (Vision)



Special  
Smiles  
(Dental)

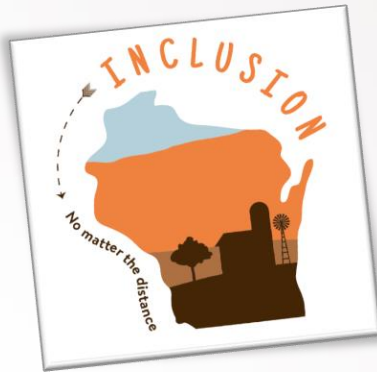


Strong Minds  
(Emotional Well-being)

# Unifying Generations in Schools



The Unified Champion Schools® Program is creating a Unified Generation who are leading the charge to re-imagine and create communities in which all people are included and accepted.



By taking it out of the classroom and on to the playing field, Unified Sports is an essential part of successfully creating inclusive school communities where everyone is accepted and valued.

*“Through sport, recreation, and youth leadership, my students have grown immensely as young advocates and I am confident the future is brighter because they have chosen to Live Unified.” – Jahlieh Gardipee*

Special Education teacher at Columbus High School



# Unifying Generations in Schools



*Empowering youth and educators to be leaders through sport and education developing an inclusive, future generation.*

- UCS activities are grouped into 3 components:
  - Inclusive Sports
  - Youth Leadership and Advocacy
  - Whole School Engagement
- Statewide Youth Activation Council
- 73 Unified Champion Schools in WI
- 8 Colleges
- 1,400 Unified Partners (students without ID)



# Creating Leaders Across All Spectrums



## Athlete Leadership

Through organized training and practical experiences, Athlete Leadership helps prepare athletes to undertake meaningful positions of influence and leadership throughout the Special Olympics organization, both on and off the playing field.



## Unified Leadership

A holistic approach that focuses on leaders with and without ID, developing a mindset and skills to create the best possible environment for people to succeed in meaningful activities.





# Creating Leaders Across All Spectrums



*Training athletes to serve in meaningful roles to shape the future of the Special Olympics movement and become leaders within the organization as well as in the community.*

- Introduction to Athlete Leadership and Understanding Leadership
- Global Messenger (public speaking)
- Athletes-as-Coaches
- Athlete Health Messenger
- Athletes as Table Officials
- Healthy Relationships
- Government Advocacy
- Governance



# 2021 Impact Report



## 2021 IMPACT REPORT

Special Olympics  
Wisconsin



NOTE: Many 2021 figures well below average due to COVID-19 pandemic



### ATHLETES & YOUNG ATHLETES

**7,541** Incredible athletes breaking down barriers and bringing home hardware

#### Age Range

1-12	3%
13-18	17%
19-24	22%
25-55	52%
56+	5%
Other/Unidentified	<1%

**34** Average age of an athlete

**19%** of athletes designated an employer

#### Gender

Male	61%
Female	39%
Other/Unidentified	<1%

#### Ethnic Background

White Non-Hispanic	62%
Native American/Aleutian	1%
African-American	15%
Asian/Pacific	2%
Hispanic	3%
Multi-racial	3%
Not Specified	15%

**149** Young Athletes

**8** Active Young Athletes sites

**19** Virtual activities during/after the pandemic

**7**-Month gain in motor skills after 2 months of participation in S.O. Young Athletes

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



### SPORTS & UNIFIED SPORTS

**19** Sports

**40** Total competitions

**155** Delegations (local programs)

**7,541** Athletes

**1,610** Unified Partners

**4** Unified experiences

**1,707** Coaches

**14** Virtual activities during/after the pandemic

**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

**\$0** To participate



### ATHLETE LEADERS

**200** Athlete Leaders

**42** Youth leaders

**5** Leadership events

**2** Athletes serving on the Board of Directors

**3** Athletes serving on national/international committees

**2** Athletes hired as permanent SOWI staff



### UNIFIED SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

**73** Schools

**8** Colleges

**807** Students with ID

**1,400** 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 & 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



### HEALTH & WELLNESS

**8** Healthy Athletes disciplines

**304** Total athletes screened

**37** Athlete Health Leaders

**112** Healthy Athletes volunteers

**838** Hours donated

**38** Virtual health programs offered during the pandemic



### VOLUNTEERS

**706** Day-of volunteers

**4,062** Long-term volunteers

**4,768** Total volunteers sharing their time and talents

**1,532** of all volunteers are youth



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**Cash** \$5,124,161

**In-Kind** \$373,606

**Total** \$5,497,767

*"Special Olympics has impacted my life by letting me participate in all the events. Special Olympics is great for all people with disabilities to compete in."*

— Ben Burow

# 2021 Financial Statement



## Special Olympics Wisconsin, Inc.

### Statements of Activities

Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Changes in net assets without donor restrictions:		
Public support and revenue:		
Public support:		
Contributions	\$ 1,605,490	\$ 893,846
Fund-raising	3,052,878	3,187,014
In-kind	373,606	663,469
Total public support	5,031,974	4,744,329
Revenue:		
Registration fees	10,338	8,835
Investment income	391,969	176,388
Other	56,236	73,966
Total revenue	458,543	259,189
Net assets released from restrictions	7,250	2,015,063
Total public support and revenue without donor restrictions	5,497,767	7,018,581
Expenses:		
Program activities:		
Public education	306,645	471,185
Training	499,496	1,106,596
Games and competition	1,056,833	614,233
Outreach	648,974	563,407
Agency	187,133	190,392
Total program services	2,699,081	2,945,813
Support services:		
Administration and management	442,871	436,219
Fund-raising	1,168,065	1,068,484
Total support services	1,610,936	1,504,703
Total expenses	4,310,017	4,450,516
Changes in net assets without donor restrictions	1,187,750	2,568,065
Changes in net assets with donor restrictions:		
Contributions	57,783	64,830
Net assets released from restrictions	( 7,250)	( 2,015,063)
Changes in net assets with donor restrictions	50,533	( 1,950,233)
Changes in net assets	1,238,283	617,832
Net assets - Beginning of year	6,805,198	6,187,366
Net assets - End of year	\$ 8,043,481	\$ 6,805,198

# Contact Information



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## SOWI Statewide Offices

Appleton

Brookfield

Madison

Stevens Point

## Follow Us!

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*"I'm very happy to accomplish all the things I want to do in life. As a Global Messenger, I want to tell the athletes "you have a voice and you can use that voice to be heard."*

- Athlete and Global Messenger, Zachary Reetz



"Let me win, but if I  
cannot win, let me be  
brave in the attempt."

- Athlete Oath

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*Wisconsin*

