

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Cover Art by
Special Olympics athlete
Smith Weber Sandager

Special Olympics
New Mexico



Annual Report 2020

Who We Are

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, 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.

Special Olympics New Mexico continually strives to build inclusive communities, transform lives through sport, and improve the quality of life of our athletes.

Core Values

Unquestionable Integrity

Unwavering Excellence

Unbelievable Fun

Undeniable Respect

Unlimited Family

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Through the power and joy of sport, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are at the heart of all that we do at Special Olympics New Mexico, as 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, equity, and inclusion creates a stronger and more innovative organization that delivers better results as we work with our athletes in all communities.

Letter from our Executive Director



In 2020 many things felt out of our control, so Special Olympics New Mexico focused what we could control within our organization instead. Our challenge was to stay mission driven and athlete focused during a pandemic. The pandemic left many of our athletes feeling fearful, bored, and lonely. Without in-person training, Games, or events, it became apparent that Special Olympics athletes were facing the serious consequences of deteriorating health, lack of personal achievement, and social isolation. Using a digital platform, Special Olympics New Mexico was able to pivot by offering Virtual Games, Fitness Challenges, and Health and Wellness programs. Hundreds of our athletes remained engaged virtually through bingo nights, craft nights, and even a Zoom Halloween Dance. Over time, the pandemic not only challenged

our way of thinking but broadened our way of doing.

As weeks rolled into months of sheltering in place, the Special Olympics spirit found ways to shine in 2020. The Law Enforcement Torch Run “Flame of Hope” burned brightly in the hearts of New Mexico’s Law Enforcement officers early in the pandemic. Although there was no traditional State Summer Games, Opening Ceremonies, or lighting of the Special Olympics cauldron, more than 300 officers raised dollars and awareness on behalf of our athletes and families during the 2020 Virtual State Relay Run. New Mexico’s “Guardians of the Flame” raised \$136,000 on our behalf in 2020. The perseverance of our torch runners brought hope for the day Special Olympics athletes would return to play and our Games would go on.

In September 2020, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Inc. added a mandate to the Special Olympics General Rules requiring each Special Olympics Program in the United States to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policy. The Special Olympics New Mexico Board of Directors responded by embracing the broad definition of diversity, committing to eliminating barriers that prevent participation, and seeing every human being as a gift to be valued. I am proud to share that Special Olympics New Mexico now has an official DEI Statement and hiring policy. We will continue to invest time and resources as a sports organization whose culture is and always has been recognized as a culture of inclusion.

In closing, during the very different and often difficult pandemic year, all of us found strength and endurance by connecting with Special Olympics athletes. Special Olympics athletes have a way of leading by example, and we witnessed how capable they were when facing adversity: no anger, no agenda, and no blame. By continuing to share the best of themselves through a very challenging time, Special Olympics athletes brought out the best in us. Special Olympics New Mexico stayed committed to the mission by creating meaningful opportunities for our athletes. We can’t wait to be with each of them again.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy L. Mascorella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Mascorella

Program: Sports and Competition

By the numbers: In 2020, **1,408** Special Olympics athletes participated in Special Olympics New Mexico sports programming.



2020 Statewide Competitions

State Poly Hockey Championships, January–February

Virtual Summer Games, May–July

Fall Sports Virtual Games, August–October

Virtual Equestrian, September–October

SONA Stride Challenge, October–December



Virtual Sports

The State Poly Hockey Championships were held in Farmington in February 2020, and in March 2020 Special Olympics New Mexico realized the need to pivot to support Special Olympics athletes as they remained at home during the pandemic. The Special Olympics New Mexico Program staff created Virtual Games seasons to mirror the sport seasons that take place in a typical year. Virtual Games seasons took place for 8-10 weeks at a time to allow ample training time. Special Olympics athletes who participated in the Virtual Games trained and competed in sport skills and sport activities from home and submitted their scores to the State Office. Fitness was added as a new sport in 2020 to support Special Olympics athletes in training their overall strength, endurance, and health.

After each Virtual Games season ended and final scores were submitted, Virtual Drive-through Awards ceremonies were held across the state. Law Enforcement Torch Run law enforcement officers volunteered their time to distribute awards and medals to each Special Olympics athlete who participated.



Athletics



Basketball



Bocce



Bowling



Equestrian



Fitness



Golf



Poly Hockey



Softball



Volleyball



Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®

2020-2021

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® is a strategy for schools Pre-K through university that intentionally promotes meaningful social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) to create accepting school environments. This 3 component model includes: Special Olympics Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.

When New Mexico schools moved to remote learning in 2020, it allowed us to focus on fitness and the inclusive youth leadership aspect of our program. We sent out resources to teachers and students including backpacks filled with basic sport and fitness equipment, virtual lesson plans, and links to various online content from our partners. Many schools organized virtual “hangouts” where students with and without disabilities could meet up, learn new skills, and interact with one another in a safe way. The virtual meet-ups allowed for clubs to continue social interaction and focus on social and emotional skills.



We utilized virtual platforms including Zoom to host a “Livingroom Olympics” competition that has students complete fitness skills and tasks from home. This opened us up to larger, statewide competitions which is something we hadn’t done before in New Mexico’s Unified Champion Schools. While these competitions were not at the level we normally see with fans in the stands, music, and whole day celebrations, they were a way for students to remain active and continue to improve physical skills.

Despite ongoing challenges, we learned to adapt and serve our students in new, meaningful ways while fostering student leadership as students stepped into roles typically reserved for adult liaisons. We learned more about who our students are as individuals and not only as athletes. The lessons learned will help us to continue to grow the program and create more opportunities for students to lead as we move forward.

“This year was extremely challenging for everyone in the educational field but especially hard for students. I think the Unified Champion Schools program allowed for a tiny bit of normalcy in an otherwise crazy time. The program did not look like it normally does, but I think just being able to see and interact with people in a less structured setting really helped my students and let them know that they were not alone.”

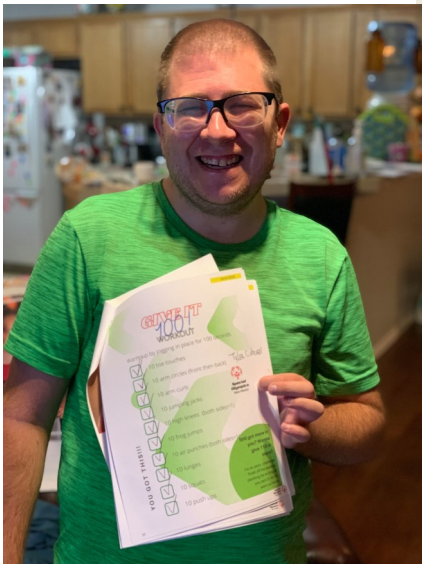
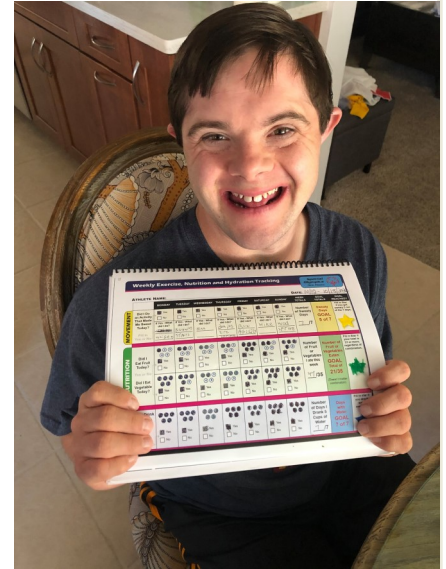
– Ramey Tapia, School Liaison at Sierra Middle School, Roswell, NM

Special Olympics Health

In the beginning of 2020 SONM dedicated a full-time staff member to Health and Wellness, solidifying our commitment to improving the lives of New Mexicans with disabilities. As we navigated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, SONM Health and Wellness implemented several programs to help our athletes stay active, healthy, and connected with our Special Olympics community through virtual health and fitness opportunities.

In the spring of 2020 we created a Health and Wellness Facebook Group to provide athletes with tools to stay active and healthy at home while encouraging them to continue training in the absence of practices and competitions.

We hosted 3 virtual fitness challenges and incorporated fitness activities in our virtual competitions. During the challenges we posted daily activities on our Facebook page creating opportunities for our athletes to connect and encourage each other.



2020 Health & Wellness Highlights

- Health Messengers program established and 2 Special Olympics athletes trained as Health Messengers
- SONM wins the Southwest Border Battle, a virtual health focused challenge and friendly competition with SO Arizona, SO Colorado, and SO Utah
- Health & Wellness Facebook Group created to share weekly health focused activities with more than 300 members and participants.
- 450 Fall Fitness Workbooks distributed, providing 8 weeks of daily activities including exercise information, health education, and weekly activities to keep mind, body, and spirit active.



Special Olympics
Health

MADE POSSIBLE BY **Golisano** FOUNDATION



New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run

The pandemic brought many challenges to the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) fundraising and community policing program in 2020. As we navigated through the health and community guidelines in place, our first priority was for agencies to focus on officer health and safety, and secondly, to remain hopeful in our fundraising efforts to ensure our “Flame of Hope” torch never lost its light for our athletes.

While we eventually had to cancel agency fundraising activities that involved gatherings of more than 10 people, our agencies hosted online Agency Fundraising Campaigns and partnered with local businesses—deemed essential by the state of NM—who could raise funds using our Torch Icon Campaigns. Although the State Summer Games was canceled, we held a modified, virtual LETR State Relay Run, where individual officers from over 40 agencies carried the Flame of Hope torch separately within their communities to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics. Social interaction is key for Special Olympics athletes, and law enforcement officers personally visited Special Olympics athletes across New Mexico to check-in and remind each athlete that they are valued and not forgotten.

We are thankful for our LETR officers, who truly live our LETR Oath: “I will protect, defend, and befriend all those who seek the joy of Special Olympics sport, and I will always be a Guardian of the Flame of Hope.”



2020 NMLETR By the Numbers

68 NMLETR agencies

8 annual agency fundraising activities

\$125,649 total Agency Fundraising Revenue

\$11,000 total Sponsorship Revenue

\$136,649 total funds raised

“Last year was a tough year for everyone, but especially for our athletes. When I told my family the LETR State Relay Run was canceled, a small shockwave went through our home. Seeing the disappointment on the faces of my kiddos got me thinking how disappointed our athletes would be. I am a man of tradition, and the Torch Run wasn’t going to be canceled on my watch! With the help of our community partners, and to the delight of all those that participated, we were able to pull off the first Virtual Statewide Relay Run. The Virtual Relay Run felt like a small victory in a time of so much loss. I am very honored and proud to be part of the Special Olympics family and LETR community.”



-Lt. David Jaramillo (retired), Albuquerque Police Department



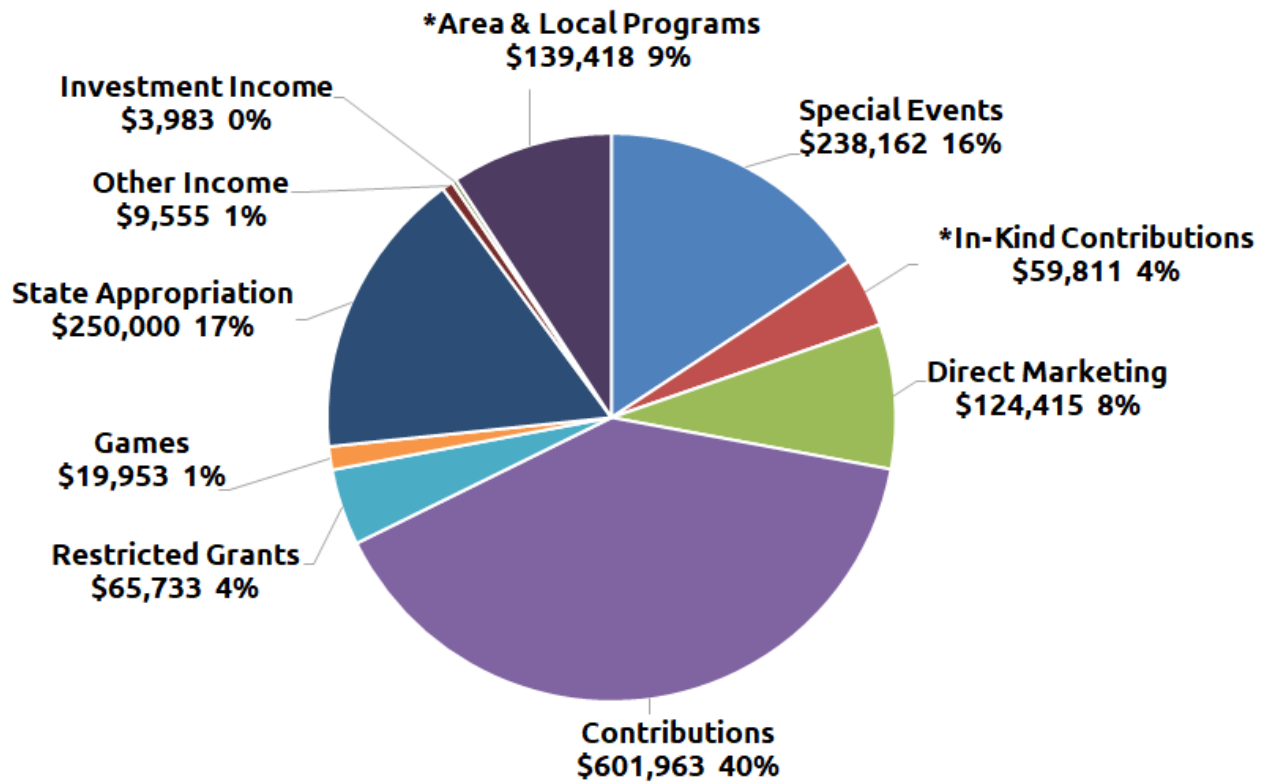
2020 Financials

“Special Olympics New Mexico continued to have good controls and maintain financial stability during a challenging pandemic year. In 2020, program expense was unusual, as face to face training and competition came to an abrupt halt. Our staff, board of directors and key volunteers were creative in continuing our commitment to the athletes and families of Special Olympics New Mexico.”

- Dacia Card, Treasurer, SONM Board of Directors



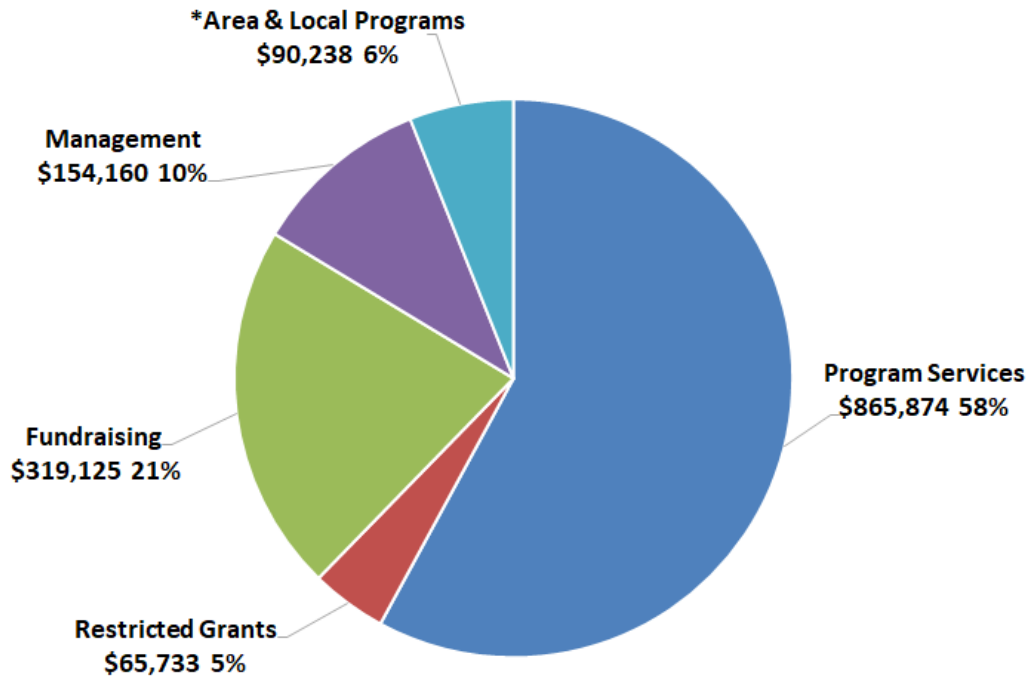
Funding Sources: \$1,512,993



*In-Kind Contributions include donated services and products

*Area & Local Programs include dollars raised by 76 Local and Area Programs

Expenses: \$1,495,130



*76 Area and Local Programs Statewide

Assets

Cash & Cash equivalents	\$1,050,232
Investments	\$919,617
Accounts Receivable	\$226,002
Inventory	\$13,305
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,613
Property & Equipment	\$24,731
Assets held for sale	\$170,000
Total Assets	\$2,409,500

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$7,117
Accrued Liabilities	\$11,389
Deferred Revenue	N/A
Lease Payable	\$4,228
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP Loan)	\$138,289
Capital Lease Obligation (Long Term)	\$15,125
Total Liabilities	\$176,148

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,492,420
Permanently Restricted	\$675,199
With Donor Restrictions	\$65,733
Total Net Assets	\$2,233,352

Sponsors

Hall of Fame Sponsors contributed \$20,000 or more in 2020

NEW MEXICO TRUE



Victory Sponsors contributed \$10,000 or more in 2020



2020 Special Olympics New Mexico Board of Directors

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Dacia Card

Business Manager, Sandia Preparatory School

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VP & Division Manager, Old Republic Title

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Steve Soliz

Anchor, KOB 4 Eyewitness News

Mark Wiggins

Retired Business Owner

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Tom Padilla

Senior VP, HUB International

"The pandemic in 2020 brought unprecedented challenges to our world. SONM rose to the occasion as staff leadership pivoted to serve our community in creative ways. Implementation of fitness challenges and virtual games ensured our athletes remained engaged and active. Board focus on fiscal discipline, community outreach, and diversity protect the mission and move SONM forward. As the pandemic subsides Special Olympics New Mexico is strong and continues to grow our inclusive community. "

-Dub Girand, 2020 Board Chairman

2020 Champions Together Giving Society

The Champions Together Giving Society was created in November of 2014 and is made up of individuals who have invested in the vision of Special Olympics New Mexico by pledging their support over a five-year time period. We are profoundly grateful for the commitment the following donors have shown as we strive to transform lives through sport, build inclusive communities, and improve quality of life for our athletes.

Marc Arellano
Camille Armijo & Kirsten Beach
Cris Beck
Steve & Jolene Benoit
Bret & Consuelo Bolagh-Cowder
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Mark & D'Ette Wiggins
Miguel & Gabby Wiggins
Judith Wilde
Kathie & Peter Winograd
Jerry & Patty With
Joe & Cindi Wittenbrink

2020 State Office Staff

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Executive Director

Brittany Scanlon

Corporate Relations & Events Manager

Chris Page

Director of Sports Competition & Program

Oscar Solis

Director of Operations, Law Enforcement Torch
Run

Jena Waddell

Assistant Sports Director

Barbara McRae

Agency Manager, Law Enforcement Torch Run

Victoria Martinez

Director of School & Community Initiatives

Rebecca Rainsberger

Marketing & Communications Manager

Rebecca Whitlock

Project Coordinator, Unified Champion Schools

Scott Hardy

Information Resources & Office Manager

Christine Hidalgo

Director of Development & Individual Giving

Kumiko Styes

Director of Finance

2020 Area Directors

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Area 1 Director, Farmington

Carolyn Olson

Area 4 Director, Carlsbad

Anna Silva & Cindy Varela

Area 2 Directors, Santa Fe

Jena Waddell

Area 5 Director, Albuquerque

Ronda Norfleet

Area 3 Director, Las Cruces

Janie Lee Hall

Area 6 Director, Gallup

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A decorative red ribbon graphic that starts as a thin line, loops around the word "INC.", and then flows downwards and to the left, ending in a wider, wavy tail.