



Special Olympics
New Mexico



Annual Report 2023

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 for 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



Looking back on 2023, I remain deeply grateful for so many New Mexicans who chose to make a meaningful difference in our organization and in the lives of the 3,200 Special Olympics athletes we serve. The community support reminds me of the scripture that encourages us to “not become weary in doing good.” Motivated and inspired by our athletes – a lot of good happened.

In 2023, New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) public safety officers and first responders showed up in force as the Guardians of our Flame of Hope. Officer Brittany Ingram from the Rio Rancho Police Department joined law enforcement from around the world as part of the Final Leg team who ran with the Flame of Hope Torch throughout Germany and into the Opening

Ceremony of Special Olympics World Games Berlin. Officer Ingram’s experience in Germany added to a statewide depth of commitment from 75 New Mexico law enforcement agencies. In total, LETR public safety officers generated over \$300,000 for Special Olympics New Mexico.

Building acceptance and promoting inclusion within our elementary, middle, and high schools has historically been a tremendous challenge, but educators found it easier and far more natural as this generation of regular education students and their special education peers played well and played often together during the school day. During the 2023 school year, the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program provided tools to impact school environments by reducing bullying and fostering inclusive student leadership. Over 50 New Mexico schools involving more than 2,000 special and regular education students participated in 104 Unified sports activities. We are proud of the data which speaks of the program’s success, and we celebrate the friendships that were formed, which will result in a brighter and kinder New Mexico in the future.

Charitable giving of one’s time, resources, and dollars continued to be the life blood of Special Olympics New Mexico. Among the countless ways we received support throughout the year, perhaps one of the lesser known yet truly heartwarming gifts was made in the form of an honorarium. The gift was given by two women honoring a gentleman who had quite an impact on their lives. Their gift to SONM on his behalf showcased a depth of gratitude to the man who was honored, care and consideration of our athletes, and inspiration to our staff members.

In 2023, Special Olympics New Mexico felt the impact and support from LETR public safety officers, first responders, students, educators, donors, staff, community members, and thousands of volunteers – none of whom seemed to grow weary of doing good.

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

Randy Mascorella

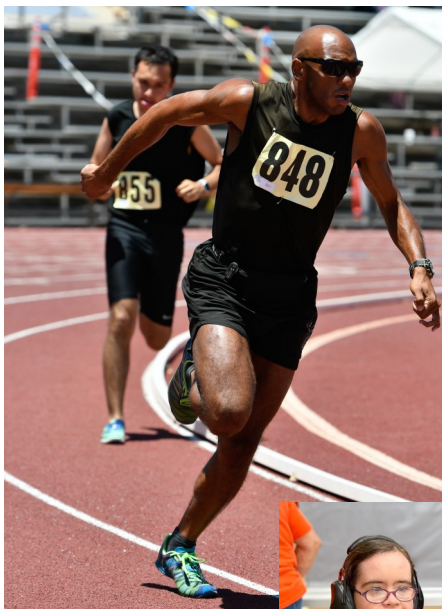
Sports and Competition

In 2023 we were proud to offer a new sport as part of our year-round training and competition seasons: Cornhole. Historically, we offered bowling alongside basketball during our autumn Holiday Classic competition until the Las Cruces bowling alley closed down. Special Olympics New Mexico decided to survey athletes, coaches, Unified partners, and families on which sport they'd like to see added into our annual rotation. We offered 6 different sport options during the survey, and at the beginning of 2020 cornhole was selected as the new sport. The introduction of cornhole was delayed due to COVID-19, and in 2023 we were ready to bring it to Holiday Classic. Our Coaches Education staff travelled to all 6 SONM Areas and trained 85 coaches over 6 months to prepare for cornhole season.



The SONM cornhole tournament at Holiday Classic offers a unique setup. A team consists of 4 players. 2 people play the game at 27 feet between boards, 1 person plays at 20 feet, and 1 person plays at 15 feet. This team structure allows mixed ability levels to be included within a single team.

Competition began on Friday of Holiday Classic and included students with and without disabilities from our Unified Champion Schools program, totaling 88 Unified doubles teams during that portion of the competition. For the traditional SONM cornhole competition, we had 46 4-person cornhole teams compete. The Las Cruces Convention Center was the ideal venue to host the inaugural tournament. We look forward to seeing cornhole continue to grow in the future.



Competition By the Numbers

State Poly Hockey Championships

- 24 teams, 14 skills athletes
- 235 athletes, 48 coaches, 13 officials and 7 chaperones, totaling 303

Unified Team Bowling

- 70 four-person Unified teams
- 140 athletes, 140 Unified partners, 11 coaches, totaling 291

State Summer Games

- 67 traditional bocce teams, 4 short court teams, 71 Unified bocce teams
- 20 Unified flag football teams
- 23 volleyball skills athletes, 31 Unified volleyball teams
- 436 track & field athletes
- 699 athletes, 276 Unified Partners, 149 Coaches, 73 chaperones, totaling 1197

Four Corners Invitational

- 41 golf skills athletes, 18 level 1.5 Unified teams, 81 Level 2 Unified teams
- 15 softball skills athletes, 41 Unified Softball teams
- 202 aquatics athletes
- 497 athletes, 315 Unified partners, 112 coaches, 42 chaperones, totaling 966

Equestrian

- 24 total athletes, 7 coaches, 11 chaperones, totaling 43

Holiday Classic

- 32 basketball skills athletes, 4 team skills teams, 10 3v3 basketball teams, 29 5v5 basketball teams
- 88 High School Unified doubles cornhole teams, 46 four-person traditional cornhole teams
- 437 athletes, 42 Unified partners, 98 coaches, 36 chaperones, totaling 613

State Bowling Tournament

- 628 athletes, 109 coaches, 58 chaperones, totaling 795



Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® 2023-2024

Last year in UCS we had great success in student leadership. We were able to train several students on social media etiquette, recruitment, and workforce readiness. This really helps when giving these students leadership roles. We have also found that when students have more ownership over their programs, they want to do more with them.

The schools with established leaders offered more practices, events, and were more involved overall in their schools and communities than UCS programs without established student leaders. These students were also more invested in Special Olympics as a whole and showed a greater interest in continuing with the community program or working with people with disabilities in the future. As we look to the future, our goal is to continue to work with these students while also recruiting more students to join them, train others, and expand on the mission of inclusion.

Because of the growing interest and participation within schools, UCS has been able to add new programs, grow deeper within communities, and really work alongside students as they achieve their goals both on and off of the field. This is a huge win as we continue to strive to make all schools and communities fully inclusive for those with intellectual disabilities.



50 Schools:

- 22 elementary schools
- 9 middle schools
- 16 high schools
- 1 K-12 school
- 2 other schools

Students Served:

- 465 athletes
- 680 Unified partners

120 Total Events

School Districts:

- APS
- Bloomfield School District
- Central Consolidated SD
- Gadsden Independent SD
- Hatch Valley
- Las Cruces Public SD
- Los Lunas Public SD
- Private School
- Rio Rancho Public Schools
- Santa Fe
- Taos

“Unified Champion Schools has made our middle school campus more inclusive and more joyful. It has been incredible starting and growing our program and we have had so much fun at basketball games, pep rallies, and the large multi-sport expo celebration we had in May. I cannot wait to see the ways we grow, what sports we do, and how we can make sure every person on campus is included and seen.”

—Kathryn Osmunson, Mountain View Middle School

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.

Special Olympics Health

In 2023, we offered Healthy Athletes® free health screenings for Special Olympics athletes at 2 of our State Competitions. Health screening disciplines included Opening Eyes (vision and eye health), Special Smiles (dentistry), Health Promotion (prevention and nutrition), Strong Minds (emotional health), Fun Fitness (physical therapy), and Fit Feet (podiatry). A total of 463 athletes were screened, 188 referrals were given, and 171 volunteers donated their time and expertise.

In addition to Healthy Athletes health screenings, we implemented a program called Explore Wellness, which introduces athletes and their families to local fitness organizations, health and wellness partners and resources in our community. Explore Wellness encourages athletes and their families to get and stay healthy by utilizing these resources and activities. 2023 activities included yoga, outdoor exercising, fitness classes, Zumba dance classes, cooking classes, and other group workouts. Explore Wellness activities are currently offered in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.

We offered 1 Athlete Wellness Challenge that focused on Fit 5 and Strong Minds. The Fit 5 goals were to exercise 5 days a week, eat 5 total fruits and vegetables every day, and drink 5 bottles of water every day. 98 Special Olympics athletes participated in this challenge.



Training Special Olympics athletes to serve as health and wellness leaders remained a focus in 2023. We trained 4 Health Messengers, 33 Fitness Captains who support their teammates by leading stretches during sport-seasons, and trained 10 athletes in our Introduction to Athlete Leadership course.

Health Screenings By the Numbers

Opening Eyes: 67 athletes screened, 20 referrals, 35 volunteers

Special Smiles: 100 athletes screened, 25 referrals, 23 volunteers

Health Promotion: 117 athletes screened, 99 referrals, 36 volunteers

Strong Minds: 55 athletes screened, 13 volunteers

Fun Fitness: 44 athletes screened, 34 referrals, 37 volunteers

Fit Feet: 80 athletes screened, 10 referrals, 27 volunteers

Health Screening Results

45% of athletes needed a podiatry referral

81% of athletes needed a new vision RX

95% of athletes had flexibility issues

20% of athletes had untreated tooth decay

48% of athletes had BMI in the obese range

98% of athletes in Strong Minds reported learning coping and stress management skills they can use in daily life



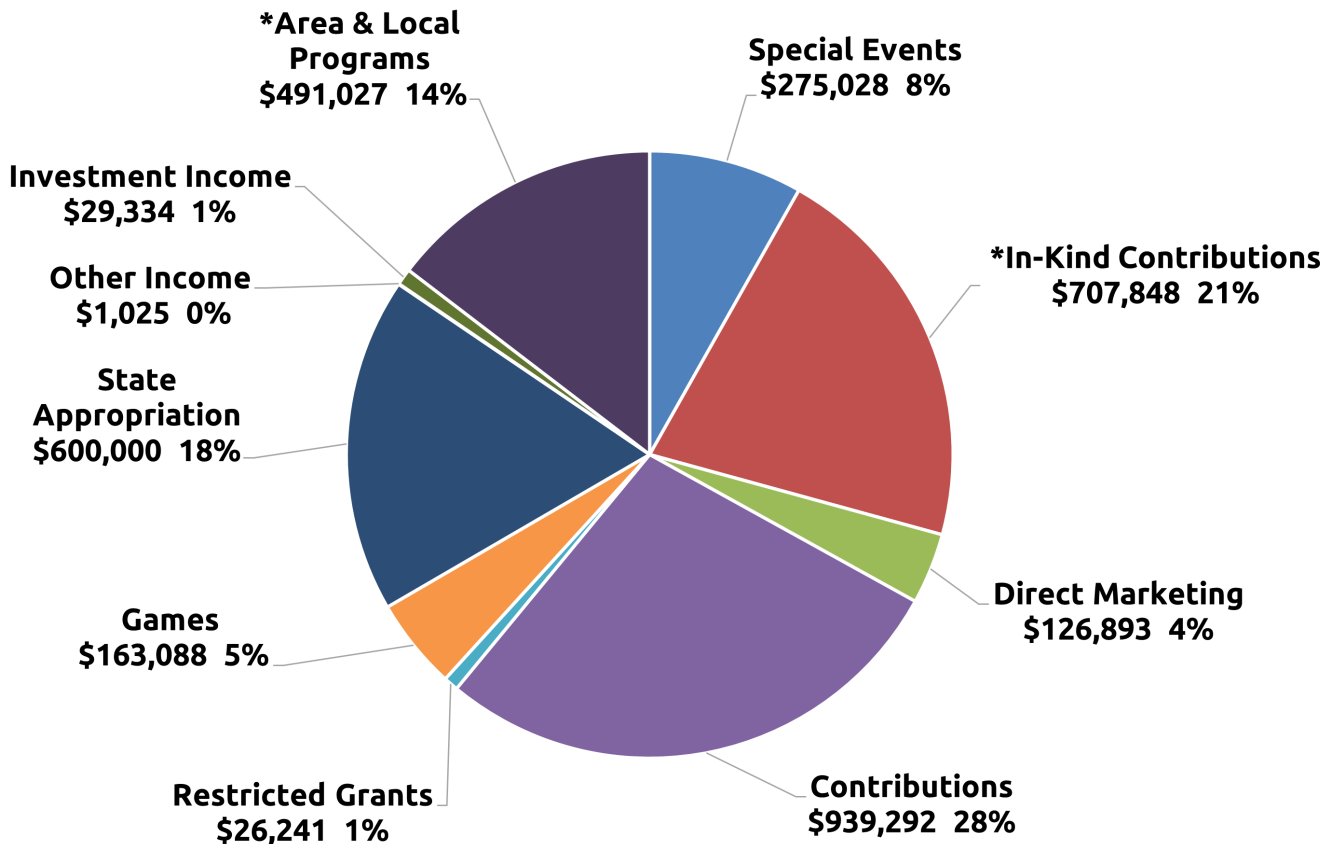
2023 Financials

“Special Olympics New Mexico continues to have good controls, as well as eight months of operating expense set aside in a designated cash reserve fund. The Board continues to provide fiduciary oversight to ensure our organization’s financial sustainability and stability. We remain grateful for the support of our donors and key volunteers, which allows us to offer the joy of sport to the athletes and families of Special Olympics New Mexico.”

—Dacia Card, Treasurer, SONM Board of Directors



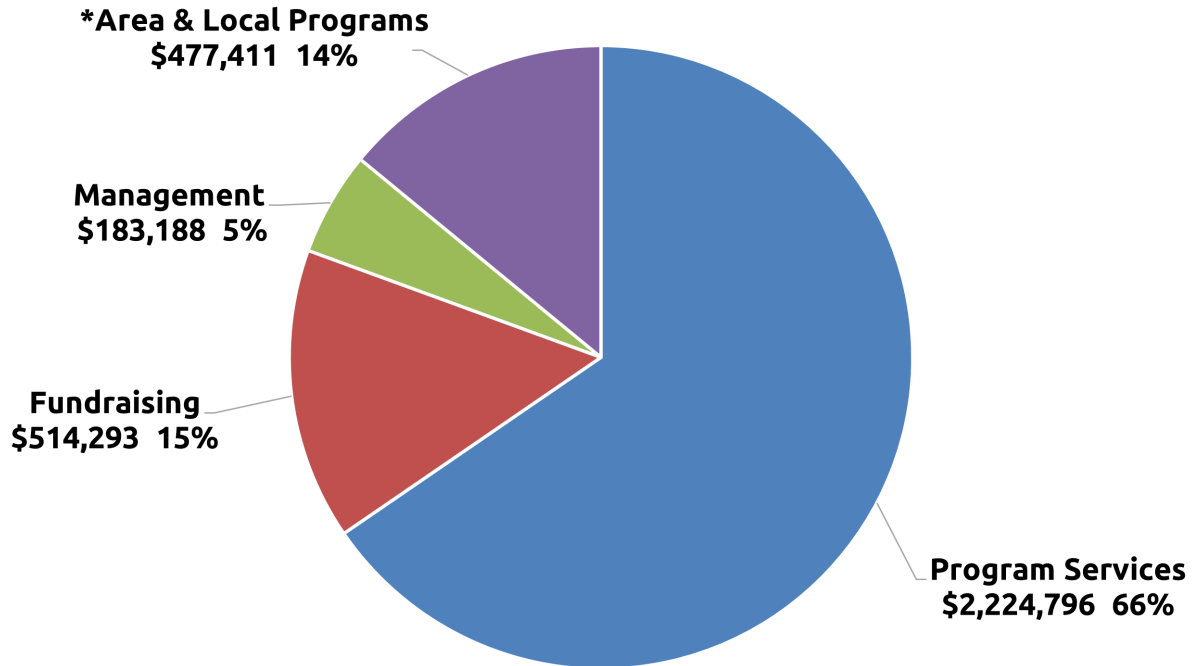
2023 Funding Sources: \$3,359,776



*In-Kind Contributions include donated services and products

*Area/Local Revenue - Dollars raised by 76 Local and Area Programs

2023 Expenses: \$3,399,688



*76 Area and Local Programs Statewide

Assets

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,642,484
Investments	\$1,100,792
Accounts Receivable	\$75,044
Inventory	N/A
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,035
Property & Equipment	\$6,651
Assets Held for Sale	N/A

Total Assets **\$2,834,006**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$6,924
Accrued Liabilities	\$16,741
Deferred Revenue	\$80,838
Lease Payable	\$4,660
Paycheck Protection (PPP Loan)	N/A
Capital Lease Obligation (Long Term)	\$1,587

Total Liabilities **\$110,750**

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,695,290
Permanently Restricted	\$1,001,725
With Donor Restrictions	\$26,241

Total Net Assets **\$2,723,256**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$2,834,006**



2023 Corporate Partners

Hall of Fame Sponsors contributed \$20,000 or more in 2023

NEW MEXICO TRUE



A Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Victory Sponsors contributed \$10,000 or more in 2023



Corporate Partner Highlights

T-Mobile

T-Mobile has partnered with Special Olympics New Mexico for the past 10 years. They remain one of our most reliable and enthusiastic sponsors when it comes to Games support through corporate contributions, employee match donations and volunteer responsibilities. Special Olympics can always count on T-Mobile to enhance the competition experience for our athletes, historically bringing the largest number of corporate volunteers to our State Summer Games, State Bowling Tournament, and recently, Area 5 Aquatics.

T-Mobile's company values align closely with Special Olympics New Mexico's. Their commitment to Diversity & Inclusion states that they "have a responsibility to put their words into action" and invite their teams to "celebrate our communities." Year after year we are honored to feel their words in action and witness their celebration of our athletes. Thank you, T-Mobile!



New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run

2023 proved to be a remarkable year for Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), showcasing the unwavering dedication of law enforcement agencies and communities in supporting Special Olympics athletes. LETR raised \$263,000 through local agency-led fundraising activities, helped spread awareness across all 33 counties in New Mexico, and fostered a deeper sense of unity and purpose across our ten LETR regions.

At the start of the year, the annual NMLETR Guardians of the Flame State Conference returned to Albuquerque with 120 attendees from each of our ten LETR regions. The conference was hosted for the first time by the Bernalillo County Fire Department, who helped kick off a new video production feature at our annual events. Presentations at this conference focused on athlete engagement with public safety officers and included a training called “Be Safe” that taught our athletes positive engagement practices with public safety. Additional sessions continued education on officer self-care, hosting community policing events, and fundraising.



From there, our 2023 LETR program successfully hosted over 20 new and returning local agency activities including Farmington PD’s Trap Shoot, Valencia County’s Fire Truck Pull, Rio Rancho’s Torch Icon Campaign, Lea County’s Family Festival, and Las Cruces PD’s BBQ Cook-Off and Cornhole Tournament. Through a combination

of registration fees, sponsorships, and local donations, community members supporting the efforts of our public safety agencies contributed to ensuring the joy of sport for over 3,200 Special Olympics athletes. These events incorporated local businesses and organizations, enhancing community ties and encouraging broader support for the cause.

Throughout the year, numerous inspiring stories emerged from our Torch Run events. Athletes shared their journeys, showcasing resilience and determination, while law enforcement officers highlighted the importance of their involvement in fostering positive relationships with the community. Creative initiatives, such as our annual LETR t-shirt design idea contests, further amplified the message and encouraged broader participation. At an international level, we celebrated the selection of local Rio Rancho Police Department officer Brittany Ingram, who joined Law Enforcement personnel and Special Olympics athletes from around the world to help carry the Flame of Hope Torch during the Special Olympics World Games Berlin Final Leg Torch Run. These narratives motivated public safety personnel and also resonated deeply with Special Olympics athletes and families, emphasizing the transformative power of sport and community.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, our annual Torch Run community policing program continues to evolve, embracing new opportunities to engage and inspire. The commitment to supporting Special Olympics athletes remains strong, ensuring that the spirit of the Torch Run will carry forward into the future.

New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run

“As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, our statewide Torch Run community policing program continues to evolve, embracing new opportunities to engage Special Olympics athletes and inspire our community members to help us raise funds for Special Olympics New Mexico.

We cultivated a new partnership with Topgolf Albuquerque and hosted a Topgolf Tip-A-Cop that raised over \$5,000 in its first year. Additionally, annual events such as our Farmington PD Trap Shoot, Las Cruces PD BBQ Cook-Off and Cornhole Tournament, Lea County Family Festival, and the Valencia County Public Safety Family Day all saw continued growth in community support as well as dollars raised for Special Olympics.

During the LETR Guardians of the Flame State Conference held at the Clyde Hotel in Albuquerque, Special Olympics athletes and public safety officers connected and learned from each other, sharing stories and discussing positive engagement practices.

Alongside the physical activities like our trademarked LETR Fire Truck Pull, awareness campaigns were crucial in promoting the mission of Special Olympics. Our LETR Torch Icon Campaign with Latitudes Convenience Store in Rio Rancho raised another record fundraising amount. Online, social media engagement increased as participating public safety agencies shared their experiences, raising visibility for the athletes and the values of inclusion and acceptance.

New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run is proud to carry the Flame of Hope Torch and continue bolstering efforts raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics New Mexico in the future.”

—NMLETR State Director Michael Roach, Las Cruces Police Department



2023 NMLETR Stats

75 NMLETR agencies
26 Annual agency fundraising activities
\$206,455 Agency Fundraising Revenue
\$14,500 Sponsorship Revenue
\$220,955 Total funds raised

2023 Special Olympics New Mexico Board of Directors

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Retired

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Retired



“2023 was a year of strengthening the foundation of SONM. Staff deepened our programming with big investments in Unified Champion Schools, Special Olympics health initiatives, and the addition of a new sport. The SONM Board of Directors is excited that these investments are providing more inclusion and more opportunities for our athletes and the communities they live in. We thank our generous donors, sponsors, and partners for their continued support.”

—Dub Girand, Chairman, Special Olympics New Mexico Board of Directors

2023 Champions Together Giving Society

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Cris Beck
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Bret & Consuelo Bolagh-
Cowder
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Allan Boyar & Rayme Romanik
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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.



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Executive Director

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Special Olympics
New Mexico

