



ANNUAL REPORT



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.

Core Values



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 create a stronger and more innovative organization that delivers better results as we work with our athletes in all communities.



Hello to All

Letter from our Executive Director



“Our organization has an active board that champions our mission and makes the legal, financial, and strategic decisions that serve our Special Olympics athletes and families well. When our athletes give the world their best, we do, too. Our past is proven and our future remains bright. We are blessed.”

A fundamental definition of change is “to make different, alter, or replace something with another.” For Special Olympics New Mexico, 2025 was a year spent thoughtfully preparing for organizational changes, many that are being implemented in 2026. Some changes are structural, some process-based, and some strategic. All our changes are designed to move our organization into the future while maintaining our mission, values, and strengths.

In March 2025, SONM selected Team New Mexico athletes and coaches to compete in the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games. Athletes and coaches spent over a year training to compete in men’s basketball, athletics, bocce, and bowling. Team New Mexico was comprised of 49 people, including 30 Special Olympics athletes, sent to represent New Mexico at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games. You’ll have to catch the highlights on our website or wait for the 2026 Annual Report recap to learn more.

SONM also offered its first Program Summit, “Beyond the Game,” in 2025. Heads of delegation, coaches, educators, Unified partners, family members, and Special Olympics leaders across our state convened in Albuquerque to attend sessions on health, coaches education, Unified Champion Schools, and competition. Highlights of the summit included sessions on adaptive esports, inclusive fitness, and coaching tools for anger and conflict management.

Special Olympics New Mexico has always had a culture of shared leadership. For the past three decades, SONM has never been led by a single leader, but by a network of talented staff and a board of directors positioned strategically and aligned with our organization’s culture and core values. Our board added two new members in 2025, including a dentist from Las Cruces and the owner of Latitudes in Rio Rancho, who received our Outstanding Local Business Award two years ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Mascarella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" and last name "Mascarella" clearly distinguishable.

— Randy Mascarella, Executive Director,
Special Olympics New Mexico

Sports and Competition

2025 was a year of growth for Special Olympics New Mexico, with increased athlete participation across our sports and competition programs throughout the state. As new athletes became involved, our local, area, and state competitions continued to expand. This growth gave more athletes the chance to train, develop their skills, reconnect with teammates, and experience meaningful competition. It also challenged us to evaluate how our competitions are structured to ensure we can provide a quality experience as participation increases.

For the first time, State Bowling expanded to give athletes the choice to compete individually or as part of a four-person team. The addition of team bowling created a new experience while allowing athletes to choose the format that best matched their interests and goals.

Cornhole was another sport that had significant growth in 2025. With participation from Unified Champion Schools increasing, SONM hosted a separate school cornhole tournament the week prior to our Holiday Classic. Creating a dedicated

competition for our school-based teams allowed us to accommodate growth while giving athletes and Unified partners a competition experience of their own.

Throughout the year, our communities and partners played an important role in making these experiences possible. Facilities, volunteers, coaches, officials, and local partners across New Mexico helped us provide athletes with consistent, high-quality competitions. The increased participation numbers throughout 2025 also helped shape changes planned for 2026. As we evaluated our sports, we looked at our competition calendar and season structure with the goal of creating longer training seasons, expanding coach and athlete development, and improving the overall competition experience.

Most importantly, the increase in participation reinforced what remains at the center of our work: creating pathways for more athletes across New Mexico to experience the joys, challenges, friendships, and accomplishments that are possible through sport.



Competition By the Numbers

State Poly Hockey Championships

ATHLETES

275

TEAMS

26

COACHES, CHAPERONES,
HEADS OF DELEGATION

65



SKILLS ATHLETES

23

State Summer Games

ATHLETES

811

PARTNERS

300

COACHES, CHAPERONES,
HEADS OF DELEGATION

230



Four Corners Invitational

ATHLETES

576

PARTNERS

306

COACHES, CHAPERONES,
HEADS OF DELEGATION

180



Equestrian

ATHLETES

19

COACHES, CHAPERONES,
HEADS OF DELEGATION

25



Holiday Classic

ATHLETES

534

PARTNERS

60

COACHES, CHAPERONES,
HEADS OF DELEGATION

215



State Bowling Tournament

ATHLETES

676

PARTNERS

103

COACHES, CHAPERONES,
HEADS OF DELEGATION

140



Unified Champion Schools®

Unified Champion Schools had an eventful and inclusive 2025. We grew to 55 schools by welcoming back returning schools and creating UCS clubs at new schools. A focus for the year was our partnership with the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) in Unified esports. Four teams competed in an expo at the State Esports Competition in April in two Unified titles: Rocket League and Mario Kart.

Another major focus for UCS in 2025 was multi-school events. Multi-school events were held in basketball, cornhole, and flag football across the state for elementary, middle, and high school levels. These interactions allow students from different schools to connect both on and off the court, fostering new friendships and building bridges across schools.

Our overall goal for next year is quality. Our focus areas to build program quality are school-based sustainability, school community integration and collaboration, and partnerships. These three focus areas will strengthen our program through increased connection between our school clubs and community sports, continued partnerships with NMAA and PlayVS, and cultivating evergreen UCS clubs within schools. Thanks to the dedication and passion of our participating schools, UCS is able to introduce new programs, strengthen its presence, and empower students to achieve their goals—both in sports and beyond. This progress marks an important step forward in our mission to create fully inclusive schools and communities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.



BY THE NUMBERS

55 schools

3	K-12
21	Elementary Schools
16	Middle Schools
15	High Schools

Students Served

475	Athletes
410	Unified Partners
124	UCS Events

Districts Served

Albuquerque Public Schools	Las Cruces School District
Rio Rancho Public Schools	Los Lunas Public Schools
Central Consolidated School District	Santa Fe School District
Gadsden School District	

“ I am incredibly grateful to have witnessed firsthand the impact that our Unified Sports program has had in our community over the last 10 years. Through competition, inclusion and leadership, our Unified Sports program has created a culture of inclusion where every student feels valued. Inclusion has become more than a goal, it has become the norm, extending into every classroom, team, club, and activity on our campus.

Through Unified Sports, students have built genuine friendships, celebrated each other's achievements, and gained confidence by competing alongside their peers. Wearing a La Cueva jersey has instilled a deep sense of pride, belonging, and accomplishment that will stay with our athletes long after graduation.

”

— Marisa Cogan, La Cueva H.S. Teacher, Coach and UCS Liaison

Health and Wellness

In October 2025, Special Olympics New Mexico's Health Program experienced a significant transition with the departure of our Health Director. This left a vacancy in a position critical to the coordination, implementation, and growth of our health programming. We want to recognize her work and dedication, which helped establish a strong foundation for inclusive health programming, develop valuable community partnerships, and create opportunities that connected our athletes with important health resources and education.

Health Statistics

Our Healthy Athletes free health screenings included Health Promotion, Special Smiles, Opening Eyes, Fun Fitness, Strong Minds, and Fit Feet.

432

Health Screenings

237

Individual athletes screened

12

Community Wellness Events

3

At Home Wellness Challenges

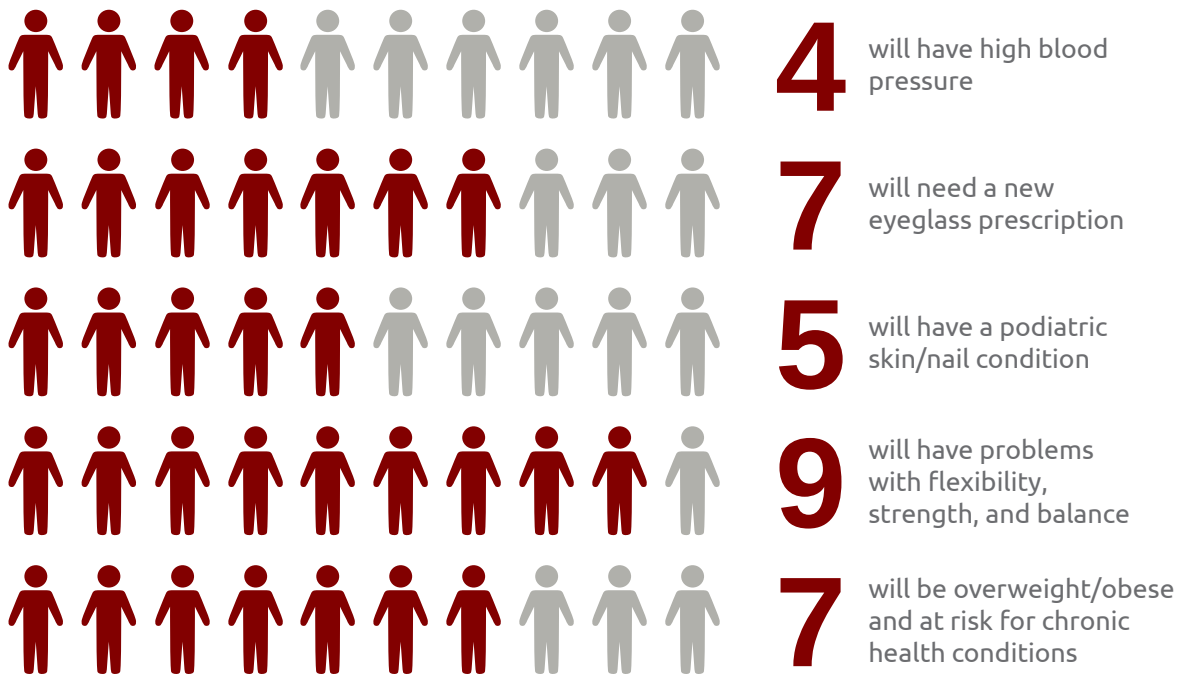
30

Participants in Train 4 Life fitness programs



Why Special Olympics and Health?

Average health problems on a Special Olympics team of ten athletes



Healthy Athletes® Statistics



55%

of athletes screened in Fit Feet had a skin or nail condition

92%

of athletes screened learned coping & stress management skills

60%

of athletes screened had a BMI in the obese range

96%

of athletes screened needed a referral

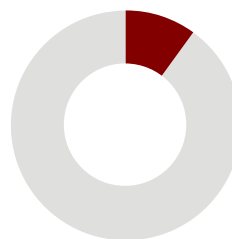
Financial Report

“

2025 was another strong financial year for Special Olympics New Mexico. Revenue was up in part due to a couple of major gifts. Costs continued to increase for competitions and events, but SONM ended the year in a strong financial position. SONM continues to maintain careful financial controls and a cash reserve. The SONM Board of Directors provide oversight to ensure long-term stability. We are deeply grateful to our donors and volunteers whose generosity and dedication made our work possible.

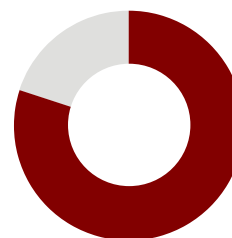
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— Dacia Card, Treasurer,
SONM Board of Directors



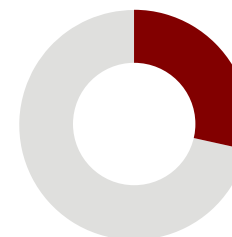
6%

ADMIN



76%

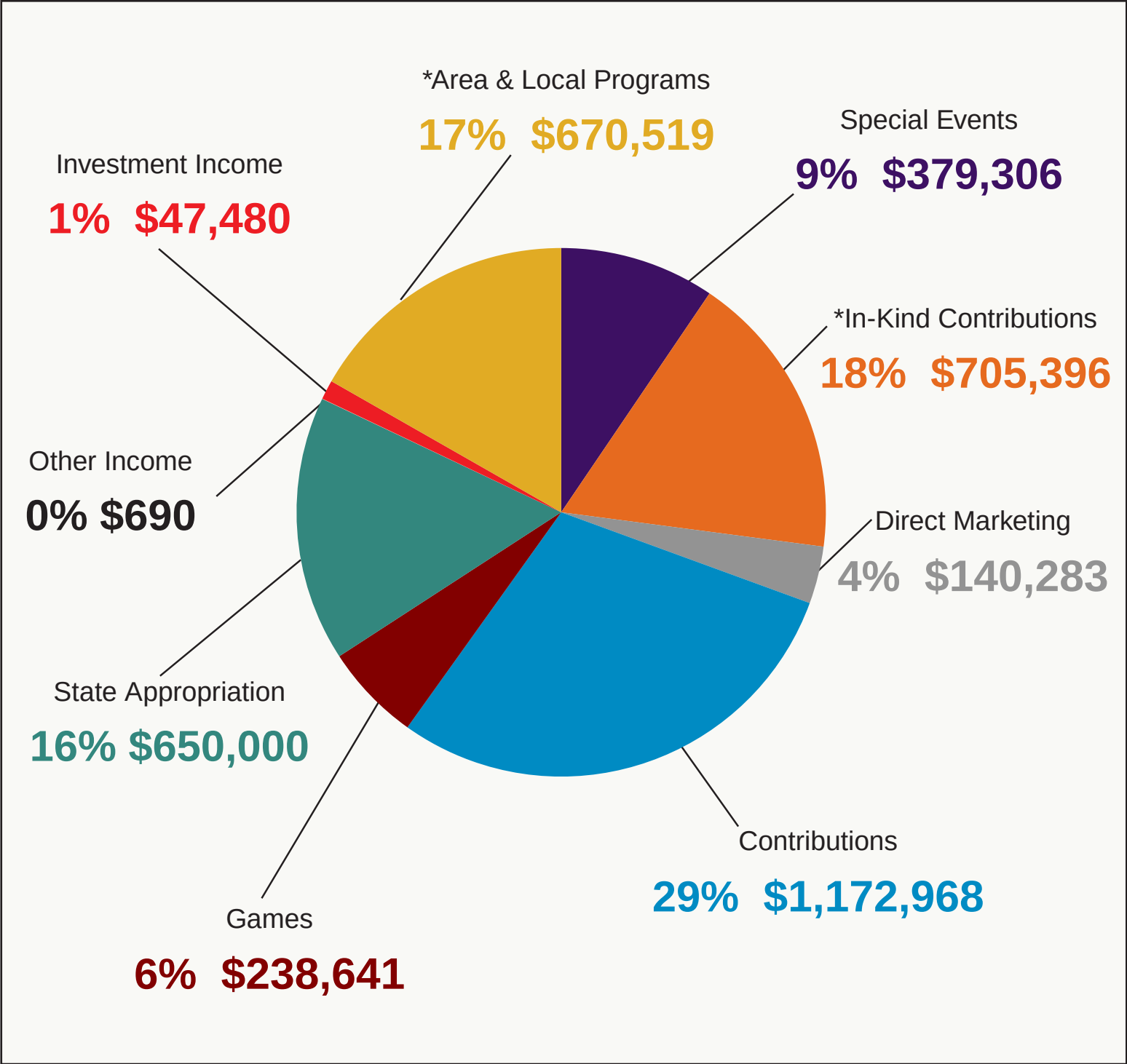
PROGRAM



18%

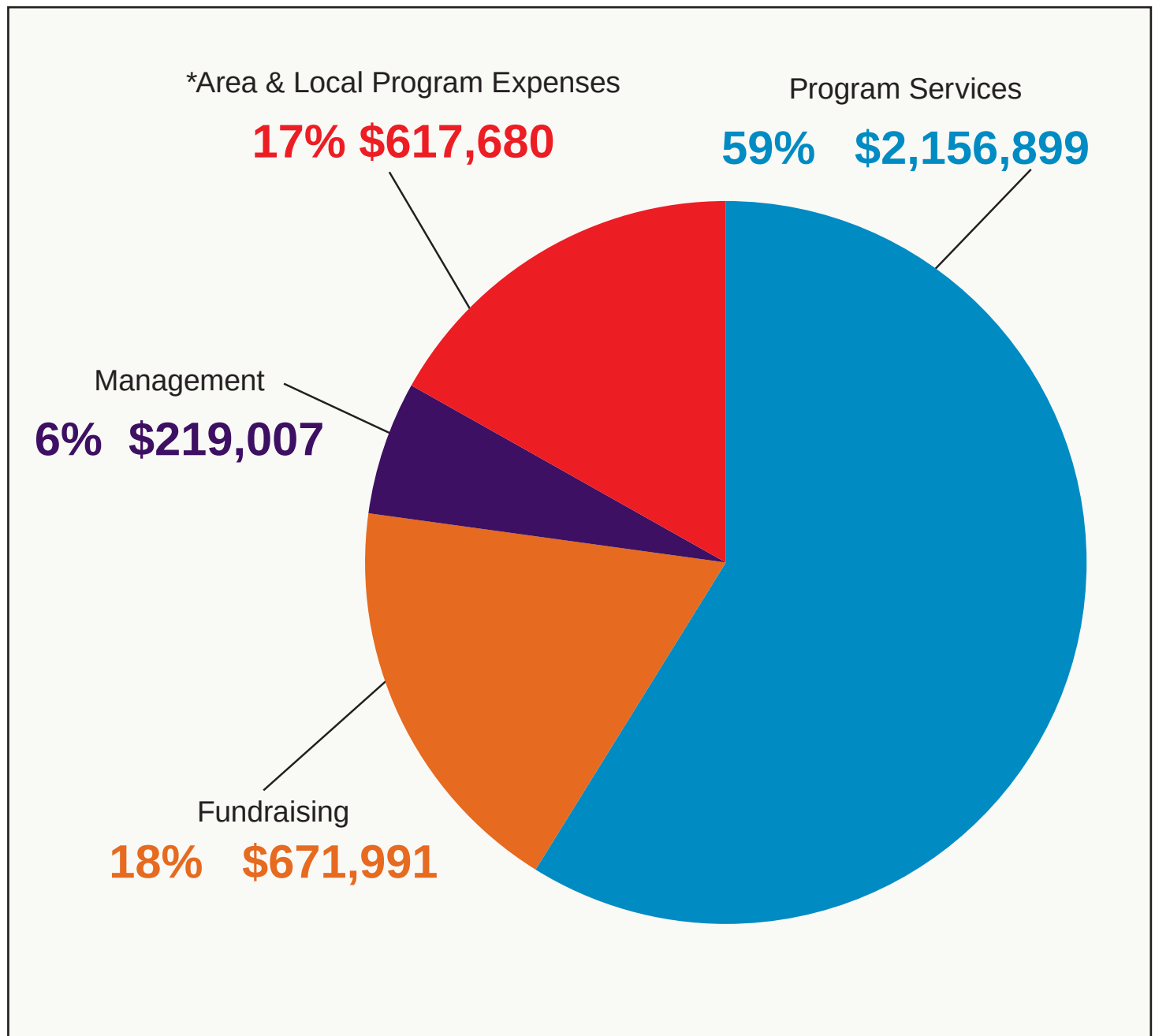
FUNDRAISING

Funding Sources \$4,005,283



*In-kind Contributions include donated services and products
*Area and Local Program Revenue: Dollars raised by 71 Area and Local Programs

Expenses \$3,665,577



*71 Area and Local Program Expenses Statewide

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,012,831
Investments	\$1,788,611
Accounts Receivable	\$23,853
Inventory	\$ -
Prepaid Expenses	\$30,837
Property & Equipment	\$40,648
Assets Held for Sale	\$ -
Total	\$3,896,780

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$8,974
Accrued Liabilities	\$12,868
Deferred Revenue	\$100,745
Lease Payable	\$3,829
Total	\$126,416
Capital Lease Obligation (Long Term)	\$15,045
Total Liabilities	\$141,461
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$2,088,964
Permanently Restricted	\$1,666,355
With Donor Restrictions	\$ -
Total Net Assets	\$3,755,319
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$3,896,780

Corporate Sponsors

Hall of Fame Sponsors

Contributed \$20,000 or more in 2025



Victory Sponsors

Contributed \$10,000 or more in 2025





RIO GRANDE
- CREDIT UNION -

Corporate Sponsor Highlight

Through their generosity, employee involvement, and commitment to celebrating our athletes, Special Olympics New Mexico Victory Partner, Rio Grande Credit Union, continues to make a social impact in building a more inclusive New Mexico for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Their dedication as a year-round and annual community partner to our Special Olympics program extends well beyond financial support. Through ongoing local and statewide event sponsorships, employee-led fundraising, and corporate volunteerism, Rio Grande Credit Union continues to help create meaningful opportunities for Special Olympics athletes.

Each year, Rio Grande Credit Union sponsors our annual Special Olympics New Mexico Golf Classic fundraiser that helps fund our year-round sports training and competition program. In 2025, their employees took fundraising into their own hands through creative initiatives, including a laptop buy-back program that generated additional funds for Special Olympics New Mexico. Their commitment is equally evident through their volunteer efforts. Rio Grande Credit Union employees have volunteered at State Summer Games as Bocce scorekeepers and participated in the annual Posole Ole Fun Walk in Albuquerque, giving their time and energy to support athletes and Special Olympics events across New Mexico.



Rio Grande Credit Union has also leveraged its partnership with the Albuquerque Isotopes to showcase and celebrate our athletes during home games. These experiences not only recognize our athletes for their accomplishments but also help us introduce the Special Olympics mission to an even broader community. We are truly grateful for their continued support and partnership.



“ Rio Grande Credit Union is grateful and humbled to be able to support SONM and their amazing athletes. Their mission to create a more inclusive New Mexico—where every individual has the opportunity to compete, grow, and be celebrated—is one we are incredibly proud to stand behind. Whether our team is volunteering at events or helping shine a spotlight on these remarkable athletes, we are continually inspired by their determination and joy. We are honored to play a small part in helping SONM continue making such a meaningful difference across our state. ”

—David Miles, AVP of Marketing Rio Grande Credit Union

Law Enforcement Torch Run

In 2025, the New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run program (NMLETR) continued its year-round commitment to building inclusive communities, strengthening relationships between public safety officers and Special Olympics athletes, and raising awareness and funds in support of Special Olympics New Mexico.

Education, Training, and Community Connection

The year began with a strong focus on education and relationship-building. In February 2025, the Guardians of the Flame State Conference in Hobbs brought together more than 80 public safety officers from across New Mexico to learn, share best practices, and strengthen their role as advocates for inclusion. A featured presentation by Brian McKnight of LETR Colorado highlighted an athlete academy model that brings Special

Olympics athletes into a public safety academy experience to create meaningful opportunities for connection, understanding, and trust between athletes and officers.

Representing New Mexico on the World Stage

In March 2025, New Mexico was proudly represented at the Special Olympics World Winter Games Final Leg in Turin, Italy, by NMLETR State Director Travis Spruell of the Farmington Police Department and Shelby Peterson, a Special Olympics athlete from Gallup. Over two weeks, they joined representatives from around the world in carrying the Flame of Hope torch through communities across Italy. Their journey concluded at the Opening Ceremony, where the torch was used to light the cauldron and officially open the Games.



“ The year began with a strong focus on education and relationship-building. ”

Fundraising and Awareness Across the State

Throughout the year, NMLETR agencies and supporters raised awareness and funds through events that brought communities together across New Mexico. Activities included a Unified bowling tournament; Tip-A-Cop fundraisers at Texas Roadhouse, Topgolf, and Chili's; golf tournaments; challenge events such as the Guardian Games; and a fire truck pull during Valencia County Public Safety Day.



Recognition and Impact

In November 2025, the New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run program received the Emerald Award at the Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference for raising more than \$500,000 on behalf of Special Olympics New Mexico. This milestone reflects the dedication of law enforcement partners, public safety agencies, volunteers, sponsors, athletes, and families who continue to advance the Torch Run mission throughout the state.

Together, these efforts demonstrate the lasting power of the Flame of Hope: uniting communities, celebrating the abilities of Special Olympics athletes, and inspiring year-round support for inclusion across New Mexico.



“2025 was a powerful reminder that LETR is about so much more than raising funds, it’s about building relationships, creating understanding, and bringing people together. From local events across New Mexico to carrying the Flame of Hope torch on the world stage, our law enforcement officers, Special Olympics athletes, families, volunteers, and supporters showed what is possible when we stand together. The Emerald Award represents an incredible fundraising milestone, but our greatest achievement is the stronger, more inclusive communities we are building together.”

—NMLETR State Director Sgt. Travis Spruell, Retired, Farmington Police Department

2025 Special Olympics New Mexico Board of Directors

Executive Committee

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Retired

Vice Chairman, Warren Ellis,
Capital Strategies

Second Vice Chairman, Ryan Danoff
Danoff Law Firm

Treasurer, Dacia Card
Retired

Secretary, Valeria Olave
WESST

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University of New Mexico

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Jesse Canterbury
Special Olympics Athlete, Belen Los Lunas

Ryan Garcia
Bank of Albuquerque

Susan Hansen
Next Steps Family Office, LLC

Honorary Board Members

Jack Eichorn
Retired

Mark Wiggins
Retired

2025 was a busy and successful year for Special Olympics New Mexico. Our programming continued at a robust pace and staff remained extremely focused on creating inclusive opportunities for our athletes and families. The Special Olympics New Mexico Board of Directors is proud of the progress made, with an eye to the future to make sure these opportunities continue to be available to all our athletes statewide. We remain grateful for the dedication of everyone in our movement.

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



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 the quality of life for our athletes.

Leola Adams	David & Donna Harnick	Revi D. Pexa, Rob Tavani & Van Pexa
Wade & Michelle Airheart	Keith & Jeannie Harris	Steve Pino
Jeannine & Michael Barreras	Jim Hering & Janice Honeycutt	Steve & Julie Potter
Melba Baum	Hering	Juan & Leonie San Miguel
Steve & Jolene Benoit	Freddie & Christine Hidalgo	Jackie & Hugo Sanchez
Bret & Consuelo Bolagh-Cowder	Jill & Aaron Hillhouse	John & Susie Sandager
Donald & Gustenia Bonner	Sam & Paula Holmes	Susan Jane Schuman
Allan Boyar & Rayme Romanik	Nikki Hooser & Kathy Longinaker	Gil & Liz Silva
Blake Brown	Melissa Jabour	Randall Sparks
Arishanda Campbell	Neil & Julie Jackson	Chet & Diana Stewart
Dacia Card	Erick & Leah Johnson	Tony & Helena Strati
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Jack Eichorn	Randy Mascorella	Marcus Wiggins
Jayne & Jamie Elias	Chris & Melissa Maxwell	Miguel & Gabby Wiggins
Warren & Julia Ellis	Dale & Norma McLaughlin	Jerry & Patty With
Zachary Farmer	Jennifer & John Mesich	James & Patsy Zanios
Don Flanagan	Bill & Mary Lee Moeny	
Mallory Gagan	Mike & Jessica Montoya	Foundations
Ryan & Alison Garcia	Addy Montoya	Albuquerque Community
Alan Geuder	Arthur & Marilyn Montoya	Foundation
Dub & Robin Girand	Richard & Nancy Montoya	Lineberry Foundation
Tim & Alicia Grady	David Naylor	Santa Fe Community Foundation
Kari & Jaron Graeber	Pat & Norma Nye	Westmeath Foundation
Rob & Dawn Halfacre	David & Marka Otoski	
Clint & Juanita Hall	Karen Pace & Kenna Cantrell	Organizations
Susan Hansen	Tom & Kimberly Padilla	Jeremiah's Place
Darcy & Mike Hanson		

***Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you see an error, please let us know.**



2025 Special Olympics New Mexico Staff

Randy Mascorella
Executive Director

Jena Waddell
Director of Sports, Competition &
Programming

Shane Flanagan
Coaches Education Manager & Assistant Sports
Director

Christine Roybal Hidalgo
Director of Development

Samantha Swann
Director of Unified Champion Schools

Oscar Solis
Director of Operations, Law Enforcement
Torch Run

Barbara Love
Agency Manager, Law Enforcement Torch Run

Kumiko Styes
Director of Finance

Rebecca Rainsberger
Marketing & Communications Manager

Scott Hardy
Information Resources, Technology & Office
Manager

Area Directors

Debra Lisenbee
Area 1 Director, Farmington

Anna Silva & Cindy Varela
Area 2 Directors, Santa Fe

Ronda Norfleet
Area 3 Director, Las Cruces

Lee Kirksey
Area 4 Director, Hobbs/Lovington

Mark Romero
Area 5 Director, Albuquerque

Janie Lee Hall
Area 6 Director, Gallup

Special Olympics
New Mexico



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GRAPHIC DESIGN BY:

Shelly Homer, Parent of Special Olympics
Athlete Aaron Homer

