



***Special
Olympics***
Rhode Island



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



SPECIAL OLYMPICS RHODE ISLAND - FOUNDED 1968

Dear Supporters,

Looking back on 2024, I am in awe of the incredible support you provided to help us fulfill our mission: promoting acceptance, respect, and inclusion for all people through the power of sports and Olympic athletics.

Like all of us, Rhode Islanders with intellectual disabilities aspire to achieve greatness, both on and off the playing field. Because of you, their hopes and dreams are within reach. Your generosity fuels the programs that empower them to compete, lead, and thrive.

We raised the bar in 2024. Together, we elevated the Special Olympics Rhode Island Summer Games, launched our Athlete Leadership University program, introduced exciting new sports programs, and celebrated major milestones—including the 40th Anniversary of Rhode Island's Law Enforcement Torch Run. We served more than 3,700 athletes, expanded access to vital resources for our local programs through new online platforms – enhancing their reach and efficiency, and grew our Unified Champion Schools initiative by introducing new elementary programs in underserved communities, including schools in the city of Providence.

And we're just getting started.

I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in 2025 as we continue supporting the most inspiring athletes in the world—the athletes of Special Olympics Rhode Island.

With gratitude,



Edwin R. Pacheco
President & CEO
Special Olympics Rhode Island

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OUR MISSION

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with an intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

FINANCIALS

\$2,584,266

TOTAL REVENUE

\$2,288,474

CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

\$2,436,237

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,726,156

PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$481,943

FUNDRAISING, EDUCATION &
AWARENESS EXPENSES

\$287,161

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

8,750+

DONATIONS

7,149+

DONORS

\$230.25

AVERAGE GIFT SIZE

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Robin DeRobbio, Director of Finance

Madison Flaxington, UCS Manager

Patricia Kirby, Donor Relations & Grant Manager

Rick LaBreche, Director of State Sponsored Sports Programs & Competitions

Kate Mills, Senior Manager of Data & Technology

Stephanie Palladini, Chief Mission Officer

Mary-Ellen Powers, Athlete Leadership Specialist

Dawn Ratté, Director of Marketing & Communications

Jeff Smith, Senior Director of UCS & UCCS

Kim Whittaker, Volunteer Services Director

Greg Wright, Sports Director

YOUR IMPACT

ATHLETES



3,707

UNIFIED PARTNERS



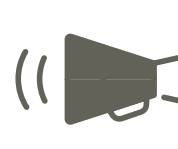
1,603

COMPETITIONS



2,316

COACHES



170

VOLUNTEERS



1,033

28 OFFICIAL SPORTS

ALPINE SKIING

ATHLETICS

BASKETBALL

3X3 BASKETBALL

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

CYCLING

GOLF

MATP

POWERLIFTING

SNOWBOARDING

SNOWSHOEING

SOCCER

SWIM

TEN PIN BOWLING

TENNIS

UNIFIED BASKETBALL

UNIFIED BOCCE

UNIFIED CORNHOLE

UNIFIED CROQUET

UNIFIED CROSS COUNTRY

UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL

UNIFIED GOLF

UNIFIED SOCCER

UNIFIED SOFTBALL

UNIFIED TEN PIN BOWLING

UNIFIED TENNIS

UNIFIED TOPGOLF

UNIFIED VOLLEYBALL

OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

ATHLETE LEADERSHIP, HEALTHY ATHLETES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS®, SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS®, UNIFIED YOUNG READERS CLUB, YOUNG ATHLETES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN (LETR)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SPECIALOLYMPICSRI.ORG

NEW IN 2024

TOPGOLF UNIFIED PROGRAM

Special Olympics Rhode Island and Topgolf Rhode Island joined forces to create a Unified Golf Program, bringing together athletes with Unified partners at Topgolf to enhance golf skills and foster inclusion in sports and everyday life. As part of this partnership, Topgolf provided its facilities for practices and competitions fully in-kind.

SURFING EVENT

We teamed up with Jamestown Outdoors and Gnome Surf to bring our first-ever surfing event to life for Special Olympics Rhode Island athletes. Held at Mackerel Cove in Jamestown, the day was packed with smiles, excitement, and some awesome surf slang to match the experience. The overwhelming success of the one-day event inspired plans to expand the surfing experience in 2025, offering even more athletes the opportunity to participate.

3X3 BASKETBALL PROGRAM

We launched an exciting new Sports League – 3X3 Basketball! This fast-paced, high-energy format features two teams of three players competing in half-court matchups, played in two 10-minute halves. The inaugural season was hosted on the outdoor basketball courts at Citizens Bank in Johnston.

ACHIEVEMENTS - MILESTONES



We proudly celebrated

The **40th Anniversary of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Rhode Island**, a passionate group of individuals from law enforcement, corrections, fire, and justice departments dedicated to raising awareness and critical funds to support our athletes.

The **graduation of the inaugural class of our Athlete Leadership University**, marking a milestone in empowering athletes as leaders both on and off the field.

The **30th Anniversary of Special Olympics Rhode Island Magazine**, honoring its legacy and success while preparing for an exciting transition to a new podcast format.