

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH THE POWER AND JOY OF SPORTS.

**Special
Olympics**
Delaware



2021

**Special
Olympics**
Delaware



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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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 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.



A MESSAGE

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND SODE PRESIDENT & CEO

In reflection, 2021 can best be described as a year where our organization needed to pivot and persevere in order to face the lingering challenges still present from the global pandemic. We remained resolute to our mission and developed creative opportunities for our athletes to safely return to in-person training and competition in their respective sports. Simultaneously, we modified our vital fundraising events allowing us to continue to raise the necessary resources to deliver our life-changing programming.

Our mission is about the athlete and our daily focus is always on the athlete experience. While we could have remained on the sidelines, we pushed forward. It was important for us to begin reconnecting our athletes with each other, with coaches, with volunteers, and with the community at large. It was important for us to get our athletes moving and to help them refocus on their health and fitness. This remained important even when it meant starting and stopping and restarting in a different way.

We proudly stand as a leader in the state who serves one of Delaware's most vulnerable populations – individuals with intellectual disabilities. We recognized it was critical for us to be brave in the attempt to identify the needs of our athletes at such a unique period in history and to find solutions to meet those needs.

The pivots made and perseverance shown are a testament to the dedication and selflessness of our staff, our board of directors, our committee members, and most importantly the volunteers who served as coaches and team assistants and the volunteers who ensured safety protocols were being followed at every practice and competition. Collectively, everyone was committed to moving forward with each twist and turn posed and despite every obstacle faced.

As we endured the challenges, our mission partners, sponsors, fundraisers, and individual donors remained steadfast. Sponsors continued to support us even though traditional venues and events did not look the same. Our fundraisers were enthusiastic despite having to adjust to the changes. Our individual donors stepped up nearly doubling their contributions from the previous year.

It was a challenging year, but also a remarkable year in so many ways. We proved that we are champions together when we work collectively toward one vision – to realize the uniqueness and giftedness of all individuals through the **joy of sport**.

Thank you for your dedication to our mission and our athletes.

Katherine Dickinson, Board President
Special Olympics Delaware

David Halley, President & CEO
Special Olympics Delaware

EXPERIENCE THE JOY

Special Olympics Delaware is an accredited program of Special Olympics, Inc. and has been a part of this global movement since 1971. Today, Special Olympics Delaware stands as a leader in the field of intellectual disability not just as a sports organization, but also as an effective catalyst for social change.



BY THE NUMBERS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE PROGRAMS



Total # of SODE Athletes
2,078



of Olympic-type sports
19



of Certified Coaches
189



of Volunteers
1,567



5 Area Programs statewide
80 Area Leadership members



of schools engaged
190

22 Unified Champion Schools
77 Unified Schools



Law Enforcement FACILITIES, AGENCIES AND TROOPS
100+

Any decline in numbers highlights the devastating impact of COVID-19. However, this 2021 data also showcases the resilience of our movement and the work done to redirect programming and develop necessary solutions

In 2021, Special Olympics Delaware continued to move forward in the midst of the ongoing global pandemic. With revenue generated through creative pivots in fundraising efforts, unyielding support from individual donors, and commitment from corporate partners, the organization maintained a secure financial foundation.

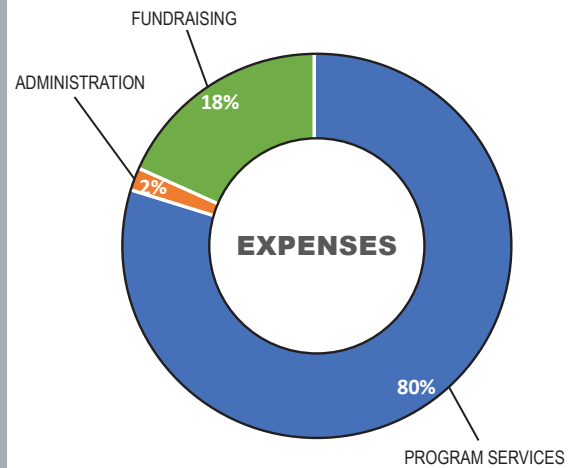
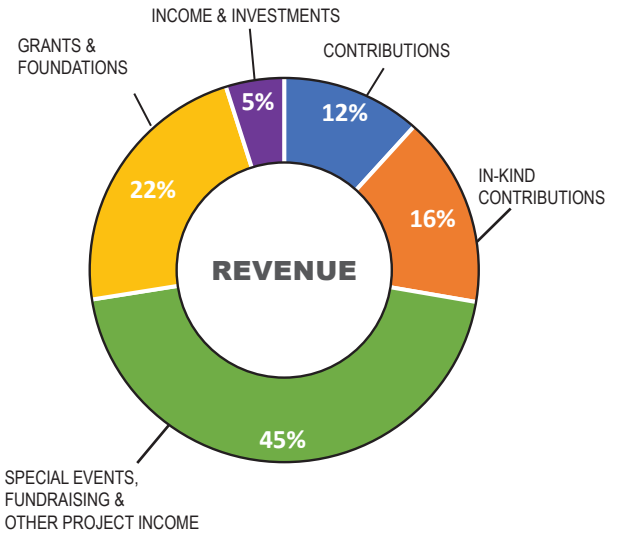
2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

STRONG + SECURE

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES + CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

(For the year ended December 31, 2021 and summarized information for December 31, 2020)

	2021	*Restated 2020
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$ 291,018	\$ 153,616
In-Kind Contributions	394,838	379,199
Special Events Revenue, Net	900,686	1,053,490
Other Project Income	100,046	65,178
Fundraising Projects	107,599	129,609
Grants & Foundations	558,964	420,250
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$2,353,151	\$2,201,342
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$1,471,014	\$1,434,790
Management & General (Administration)	35,152	34,395
Fundraising	337,366	316,823
Total Expenses	\$1,843,532	\$1,786,008
Change in Net Assets before Non-Operating Activity	\$509,619	\$415,334
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY		
Interest & dividend income, net of fees	\$22,153	\$21,660
Capital gains distribution	10,215	2,272
Realized gain on investments	43,516	40,753
Unrealized gain on investments	45,970	79,060
Loss on disposal of equipment	0	(660)
Total Non-Operating Activity	\$121,854	\$143,085
Increase (Decrease) In Net Assets	\$631,473	\$558,419
Net Assets, Beginning Of Year	\$2,486,649	1,928,230
Net Assets, End Of Year	\$3,118,122	\$2,486,649



80%

Approximately \$0.80 of every dollar went to sports programs that directly benefitted Special Olympics athletes throughout the state.

Special Olympics Delaware is committed to providing our programs at no charge so that sports experiences can be made available to every athlete who wants to participate. The resources generated throughout the year cover the costs of training facilities, sports equipment, uniforms, and any other related expenses required to provide quality training and competition opportunities.



2021 PROGRAM YEAR

PIVOT + PERSEVERE

Still faced with the challenges of the global pandemic, 2021 was a year to pivot and persevere. Although some events were not held to ensure the safety of our community, the organization remained committed to delivering high-quality programming. Athletes were offered virtual programs, in-person training in outdoor sports, and an exciting return to competitions. The organization continued to engage supporters with a full calendar of our traditional fundraising events. Special Olympics Delaware remained strong in 2021, while aspiring to continued growth and expanded programming going forward.



JANUARY

- Bowling Competition - Canceled
- Virtual Fitness

FEBRUARY

- 30th Annual Lewes Polar Bear Plunge - Virtual Event
- Virtual Fitness

MARCH

- Spring Coaches Clinic
- Basketball Training - Canceled
- Virtual Athlete Leadership Training

APRIL

- Virtual Young Athletes Program
- Ride to the Tide
- Virtual Fitness

MAY

- Area Based - Spring Sport Mid-Season Qualifiers
- Over the Edge
- Virtual Young Athletes Program
- Virtual Fitness

JUNE

- Summer Games held at four separate outdoor venues
- Performance Stations introduced to SODE State Competitions
- Torch Run

JULY

- Virtual Athlete Leadership Training

AUGUST

- Team Delaware Announced for 2022 USA Games
- Summer Camps 1 & 2
- Fall Coaches Clinic
- Virtual Athlete Leadership Training

SEPTEMBER

- State Golf Competition
- Summer Camp Golf Classic
- Truck Convoy
- Virtual Fitness

OCTOBER

- Cycling Classic Competition
- Statewide - Fall Sport Mid-Season Qualifiers
- Virtual Fitness

NOVEMBER

- Fall Festival held at the DE Turf Sports Complex

DECEMBER

- Modified Winter Sports
- Reindeer Run & Romp 5K

VIRTUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

PIVOTED - BROUGHT THE BEACH TO BACKYARDS

Due to the COVID-19 surge in the fall and winter of 2020 leading up to the 2021 Lewes Polar Bear Plunge, Special Olympics Delaware pivoted to a completely virtual (fondly referred to as brrr-tual) event. Our Bears were creative with a variety of ways to get cold while staying safe and socially distanced.

In lieu of gathering in Rehoboth Beach, a Virtual Plunge Contest was created to connect Bears and provide a platform to share virtual plunges from across the state and beyond. Photos and videos captured everything from kiddie pools in Newark, to fire departments in Milford, to an ice bath in New Zealand.

Although the 2021 Plunge looked a bit different, the event raised over \$700,000, and more than 2,250 spirited Bears and their generous supporters showed our community that even a pandemic can't stop the outpouring of support toward our athletes.

Special Olympics Delaware felt the warmth from the many businesses who supported us, the safety personnel who wished us well, and our sponsors who stood beside us – even in a virtual year.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER GAMES + FALL FESTIVAL

PIVOTED - OUTDOOR ONLY / 4 SEPARATE VENUES

2021 marked the 50th Summer Games for Special Olympics Delaware, the organization's largest annual sports competition. After canceling Summer Games in 2020, more than 300 athletes and Unified partners were ecstatic to return to in-person competition. Four outdoor sports were offered: bocce, softball, tennis, and track and field. In accordance with COVID-19 protocols, and to ensure the safety of everyone involved, the 2021 Summer Games were hosted at four separate venues in the middle of the state. It may have looked a bit different than the traditional Summer Games, but four locations led to four times the spirit, determination, and joy.



The 2021 Fall Sports Festival was also modified to ensure a safe and high-quality experience for all. Hosted at one of the premier sports facilities in the area, the DE Turf Sports Complex in Frederica, more than 500 athletes and Unified partners, along with hundreds of volunteers, came together for a multi-sport competition. Four outdoor sports were offered: bocce,

flag football, long distance running, and soccer. The size of the DE Turf Sports Complex enabled all four sports to be held simultaneously, while allowing for social distancing for all athletes, volunteers, and spectators. Despite a different venue, the organization's commitment to providing meaningful competition in a safe and healthy manner did not waiver.



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

PERSEVERED - STRONGER TOGETHER

After a completely virtual “Stronger Together” Torch Run effort in 2020, Special Olympics Delaware was excited to offer more ways to support the Delaware Law Enforcement Torch Run in the spring of 2021.

A modified Torch Run was held in conjunction with the modified Summer Games. Members of law enforcement ran on a single day, with legs leaving from Georgetown and Middletown, converging in Dover with a ceremony on Legislative Mall.

Torch Runner of the Year, Glenn Dixon (DSP, retired), was recognized at the ceremony in Dover, as well as during the Virtual Opening Ceremony for Summer Games, which was broadcast online.

Law enforcement agencies were also invited to host their own independent runs in their cities and towns.

The community at large (athletes, coaches, families, friends, sponsors, fans) were invited to support the movement by purchasing a T-shirt and completing their own virtual run or walk.

2021 marked the 35th Anniversary of Delaware’s Torch Run. Nearly 600 law enforcement and community members lit the way for acceptance and inclusion, truly exemplifying - we are **stronger together!**



UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

PERSEVERED - EXCELLING & TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE

The sport of Unified Bocce debuted in schools across the state in 2021. This program transformation provided an opportunity for students of all abilities to form teams to train and compete together, promoting an atmosphere that naturally lends itself to friendships being created. These friendships carried over into other activities during and after the school day. Schools participated starting in September with culminating events held in October and November.



In 2021, Caesar Rodney School District’s F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School was named an ESPN Top 5 Unified Champion School, the program’s highest honor. A rigorous application process demonstrated Postlethwait Middle School’s commitment to student-led inclusion in Unified sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole-school engagement. Postlethwait accomplished this in just two short years, in the midst of a global pandemic, serving as an inspiration for schools across the state and around the country.





2021 PARTNERS & SPONSORS

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS FOR THEIR VITAL SUPPORT OF OUR ATHLETES AND COMMITMENT TO FURTHERING OUR MISSION.



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Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics

GOLD (\$100,000+)

Special Olympics Delaware had no Gold Level Sponsors in 2021

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* Represents In-Kind Contributions to Special Olympics Delaware





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WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO ALL THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO POWER OUR MOVEMENT THROUGH THEIR GENEROSITY.

\$20,000+

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Through your generosity, individuals with intellectual disabilities can showcase their abilities and demonstrate their courage, while benefiting from increased access to sports programs, more interaction in their communities, participation in health and fitness education, and—most importantly—the creation of a more welcoming society for all.

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 WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE**

The Champions Together Giving Society is made up of individuals who have invested in the mission and vision of Special Olympics Delaware by pledging a minimum of \$1,000 annually over 5 years. 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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WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN, LEWES POLAR BEAR PLUNGE, AND OVER THE EDGE.

\$30,000+

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