



Special Olympics
Illinois

40
DREAM IT. DO
IT. DARE IT.
YEARS



on the cover:
athlete
since:
2007

YOUNG
ATHLETES
PROGRAM

40 YEARS OF HIGHLIGHTS

- 1950's** | Dr. William Freeberg of SIU creates camping program for people with special needs.
- 1965** | Eunice Kennedy Shriver asks Dr. Freeberg to train recreation professionals.
- 1968** | First Special Olympics held at Soldier Field, organized by Anne McGlone Burke.
- 1970** | Second Special Olympics games held at Soldier Field with 2,000 athletes from three countries.
- 1975** | Sports now include athletics, aquatics, bowling, basketball, gymnastics, floor hockey & alpine skiing.
- 1977** | Headquarters moved from the Chicago Park District to Illinois State University in Normal.



athlete
since:
1969

CROSS COUNTRY
SKIING
GYMNASTICS
BASKETBALL
ATHLETICS
SOFTBALL
AQUATICS

anne

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YEARS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Olympics Illinois delivers a quality experience for our athletes thanks to the hard work and committed support of our donors, volunteers, staff and Board of Directors. Developing new initiatives, maintaining the highest standard of program quality and securing the necessary support is a year-round effort. None of this would be possible without the wealth of time, commitment and love for the mission so generously shared by our stakeholders. Their guidance and encouragement give Special Olympics Illinois the strength to keep its programs available, at no cost, to a growing number of athletes.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sports and Competition: Special Olympics Illinois conducted 175 sports activities, set a new record for athlete participation, experienced the 10th consecutive year of growth and welcomed over 2,000 new athletes into the program.

Young Athletes: Total number of Young Athletes served has increased from 689 in 2006 to 2,047 today. Meanwhile, the number of sites offering the program has grown from 35 to 74 facilities, which includes 53 schools in 26 school districts.

MedFest: The 10th anniversary of our Chicago MedFest saw more than 1,400 athletes receive, at no cost, a medical examination clearing them for competition.

Special Events: The majority of our signature fundraising events experienced record-breaking returns. The Law Enforcement Torch Run, Windy City Duck Derby, and Polar Plunge secured important new funds, partners and volunteers for the advancement of our mission.

- 1980** | The first Special Olympics Illinois State Winter Games are held at Chestnut Mountain in Galena.
- 1986** | The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois is established.
- 1989** | Special Olympics Illinois moves into its own headquarters building at 605 E. Willow in Normal.
- 1995** | Project 2000 is launched in Chicago to dramatically increase the number of Chicago Public School children involved in Special Olympics.
- 1997** | The first athlete Global Messengers are trained in Illinois, launching the successful Athlete Leadership Program in the state.

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athlete
since:
2006

FIGURE SKATING

Lauren

Special Olympics
Illinois

40
YEARS

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dream it. Dare it. Do it.

These short but powerful statements drove our actions in 2008, as we celebrated forty years of Special Olympics in Illinois.

Plans for the anniversary were set in motion in late 2007, as this new motto and a special accompanying logo were crafted to create awareness, stir excitement and better communicate the impact the program has had on the lives of hundreds of thousands of athletes, families and volunteers since 1968.

T-shirts, banners, radio, television, and electronic and print communications carried the Special Olympics Illinois name and message everywhere. The personal stories of our athletes, published in every available outlet, served as a powerful reminder of what our work aims to accomplish, and who it benefits most directly. The public, Special Olympics Illinois staff, athletes, volunteers and community partners all found themselves newly inspired and eager to move from reflection to action. Participation at events, athlete numbers and fundraising success

- 1998** | Special Olympics International holds its 30th Anniversary celebration in Chicago.
- 1999** | The first MedFest is held at United Center, providing free sports physicals to our athletes, and becomes a worldwide model.
- 2003** | The first World Summer Games are held outside the U.S. — in Dublin, Ireland — and 23 athletes from Illinois attend along with Anne Burke.
- 2005** | The Special Olympics Illinois Tribute Park — the first of its kind in the world — is dedicated in Normal.
- 2007** | The Special Olympics Young Athletes program for children ages 2 through 7 is officially launched in Illinois.

increased significantly as a result of our reinvigorated efforts.

Even with these achievements, the success of our 40th Anniversary's signature event, the Inspire Greatness Gala stands out. On July 19, more than 500 attendees, many new to Special Olympics, joined together at the Hilton Chicago for our first-ever black tie event.

Business and civic leaders from Chicago and around Illinois were treated to dinner, dancing and speeches from our athletes, the Event Chair, the Honorable Terrence A. Duffy, Executive Chairman, CME Group, and guests of honor Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke and Chairman of Special Olympics, Inc., Tim Shriver. The gala raised over \$500,000 for Special Olympics Illinois and opened the door to additional new post-event funding from attendees.

Building on this momentum is a primary goal for 2009. The wider acceptance of individuals with intellectual disabilities, along with the successful growth in

program and fundraising, gives us every reason to believe that the next stage of Special Olympics Illinois will be as eventful as anything we've seen to date.

MISSION:
Special Olympics Illinois provides year-round sports training and 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 athletes and the community.

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CREATIVE SERVICES
Paetzold Design: www.paetzolddesign.com
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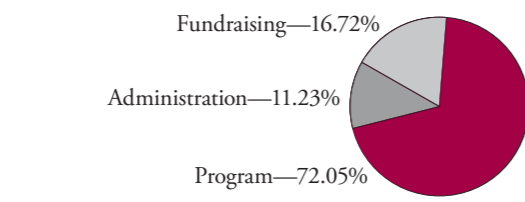
athlete since 1999

POWERLIFTING
BOWLING
GOLF
and more

terrence



FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



The organization faced a number of financial challenges in 2008. Our balance sheet was affected by a nearly \$500,000 reduction in the value of our reserve investment; simultaneously, program expenses increased by nearly \$500,000. Though we remain strong, we are clearly making adjustments to maintain that strength through the economic downturn, while focusing on quality programming.

Statement of Activities

For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2008

	2007	2008
Revenues, Gains and Other Support		
Business and Corporate Sources/Grants	\$ 1,379,393	\$ 1,317,496
Fundraising Events	2,887,855	3,474,863
General Public	2,091,981	2,027,588
Civic Organizations	423,593	487,455
Government Funding	-0-	128,503
Sale of Merchandise	133,703	138,344
Interest/Dividends/Gains or Losses on Investments	137,109	<480,458>
Miscellaneous	6,531	4,420
In-Kind	1,222,655	1,239,574
Total Operating Revenues, Gains or Losses and Other Support	8,282,820	8,337,785
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	7,255	-0-
Net Assets Temporarily Restricted	-0-	-0-
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$ 8,290,075	\$ 8,337,785
Expenses		
Program Services	6,191,430	6,667,828
Fundraising	1,726,668	1,873,033
Management & General	742,914	698,637
Total Expenses	\$ 8,661,012	\$ 9,239,498
Increase/Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets	(370,937)	(901,713)



athlete since 2008

ATHLETICS
BASKETBALL

eduardo



2008 LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

- \$2 Million +**
Law Enforcement Torch Run
- \$250,000+**
Advocate Medical Group*
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State Farm Insurance Companies**
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2008 ANNUAL REPORT

faces at 40



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