

The word is out.



Special Olympics
Illinois



Respect is in.



Soeren Palumbo and his sister, Olivia from Palatine, Illinois. Soeren's school speech about his sister inspired and helped launch the "End the R Word" campaign. Learn more by watching the video at www.specialolympics.org/soeren_video.aspx

THE R WORD

In 2009, Special Olympics made a concerted effort to change the way society views and speaks about individuals with intellectual disabilities. You may not hear someone with an intellectual disability called "retard" to their face—and that is truly progress—but people still use the word "retard" and "retarded" as an insult, meant to humiliate and degrade others. Around here, we call it "The R Word."

Special Olympics Illinois wanted to change the conversation, so we joined voices around the world to take the Pledge and **Spread the Word to End the R Word**. This effort, like other Special Olympics programming, simply asks us to give our best and live by our ideals. We hope you will join us in this endeavor.

As an organization, we work to ensure that the athletes we serve will have continued access to the life-enriching opportunities only Special Olympics can deliver. In 2009, we saw the worst economic climate in decades; many other organizations were forced to make cuts to their programs and staff in an effort to stay afloat. Our team at SO ILL worked to reduce the budget, doing more with less, and we managed to maintain a full complement of sports training & competitions and athlete leadership training. These athletes deserve nothing less.

Our continued program success gives me great hope for the future of this mission. I'm glad we have dedicated friends and partners like you at our side as we continue in our journey toward a more accepting society where every individual is treated with respect.

Doug Snyder, President and CEO
Special Olympics Illinois



**“SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS ADVANCING
HUMAN DIGNITY AND PUSHING
BACK INTOLERANCE.”**

BILL P.
Special Olympics Fan



Special Olympics
Illinois

MISSION

Special Olympics Illinois provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympics-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.

Spread the Word to End the Word

The photos in this annual report are representative of individuals who have taken the pledge to end using the R Word in their conversation. To join the ranks of nearly 140,000 people who have taken this pledge, please visit www.r-word.org.



Growth: SO ILL experienced the 11th consecutive year of growth, with slightly more than 2,000 athletes experiencing Special Olympics for the very first time. And while the greatest increase took place in Chicago and its surrounding communities, we also saw some positive indications of present and future growth in the southwestern part of the state. We remain committed to extending our outreach and delivering our programs to eligible individuals everywhere.

Sports and Competition: Special Olympics Illinois conducted 165 sports events throughout the state including 91 local competitions, 43 district and sectional events, 7 state competitions and 24 Motor Activities Training Program events (MATP emphasizes training and participation for athletes with more severe disabilities). Athletes—along with their agencies, families and care providers—braved the economic downturn to attend competitions at both the local and state level. Their dedication to competition resulted in over 39,000 participations statewide.

Young Athletes: Thanks specifically to a generous grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, SO ILL was able to expand our Young Athletes program (children ages 2 – 7) to six brand new communities, while maintaining existing programs in other parts of the state. This funded growth resulted in this enormously popular program, more than doubling from 2,047 to 4,328, within a year's time. These new athletes will fuel the growth of our local competition numbers in the years ahead as many of them transition into traditional Special Olympics programming.

World Winter Games: The Games were held February 7-13, 2009, in the spectacular mountains of Boise, McCall and Sun Valley, Idaho, and included around 3,000 athletes from more than 100 countries and 6,000 volunteers. A delegation of 7 athletes, 5 coaches and 2 staff proudly represented Special Olympics Illinois in all 5 events (snowshoeing, alpine & cross-country skiing, and figure & speed skating). In addition to hosting the Youth Activation Summit—that would spur the “Spread the Word to End the R Word” effort—the SO World Winter Games welcomed heads of state, celebrities and leaders in the fields of education, healthcare, business and sports...all of whom were there to witness the power of Special Olympics to transform lives and communities.

MedFest: More than 1,300 school-aged Chicago athletes and prospective athletes received, at no cost, a medical examination clearing them for competition. The success of this event has led to the launch of 7 additional MedFest events around the state. We believe that as this event spreads across the state, where we trust it will be as well received as it is in Chicago, it will prove to be a gateway to participation for even more eligible participants.

Special Events: SO ILL's signature fundraising events continued to experience record-breaking returns in 2009. The Inspire Greatness Gala, Windy City Duck Derby, Law Enforcement Torch Run, and Polar Plunge welcomed the continued support of many loyal fans, while securing important new funds and attracting new partners essential to sustained growth.

“THIS IS NOT ABOUT ABILITY OR DISABILITY, THIS IS ABOUT PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER TO REACH BEYOND THEIR PERCEIVED LIMITS TO ACHIEVE WHATEVER THEY CAN ACHIEVE.”

DEAN W., Special Olympics Illinois
Coach & Volunteer



Special Olympics
Illinois



**“THERE’S NO QUESTION
THAT OUR PLANNED
GIFT TO SPECIAL
OLYMPICS ILLINOIS
IS SOMETHING WE’RE
PROUD OF.”**

**MIKE AND SARA
SO ILL Donors**

A LIFE-CHANGING LEGACY

Mike and Sara have enjoyed sharing their time and treasure with Special Olympics Illinois through the years.

Even though they are now enjoying the comfort and freedom of retirement, they still think back on their service as Special Olympics volunteers and the friendships they shared with the athletes. Because of that connection, Mike and Sara decided to do something that would help guarantee that the extraordinary experiences and opportunities shared by Special Olympics athletes would always be available.

“Today, the resources we have to live on enable us to enjoy life.” Their planned gift was part of “a thoughtful process to ensure that what we worked for all of our lives is put to good use when we’re gone.”

They trust Special Olympics Illinois to be a worthy steward of their gift, and they know that the impact of such a gift extends far beyond the athletic field, swimming pool, or basketball court.

Mike and Sara believe “the staff and volunteers are totally committed to the mission of making a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes and their families.” It’s this special combination of such a great mission – and serving people with a great need – that prompted them to include a planned gift to Special Olympics Illinois in their estate planning.

“And, by letting Special Olympics Illinois know of our intent, we think it helps the organization plan for the future.”

If you would like to help protect the future of the life-changing programs of Special Olympics Illinois through planned gifts - such as trusts, bequests or life insurance - we would be happy to discuss them with you. Please contact Sheila Devine at 630-942-5616 or sdevine@soill.org.



Special Olympics
Illinois

| Revenues, Gains and Other Support | 2008 | 2009 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Business and Corporate Sources/Grants | \$1,317,496 | 1,553,544 |
| Fundraising Events | 3,474,863 | 3,555,231 |
| General Public | 2,027,588 | 1,826,560 |
| Civic Organizations | 487,455 | 525,006 |
| Government Funding | 128,503 | 508,377 |
| Sale of Merchandise | 138,344 | 154,538 |
| Interest/Dividends/Gains or Losses on Investments | <480,458> | 256,814 |
| Miscellaneous | 4,420 | 3,616 |
| In-Kind | 1,239,574 | 1,226,731 |
| Total Operating Revenues, Gains or Losses and Other Support | 8,337,785 | 9,610,417 |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions | 0 | 3,100 |
| Net Assets Temporarily Restricted | 0 | 0 |
| Total Revenues, Gains and other Support | \$8,337,785 | \$9,613,517 |
| Expenses | | |
| Program Services | 6,667,828 | 6,543,268 |
| Fundraising | 1,873,033 | 1,677,160 |
| Management and General | 698,637 | 856,172 |
| Total Expenses | \$9,239,498 | \$9,076,600 |
| Increase/Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets | <901,713> | 536,917 |



2009 LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

\$2 million+

Law Enforcement Torch Run

\$250,000+

Advocate Medical*
Knights of Columbus Councils of Illinois
State of Illinois

\$100,000 - \$249,000

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Shop'n Save
Dunkin' Donuts**
WLIT*

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Clover Technologies Group LLC
CME Group Inc.
Dominick's
Dorothy Gorman Trust
Frances E. Flood & Mary H. Flood Trust
Paddock Publications*
Ruth M Stafford Trust

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Beyond the Ivy, Inc.*
Brinson Foundation
Interior Investments
IPA Charities Inc.
Miller Group Charitable Trust Fund
Pattee Foundation Inc.
Prokuski Family Charitable Remainder Trust
RCN*
Reyes Holdings LLC
Robert & Jamie Taylor
Stack Family Foundation
Sun-Times Media**
United Center*
Wal-Mart Stores

Warren County Mental Health 708 Board
UPS Foundation Inc.

\$20,000 - \$24,999

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Carquest General Parts, Inc.
Chicago Trading Co.
Clean Harbors*
Coca-Cola Enterprises Bottling Companies**
Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
CVS Caremark Charitable Trust
Estate of Cecilia Giebutowski
Hoffman York*
IL Association of Jr. High Student Councils
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
Komatsu America*
Northern Illinois Parrot Head Club

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Auto Club Group
Bank of America Illinois
Boeing Company
Carl R. Hendrickson Family Foundation
CWB Foundation
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Emmis Communications (WKQX FM & WLUP FM)
Estate of Milford R. Livingston
Frank Lizzadro
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Illinois Sheriffs' Assn.
Idealease Inc.
In Search of a Cure Golf Event
John and Mary Manley
Kotel Foundation

Lakshmi Foundation
Levy Restaurants*
Macy's Foundation
Marion Deguilio
National Van Lines Inc.**
Panasonic Corporation of North America
Procter & Gamble
Sargent & Lundy
Scott and Mary Serota
State Farm Insurance Companies**
Topfer Family Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

A. R. Thane Ritchie
Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
Al-Amin Brothers Transportation Inc
Alan Barsumian
Alton Foundation
American Legion
American Legion Auxiliary
Anonymous
Apple Vacations*
Bears Care
Bridgestone Firestone
Charles Whitman
Chevron Products Company
Chicago Board Options Exchange
County of Rock Island, IL
Crown Family Philanthropies
Da-Com Corporation
David Johnson
Dell Foundation
Durham School Services LP
Fox River Trail Runners
Frank and Julia Ladner
Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation
Galesburg Community & Health Foundation
George & June Block Family Foundation
Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation



Goldman Sachs & Company
 Hal Hempten Memorial Fund
 Helen Brach Foundation
 Home Run Inn Foundation
 Illinois Tool Works Foundation
 Eugene C. Kieffer Charitable Org.
 James Calzaretta
 Jasper Engines & Transmissions
 Knight Hawk Coal LLC
 Knights of Columbus Supreme Council
 Labor Management Cooperation
 Lefkowitz Foundation
 Lincoln Heritage Soccer League
 Littelfuse Inc.
 LPGA State Farm Classic
 Marathon Insurance
 Marina Cartage Inc.
 Mat Leasing Inc.
 Mattel Inc.
 Mesirow Financial
 MT Transit
 Normal Firefighters Assn. Local 2442**
 Richard Michel
 Rosemont Hockey Partners LP
 Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation
 Sherman Elementary
 Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
 S. Charles North High School
 Sternberg Vintage Lighting
 The Red Eye*
 Thomas Logan
 Trading Technologies
 Turner Construction Company
 Van Kampen Investments Inc.
 Ward Nipper & Associates*
 WGN Radio*
 WUSN FM
 Zimmerman Ford Inc.

\$2,000 - \$4,999

All Community Events Inc.
 Ameren CIPS
 Amy's Angels Foundation
 Archer Daniels Midland Company
 Beemsterboer Slag Corp.
 Blue Goose Chicago Pond
 Burling Bank
 Business Professionals of America IL Assoc.
 Capital Strategies Investment Group
 Cardinal Movers*
 Cardinals Care
 Cargill Inc.
 Carl L. Schweinfurth Foundation
 Carmi-White County Unit 5
 Catherine McKeever Denten Foundation
 Chartis
 Chicago Sheraton Hotel & Towers*

Citadel Group Foundation
 Coleman Home Solutions
 D'Arcy Motors
 Decatur Earthmover Credit Union
 Devin E-Solutions Inc
 Divane Bros Electric Co.
 Durham Bus Services*
 Eugene C. Kieffer Charitable Organization
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 Family Counseling Center Inc.
 FE Moran Inc.
 Fitzsimonds Charitable Trust
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 Hollister Inc.
 IL Forno Pizza & Pasta
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 Illinois Soybean Association
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 Linda Bogess
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 Motionpost
 Naperville Evening Kiwanis
 Newport Ind.
 Northwestern University
 Now Care LLC
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Peter and Kelly Young
 Peter Lynch Foundation
 Peter Starykowicz
 River Front Chrysler Jeep
 RLI Insurance Company
 Rockford Park District
 Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove
 Sahara Enterprises Inc.
 Saint-Gobain Corporation
 Salty Dawgs Motorcycle Club
 Shelby Electric Cooperative Inc.
 Shodeen Family Foundation
 St. Clair Bowl*
 Sylvan / Laureate Foundation Inc.
 Tamms Health Resource Service Inc.
 Thomas Tisbo
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Association
 Timothy Douglass
 Timothy Layden
 Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana Inc.
 Twomey Foundation
 U of I Foundation
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 Warranty Activation Headquarters Inc.
 Weist Foundation
 Wells Fargo Bank NA
 Wescott Group LTD
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* = In-kind only

** = In-kind & financial support



Special Olympics
 Illinois



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Developing new initiatives, maintaining the highest standards 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. In 2009, the hard work and committed support of our donors, volunteers, staff and Board of Directors, gave Special Olympics Illinois the strength to keep its programs available, at no cost, to a growing number of athletes. Thanks to several remarkably successful special events and renewed efforts to build better relationships with our foundation and corporate partners—as well as the generosity of thousands of individuals—Special Olympics Illinois was able to deliver a quality experience to these extraordinary athletes.



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Eunice Kennedy Shriver 1921 – 2009

“As we hope for the best in them, hope is reborn in us.”

Special Olympics lost its guiding star in 2009—a figure who was personally connected to each and every member of this family of ours. Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a friend, ambassador and fierce champion of Special Olympics athletes the world over. She found purpose in their hope, and the inspiration to challenge society to reconsider how it viewed and treated individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Her crusade on behalf of this neglected population made Mrs. Shriver receptive to a proposal from a young physical education instructor working with the Chicago Park District, Anne McGlone (now Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke). Their collaboration would result in the very first Special Olympics Games on July 20, 1968. Drawing from the U.S. and Canada, over 1,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities participated in the Games.

Special Olympics has since become a global movement, focusing the world’s attention on what children and adults with intellectual disabilities can do, rather than what they cannot do. Mrs. Shriver’s steadfast determination and courage changed society forever, yet she took little credit for the impact of her tireless advocacy, choosing instead to give the credit to the athletes themselves:

“You have shown the power of the human spirit to accomplish vast change, to overcome the highest obstacles, to move out of the shadows of past injustice and into the bright sunshine of opportunity and hope.”

Her passion and legacy will live on through the athletes of today and tomorrow.

Respect