



In the spirit of giving this holiday season, Chicago Cubs pitcher Kyle Hendricks and new wife, Emma, have signed on to give their time to Special Olympics Illinois. The two will serve as “Star Champion” Ambassadors to help promote the organization and the mission.

Hendricks made his major league debut in 2014, and the following season became a member of the Cubs’ starting rotation. During Game 6 of the NLCS in 2016, Hendricks pitched in the clinching game to send the Cubs to their first World Series since 1945. The Cubs won the 2016 World Series over the Cleveland Indians, with Hendricks as the starting pitcher in Games 3 and 7, giving them their first title in 108 years. He remains a valuable asset to the team’s starting line-up.

Kyle and Emma joined Special Olympics for a Town Hall gathering at Soldier Field to help promote the 50th Anniversary events coming to Chicago in 2018. There they were presented with plaques for their commitment to the movement.

The pair participated in a Unified Yoga session with Special Olympics Illinois athletes over the summer for an upcoming segment on A&E’s *Celebrity Sweat*. Kyle and Emma generously arranged seats and treats at the Chicago Cubs game for the athletes and their families following their taping.

“Kyle and his wife Emma, are dedicated to raising awareness for Special Olympics Illinois as well as the global 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics,” says Dave Breen, President and CEO of Special Olympics Illinois.

“Professional athletes bring awareness to the athletes we serve, allowing them to advocate for themselves through sport. Kyle and Emma have opened their hearts to our athletes in support of our mission and are we grateful their time, effort, and dedication.”

Special Olympics Illinois “Star Champions” Ambassadors come from the worlds of sport, music, entertainment, media, philanthropy and government and have all committed their support to Special Olympics Illinois to help raise awareness and resources for the organization. By creating public awareness of the movement, supporting the expansion of sports, health and education programs, and helping to mobilize resources, Special Olympics “Star Champions” demonstrate a clear commitment to making a real difference in today’s world.

The Chicago Fire Soccer Club’s Brandt Bronico has also signed on as a Star Champion.

“I’m extremely excited and grateful for this opportunity to work with Special Olympics,” says Bronico.

Special Olympics Illinois is thanks these Star Champions for their dedication to the mission as we look to inspire people playing and living Unified on and off the field.

Want to join in the fun? You can be like Kyle, Emma and Brandt by supporting Special Olympics Illinois! Make a donation for #GivingTuesday. Become a coach or a Unified Partner in your community. Sponsor



an athlete attending the 2018 Special Olympics

USA Games in Seattle. There are countless ways to get involved! Learn more at www.soill.org.