



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Athlete Selected to Represent Jewel-Osco “Change for Champions” Campaign that Benefits
Special Olympics Illinois**

Register Campaign Runs July 1-31 at 183 Locations Statewide

During July, Jewel-Osco is relaunching its annual at-register fundraising campaign through the "Making Change" donation program called "Change for Champions" to support the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. The promotion runs July 1-31 at 183 Jewel-Osco locations throughout Illinois, where customers will be encouraged to make a \$1, \$3, or \$5 donation during checkout.

This year's "Change for Champions" campaign ambassador features Special Olympics Illinois Athlete Michael McLaughlin. Michael, who is also a Jewel-Osco employee in Elmhurst, has enjoyed an illustrious career with Special Olympics, participating since 1982. He competes in a variety of sports, such as basketball, softball and volleyball. While his accomplishments in sport and medal collection are impressive, Michael's successes extend well beyond the field of competition. Michael is a Special Olympics Global Messenger, championing the efforts for individuals with intellectual disabilities to build a more inclusive world. In addition to his efforts with Special Olympics, Michael attributes his personal growth and successes to his nearly 20-year career as an employee of Jewel-Osco.

In addition to the “Change for Champions” campaign, Jewel-Osco is the presenting sponsor for the 13th Annual Windy City Rubber Ducky Derby. This event has become a favorite Chicago summertime event, which generates nearly \$350,000 for the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. Nearly 60,000 rubber ducks are “adopted” through this event, where donors’ ducks will race to the finish line for a variety of prizes. To learn more about this event, visit www.duckrace.com/chicago. This June, Jewel-Osco also sponsored the Special Olympics State Summer Games in Bloomington-Normal, where more than 4,100 athletes competed over three days in track and field, aquatics, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, and bocce.

“We are extremely grateful for our partnership with Jewel-Osco and the tremendous support they have shown our athletes,” said Dave Breen, President & CEO of Special Olympics Illinois. “In addition to their fundraising efforts, Jewel-Osco provides jobs for many Special Olympics athletes throughout Illinois, giving them the ability to learn valuable life skills and be productive members of their communities.”

About Special Olympics Illinois:

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 20,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Special Olympics Illinois

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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities