



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Alexandra McMillin [amcmillin@soill.org](mailto:amcmillin@soill.org) or 312-502-7954**

**United Center to Host Special Olympics Illinois MedFest on November 6, 2019**

**CHICAGO, IL.** – Special Olympics Illinois is proud to announce that the United Center will host the 21st Annual Special Olympics Illinois MedFest on November 6, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MedFest brings more than 1,500 aspiring and current Special Olympics athletes from across the city to the United Center, where they receive free sports physicals from over 130 health professionals from Advocate Medical Group.

Special Olympics Illinois provides transportation to and from the event for all athletes, bringing them in from a network of Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park District, and private institutions.

A sports physical is required for participation in Special Olympics training and competition. The MedFest initiative makes it easier for more children and adults to gain entry to Special Olympics by removing what had been a financial or logistical barrier for many of the participants.

Beyond the free sports physical, MedFest introduces athletes to structured Special Olympics activities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to maintain habits for a healthier lifestyle year-round and potentially reducing or preventing future health concerns. This event is a model of service that has been adopted worldwide.

MedFest is an opportunity for persons with intellectual disabilities to receive the sports physical required for participation in Special Olympics at no cost. This year will also allow the Special Olympics Illinois athletes to receive a free eye exam through the Opening Eyes program. The Illinois College of Optometry staff will be offering vision screenings to all. If an athlete requires glasses, most will receive them that day, or soon afterward - all at no cost to the athlete. Levy Restaurants also provides lunch.

To learn more about MedFest, please visit [soill.org](http://soill.org) or contact Mike Rackov, Manager- Administrative Services, at [mrackov@soill.org](mailto:mrackov@soill.org).

**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 over 17,000 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 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

**Special Olympics Illinois State Headquarters**

605 E. Willow St., Normal, IL 61761  
Tel 309-888-2551 Fax 309-888-2570  
[www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org)

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

**Special Olympics Illinois Northern Office**

500 Waters Edge, Ste. 100, Lombard, IL 60148  
Tel 630-942-5610 Fax 630-942-5613



800-394-0562 or visit our website at [www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org). Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

###