

## **Where the Money Goes**

Funds raised by the Law Enforcement Torch Run provide significant support to the mission of Special Olympics Illinois. The organization does not receive any financial assistance from the Kennedy Foundation and is not a United Way agency. It is funded solely through individual and corporate donations, foundation grants, service clubs, and special events such as the Torch Run.

Special Olympics Illinois provides training and competition in 18 sports, through more than 200 competitions, involving more than 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and 14,000 Young Athletes and peer partners ages 2 – 7 with and without intellectual disabilities each year. SO ILL is committed to providing quality service for athletes and their families and operates on an annual budget of \$11 million.

Through Special Olympics, athletes enhance their physical fitness and motor skills, self-confidence, self-image, friendships and social skills, and encourage family support. The athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom, on the job and in the community. Families who participate become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athlete's abilities. Volunteers help in every aspect of the program and derive great satisfaction from contact with the athletes and their families. And everyone in the community respects and learns more about the capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

To deliver the year-round training and competition, the organization invests approximately \$473 per year per athlete. In an average year, this includes the actual event costs for facilities, equipment, and food and in some cases housing. It also includes the time and materials to recruit and train more than 45,000 volunteers. Administrative costs are also necessary to give the athletes their opportunity such as \$132,000 of annual insurance fees, \$160,000 accreditation fee to Special Olympics Inc. and all the anticipated overhead to run the program.

With true volunteers leading the charge, the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) enables Special Olympics Illinois to achieve the task of 80 cents of every dollar going directly to the athlete programs. Furthermore, the Torch Run is achieving an 80% of every dollar ratio. The funds generated by the Law Enforcement Torch Run represent enough support to cover the annual expenses relating to nearly 16,000 of Illinois' more than 40,000 traditional and young athletes.

For more information about Special Olympics Illinois or the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run visit [www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org).