



## Medical Staff Hometown: Pekin, IL

### 1. How long have you been with Special Olympics?

I have been a medical volunteer with Special Olympics Illinois for 13 years. My role as a volunteer has consisted of being the medical chairperson for state competitions and Summer Games. Additionally, I was selected to be on the 2017 World Games medical team in Austria and Medical Team Lead for Team Illinois for the 50th SOILL Anniversary Competition held in Chicago.

### 2. How has Special Olympics changed your life?

Special Olympics has changed my life in regards to improving personal growth with a better understanding of my service role that I have chosen. Through this better understanding of oneself, I have watched the athletes participate with passion and a strong will to achieve, and found an internal desire to take action in my own personal development by their influence.

### 3. What has been your biggest obstacle to overcome?

The biggest obstacle I have overcome is time management between Special Olympics event coverage, responsibilities that I have at my workplace, and spending time with family.

### 4. What makes you most proud?

Representing the United States on the 2017 World Games Medical Team. Working with the USA delegation and interacting with other countries made me aware that the games were all much larger than ourselves and wearing the USA colors brought a high sense of pride.

### 5. What are some other accomplishments you are proud of?

I have worked in professional hockey for 16 years and currently manage a wellness center where I work with the surrounding communities to improve health and wellness. Additionally, I oversee the sports medicine care of high school athletes for four schools. I have been a Certified Athletic Trainer working with athletes for 30 years.



**6. What other interests or hobbies do you have?**

I enjoy personal training, working and developing youth athletes, and providing event coverage for a local hockey organization. I also work on a community health committee with three health departments, two other hospitals and community leaders to address community health issues.

**7. Who do you admire most and why?**

I admire Tony Robbins because he has a systematic way of looking at life issues and finding realistic solutions to improve the way we think and respond. He is a fantastic life coach.

**8. What does attending USA Games mean to you?**

Attending the 2022 USA Games as an Illinois Medical Representative is a great responsibility and honor. To be asked is knowing the delegation believes in what I do and how my professional knowledge and personal approach are valuable. I look forward to seeing the joy and success of each athlete as they participate in their sport.

**9. How are you preparing/training for USA Games?**

To prepare for the games as a medical professional, I will get to know all in the Illinois delegation. Additionally, I will continuously be in contact and attend all required meetings/practices. I will also network with the 2022 medical team onsite and know what resources are available so that the delegation can rest easy and focus on competition.

**10. Have you been to a World Games or USA Games before?**

I was on the medical team for the 2017 World Games in Austria. My role was the Certified Athletic Trainer with the USA snowshoeing team along with a physician.

**11. Are you employed? If so, where at and what's your role?**

Yes, I work at the Hopedale Medical Complex. My position is Manager of the Wellness Center and Assistant Director of Sports Medicine.

**12. Are you a currently a student? If so, where and is it a Unified Champion School?**

I am not a student.

