



## Chaperone Youth Leadership Experience Hometown: Chicago, IL

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

I have been on the Special Olympics Illinois team for almost three years. Prior to that I was the Special Olympics Athletic Director in Chicago Public Schools for 10 years.

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

I have seen firsthand the amazing opportunities that Special Olympics has given my students/athletes.

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

The biggest challenge I have overcome is how to get schools to become involved in Special Olympics. Many teachers are afraid of new things as they don't want to add more to their plates; but I have been able to help them overcome those fears and be successful.

### **4. What makes you most proud?**

I love seeing athletes try their best and have fun. They never give up and are truly inspiring.

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

I have been able to travel all over Illinois with athletes and even got to take a team to Toronto, Canada which was amazing!

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

I love getting my family involved with Special Olympics as much as possible. My husband and two daughters are aware of the mission of Special Olympics and come to events as often as possible.

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

I admire the athletes of Special Olympics. They are truly inspiring. They never give up and they always try their best.



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

I am so excited to attend USA Games. I have heard so many wonderful things and can't wait to see it and athletes from all over the country!

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

We had Processing Day where we got to see Team Illinois and hang out for a few hours. It was great!

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

None- first timer!

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

Yes- Special Olympics Illinois Director of Outreach

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

No

