

NO EXCLUSION  
NO REVOLUTION



**Special Olympics**  
Connecticut



**2019 ANNUAL  
REPORT**

## OUR MISSION

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

## OUR SPORTS

Alpine Skiing	Figure Skating	Snowshoeing
Athletics	Flag Football	Soccer
Basketball	Floor Hockey	Softball
Bocce	Golf	Speed Skating
Bowling	Gymnastics	Swimming
Cheerleading	Long-Distance	Tennis
Croquet	Unified Running	Track and Field
Cross-Country Skiing	Powerlifting	Volleyball
Curling	Sailing	
Cycling	Snowboarding	

## OUR PARTICIPANTS

### Our programs are for everyone.

We offer traditional sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities and Unified Sports® for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. Our Special Olympics Unified Sports® program brings people of all abilities together on the same team and is offered in communities statewide through our local programs and in schools, at every grade level, through our partnership with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). In addition, we offer a Young Athletes program for children ages three to seven.

In 2019, we had 13,310 participants, including 7,392 athletes (with intellectual disabilities) and 5,928 Unified Sports® partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities). Through their participation, these individuals improved their athletic skills and performance, enhanced their fitness and overall well-being, and helped create a more inclusive world for us all.

The Special Olympics Connecticut family also includes hundreds of coaches and thousands of volunteers and friends who support and sponsor us.



## Strides in Health and Inclusion

We are proud to be a sports organization, but it is what we achieve through sports that makes us most proud.

We understand that to be an athlete, one must have support, confidence and opportunities to work toward achieving goals. We also understand that to an athlete, feeling well is essential.

We have evolved to become an organization that not only provides opportunities for individuals of all abilities to train and compete in sports, but also the education and access to healthcare they need to improve their wellness and become stronger, more successful athletes.

In 2019, we were honored to be recognized as a Healthy Community, a distinction given by Special Olympics International to Special Olympics programs that are helping athletes access year-round, quality healthcare and wellness and fitness opportunities locally. Health & wellness screenings and education are life-changing and always free to our athletes.

We also understand that to an athlete, feeling connected to a community is essential. Because of this, we are an organization that strives to inspire, educate and motivate people to include individuals of all abilities in our schools, workplaces and communities. By implementing our Unified Sports® program as a platform to create inclusion, we are seeing that when everyone is included in sports and other aspects of day-to-day living, inclusion is impactful. It has the power to change perceptions people have about individuals with intellectual disabilities and make a world of difference – for everyone involved.

Thank you for being a part of our community and for all you do to create inclusion and help our athletes realize their potential.

– Michelle Zettergren  
Board of Directors Chair

– Beau Doherty  
Special Olympics Connecticut President



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS LOCAL PROGRAMS

## LOCAL PROGRAM

Ability Beyond  
Allied Enfield Stars  
ARC of New London County  
ARI of Connecticut, Inc.  
Chapel Haven Schleifer Center  
Connecticut Tumblers  
Darien Lions  
East Hartford Parks & Recreation  
Greater Middletown Special Olympics  
Groton Special Recreation  
Hartford Board of Education  
Litchfield County ARC, Inc.  
Manchester Supportive Living  
MARC, Inc. of Manchester  
Milford Operation Mainstream  
New Haven Public Schools  
Northwest Special Olympics Swim Team  
Norwich Free Academy  
Our Vision Westport  
Quinebaug Valley  
Region 1 Public School District  
River Brook Regional YMCA  
Seaside Saybrook  
Southbury Training School  
Southington Sports Club  
Special Olympics Bristol  
Special Olympics Central Shoreline  
Special Olympics Cheshire  
Special Olympics Danbury  
Special Olympics Farmington Valley  
Special Olympics Glastonbury  
Special Olympics Greenwich  
Special Olympics Griswold  
Special Olympics Hamden  
Special Olympics Hartford  
Special Olympics Manchester

## COUNTY

Fairfield  
Hartford  
New London  
Fairfield  
New Haven  
New Haven  
Fairfield  
Hartford  
Middlesex  
New London  
Hartford  
Litchfield  
Hartford  
Hartford  
New Haven  
New Haven  
Litchfield  
New London  
Fairfield  
Windham  
Litchfield  
Fairfield  
Middlesex  
New Haven  
Hartford  
Hartford  
New Haven  
New Haven  
Fairfield  
Hartford  
Hartford  
Fairfield  
New London  
New Haven  
Hartford  
Hartford

## LOCAL PROGRAM

Special Olympics Mansfield-Tolland  
Special Olympics Marrakech  
Special Olympics Mid-State  
Special Olympics Mystic-Ledyard  
Special Olympics Naugatuck  
Special Olympics New London  
Special Olympics New Milford  
Special Olympics Norwalk  
Special Olympics Norwich  
Special Olympics Oxford  
Special Olympics Ridgefield  
Special Olympics Shelton  
Special Olympics Simsbury  
Special Olympics South Windsor  
Special Olympics Tri-Town  
Special Olympics Trumbull  
Special Olympics Waterbury  
Special Olympics West Hartford  
Special Olympics Weston  
Special Olympics Westport-Weston YMCA  
Special Olympics Willimantic  
Special Olympics Windsor  
Special Olympics Windsor Locks  
Stamford Public Schools  
Team North Haven  
Team Plainfield  
Team RHAM  
Team West Haven  
Town of Newington  
Town of Wethersfield  
Unified Long-Distance Running Team  
Watertown Area Association for Special Citizens  
Whole Life, Inc.  
Windham Athletic Association  
Woodstock Academy

## COUNTY

Tolland  
New Haven  
Hartford  
New London  
New Haven  
New London  
Litchfield  
Fairfield  
New London  
New Haven  
Fairfield  
Fairfield  
Hartford  
Hartford  
New Haven  
Fairfield  
New Haven  
Hartford  
Fairfield  
Fairfield  
Windham  
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New Haven  
Hartford  
Hartford  
Fairfield  
Litchfield  
Fairfield  
Windham  
Windham



# ANNUAL STATE COMPETITIONS



## Winter Games

February 23rd and 24th

**Athletes: 627**  
**Unified Sports® Teammates: 154**  
**Coaches: 222**

### Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding

Powder Ridge Mountain Park  
& Resort, Middlefield

### Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Eversource Energy, Windsor

### Figure Skating and Speed Skating

International Skating Center  
of Connecticut, Simsbury

### Unified Floor Hockey and Skills

Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford

### Gymnastics

Farmington Valley Gymnastics  
and More, Plainville



## Summer Games

June 7th, 8th and 9th

**Athletes: 2,172**  
**Unified Sports® Teammates: 466**  
**Coaches: 424**

### Swimming and Tennis

Southern Connecticut State University,  
New Haven

### Track & Field

Yale Dewitt Cuyler Athletic Complex,  
West Haven

### Developmental Swimming and Soccer

Hamden Hall Country Day School Skiff  
Street Athletic Complex, Hamden

### Cycling

Yale West Campus, Orange



## Unified Sports® Fall Festival

September 7th and 8th, 21st and 22nd

**Athletes: 906**  
**Unified Sports® Teammates: 356**  
**Coaches: 147**

### Bocce

Scalzi Park, Stamford

### Croquet

Ocean House, Watch Hill, Rhode Island

### Golf

Sleeping Giant Golf Course, Hamden

### Sailing

The Wadawanuck Club, Stonington

### Softball

Connecticut SportsPlex, North Branford  
and Kennedy Memorial Field, East Haven



## Unified Sports® Holiday Classic

November 23rd and 24th

**Athletes: 1,721**  
**Unified Sports® Teammates: 581**  
**Coaches: 224**

### Basketball

Quinnipiac University, Hamden

### Bowling

Bowlero, Milford and AMF Circle Lanes,  
East Haven

### Powerlifting

Gleason Performance Training, Derby

### Volleyball

Hamden Hall Country Day School  
Skiff Street Athletic Complex, Hamden



# STATE COMPETITION TOP PERFORMERS

## WINTER GAMES

### ALPINE SKIING, ADVANCED GIANT SLALOM

**Paul Kish**  
**1.10.50**  
(minutes, combined  
score of 2 runs)  
Special Olympics Bristol

**Elayna Paradiso**  
**1.33.73**  
(minutes, combined  
score of 2 runs)  
Special Olympics Seaside  
Saybrook

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, 100M RACE

**Peter Petrucelli**  
**28.68**  
Special Olympics New Milford

**Kelly Schneider**  
**36.28**  
Special Olympics New Milford

### SNOWSHOEING, 100M RACE

**Gavin Fulton**  
**17.39**  
Special Olympics Plainfield

**Rachel Miner**  
**26.54**  
Special Olympics Simsbury

### SPEED SKATING, 222 M RACE

**Luis Sanchez**  
**38.56**  
Special Olympics RHAM

**Alina O'Brien**  
**49.89**  
Special Olympics Greenwich

## SUMMER GAMES

### TRACK & FIELD

**100M Run:**  
**Jermar Crawford**  
**13.50 sec**  
New Haven Public Schools

**Gabriella Ocasio**  
**14.65 sec**  
Special Olympics Griswold

**Running Long Jump:**  
**Keldon Hodge**  
**4.57 Meters**  
Special Olympics Danbury

**Adamarie Oliver**  
**3.30 Meters**  
Team RHAM

### SWIMMING

**100M Free:**  
**William Harrison Peloso**  
**1.23.24**  
Stamford Family YMCA

**Selina Derungs**  
**1.25.00**  
Special Olympics Simsbury

**100M Individual Medley:**  
**Patrick Jordan**  
**1.36.15**  
Special Olympics  
West Hartford

**Selina Derungs**  
**1.56.22**  
Special Olympics Simsbury

## UNIFIED SPORTS® FALL FESTIVAL

### GOLF

**Aiden Kelly**  
**Individual 9-Hole Play, Score – 44**  
Special Olympics Team RHAM

## UNIFIED SPORTS® HOLIDAY CLASSIC

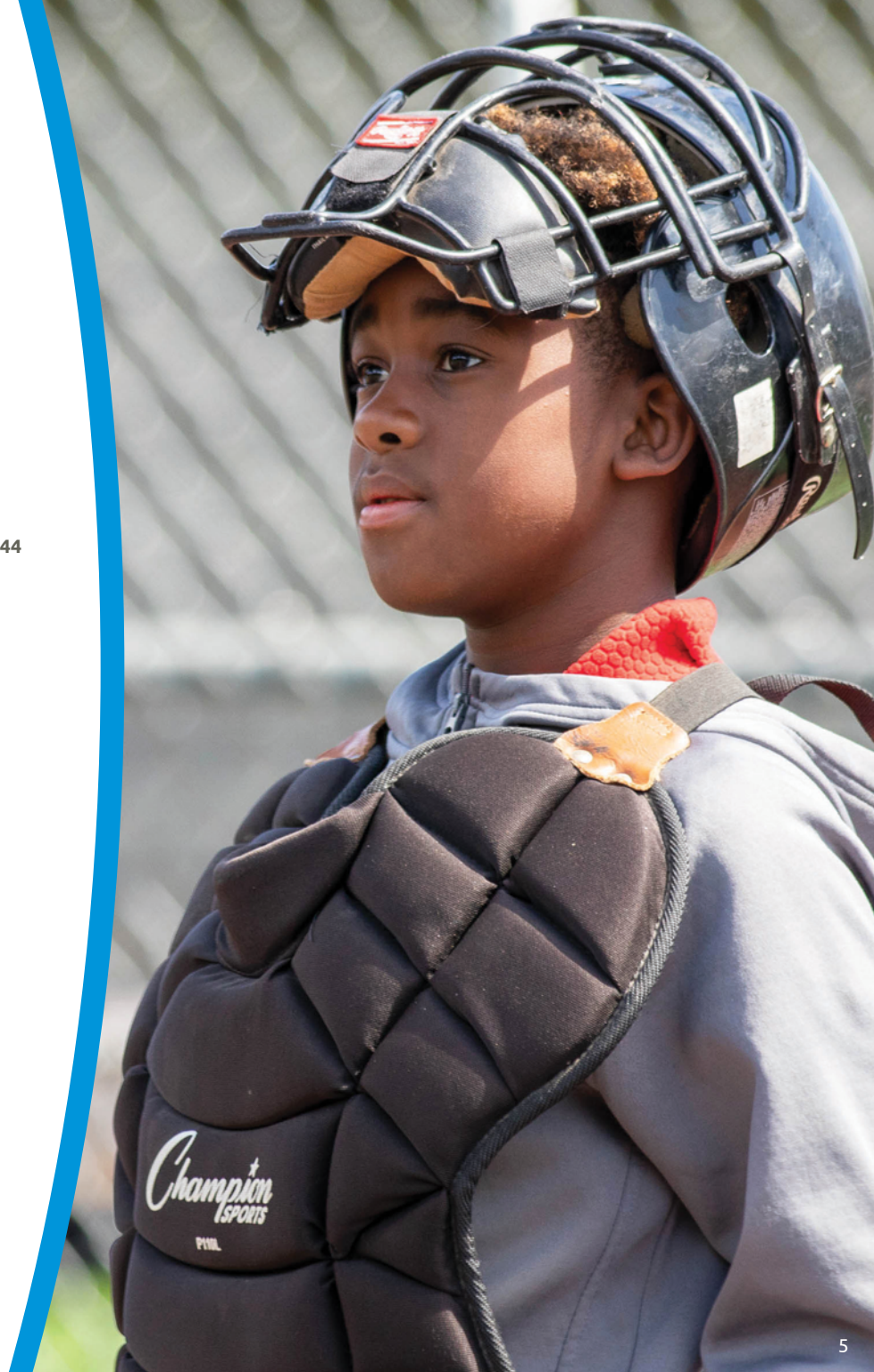
### BOWLING

**James Wessman**  
High score: 190  
Special Olympics Southington  
Sports Club

### POWERLIFTING

**Andrew Abbott**  
**Bench Press: 198.19 lbs.**  
**Dead Lift: 317.74 lbs.**  
Special Olympics Trumbull

**Patience Miller**  
**Bench Press: 179.10 lbs.**  
**Deadlift: 318.90 lbs.**  
Special Olympics Trumbull





# ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

## Floor Hockey Divisioning Tournament

February 16th, Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford

## Speed Skating Invitational

February 21st, Connecticut College, New London

## Windham Invitational Swim Meet

March 9th, Windham High School, Windham

## Traditional Floor Hockey Competition

March 9th and 10th, Special Olympics Massachusetts

## Traditional Basketball Tournament

March 23rd, Chase Collegiate, Crosby High School, Holy Cross High School, John F. Kennedy High School, West Side Middle School and Post University, all of Waterbury

## Curling Bonspiel

March 30th, Nutmeg Curling Club, Bridgeport

## Husky Classic Soccer Divisioning Tournament

May 4th, University of Connecticut, Storrs

## Northern Time Trials

May 5th, The Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor

## Southern Time Trials

May 11th, Weston High School, Weston

## Essex Sailing Invitational

June 22nd, Essex Yacht Club, Essex

## Golf Skills Jamboree

July 21st, Lyman Orchards Golf Club, Middlefield

## Cedar Point Sailing Regatta

August 18th, Cedar Point Yacht Club, Westport

## Softball Divisioning Tournament

August 10th, Pragemann Park, Wallingford

## Unified Croquet Invitational

August 17th, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford

## Golf Alternate Shot

August 24th, Orange Hills Country Club, Orange

## New England Invitational Golf Tournament

October 13th, Raceway Golf Course, Thompson

## Unified Basketball Divisioning Tournament

October 19th, Floyd Little Athletic Center, New Haven

## Unified Volleyball Divisioning Tournament

October 20th, Floyd Little Athletic Center, New Haven

## New England Regional Flag Football Tournament

November 16th, Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, MA



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES

The Special Olympics Summer World Games were held in Abu Dhabi, March 14th through the 21st, and Connecticut was proud to send a delegation to this historic event – the first of its kind in the Middle East/North Africa Region. It was also the largest humanitarian and multi-sport event in 2019, with over 7,000 athletes from around the world competing in 24 sports.

## Event Highlights:

Unified Sports® partners Ken Richter and Steve Manzone teamed up with a pair from Special Olympics Illinois to place first and win gold in the 4-man bocce competition. Ken received a 4th place ribbon in bocce singles competition and Ken and Steve captured 5th place in their bocce doubles match.

Derrick Ford coached athletics athletes from across the USA and Kevin Smith volunteered as a golf coach and caddy.

Oxford High School Unified Sports® teammates Thomas Romeo and Jack Fairhurst and School principal, Dorothy Potter, participated in the Global Youth Leadership Summit at the World Games. During the Summit, they gathered with youth leaders with and without disabilities from over 25 countries around the world to collaborate on a vision for an inclusive world and develop skills to bring the vision to life where they live.

Trooper First Class Carlo Guerra represented Connecticut as a participant in the Final Leg of the World Games Law Enforcement Torch Run.



# NORTH AMERICA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Fourteen athletes and Unified Sports® teammates were among more than 200 athletes from across the country who competed in the 20th Annual Special Olympics North America Golf Championship. The event took place at the Hermitage Golf Course in Nashville, Tennessee, September 22nd-25th.



## Individual Golf Skills

**Andrew Szczesny – 195, 2nd Place**

**Andrew McMillan – 175, 3rd Place**

**Christopher Summers – 161, 1st Place**

**Robert Chellstorp – 144, 2nd Place**

**Joseph Grodovich – 136, 3rd Place**

## Alternate Shot Team Play, Level 2

**Anthony Thibeault and Kevin Smith – 148, 3rd Place**

**Jack Miner and Chris Miner – 162, 3rd Place**

**Lisa Thomasco and Stephen Emblidge – 179, 3rd Place**

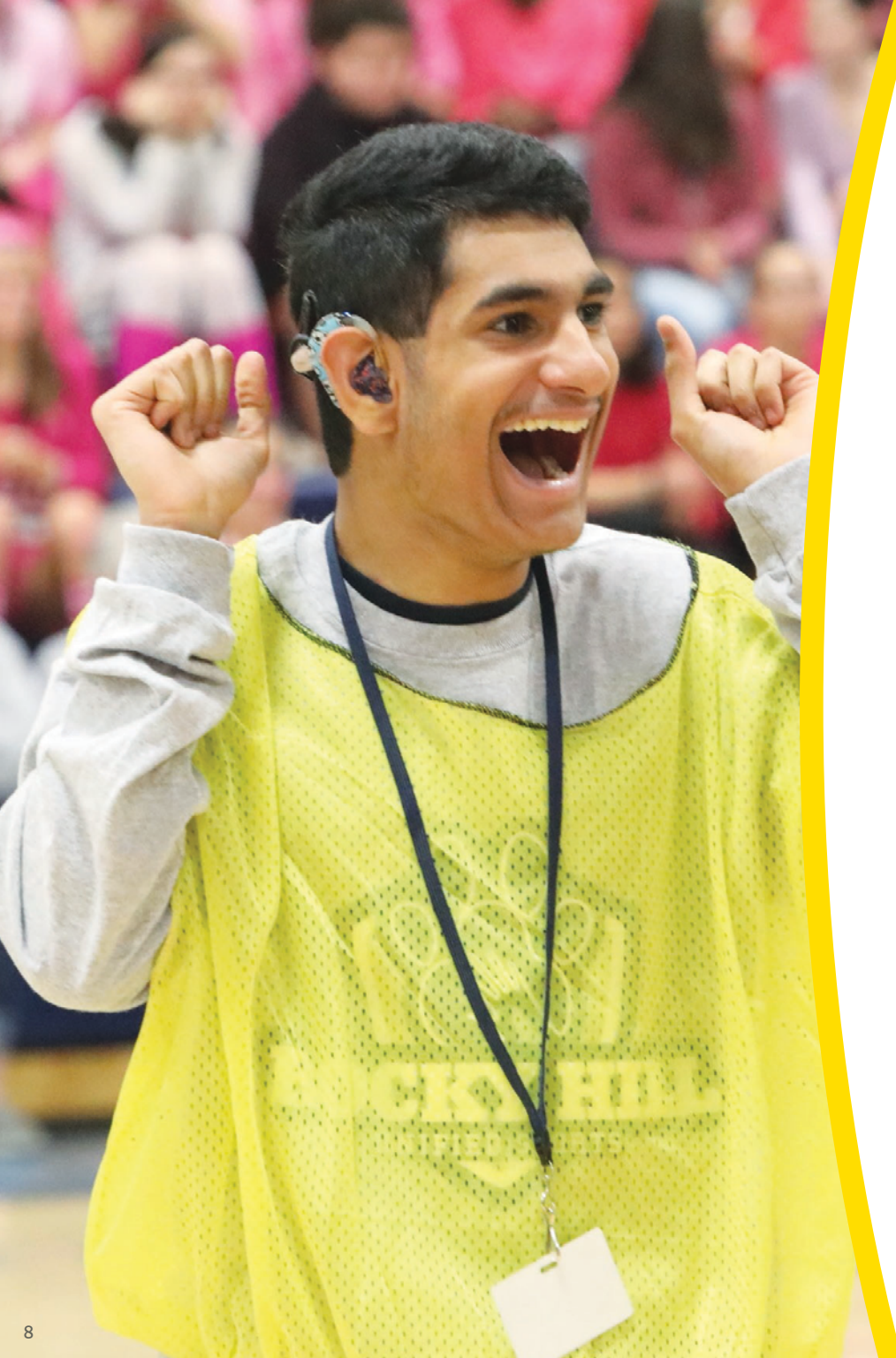
## Stroke Play 18 Hole, Level 5

**Michael Hedrick – 333, 2nd Place**

## Unified Team Play, Level 3

**Cliff Backus and David Dennin – 299, 2nd Place**





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS®

## Special Olympics Unified Sports® in Our Schools

Special Olympics Unified Sports® is a program designed to promote social inclusion and social-emotional learning through inclusive sports. Unified Sports® in Connecticut schools is made possible through our strong, longstanding partnership with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and brings students with and without intellectual disabilities together to train and compete in sports as teammates.

When Unified Sports® is offered at every grade level in our schools, students who might not otherwise get the chance to be part of a team are included. They are also encouraged and recognized for the skills, spirit and joy they possess and bring to the game. Additionally, the Unified Sports® program helps participants overcome barriers to education and acceptance that may include students' misconceptions about people with intellectual disabilities, isolation and bullying.

The concept of Unified Sports® has proven so powerful to create change and inclusion, that it has impacted schools beyond the playing field as well. Now clubs have become Unified, pep rallies have become Unified and school climate has become Unified.

Special Olympics Connecticut and CIAC also team up to present annual high school and middle school leadership summits. These events bring Unified Sports® teammates and their coaches together to share ideas and best practices, participate in athletic and inclusive activities and hear from motivational and inspirational speakers.

## Unified Sports® and Young Athletes in Schools by the Numbers

- 132 High Schools, 85 Middle Schools and 60 Elementary Schools offered Special Olympics Unified Sports® programs to their students in 2019.
- 25 schools offered the Special Olympics Young Athletes program.
- These students cumulatively had 100,758 Unified Sports® experiences.
- 6 schools were recognized as National Unified Champion Banner Schools in 2019. These schools include Valley Regional High School in Deep River, Rocky Hill High School, Pomperaug High School in Southbury, Schaghticoke Middle School in New Milford, Bethel Middle School and Whisconier Middle School in Brookfield.





## Special Olympics Unified Champion Banner Schools

Special Olympics Connecticut's Unified Champion Banner Schools are shining examples of the inclusion happening in schools, both on the basketball courts and playing fields - and in classrooms and cafeterias.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Banner Schools are middle and high schools that successfully demonstrate a commitment to inclusion by fully adopting three components: the Special Olympics Unified Sports® program, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement. Through their actions and words, students create a school culture that includes, accepts and respects individuals of all abilities.

*Connecticut is proud to have more schools that have achieved Unified Champion Banner status than any other state – with 62. Each has received National recognition and a banner to proudly display.*



## Young Athletes

Our Young Athletes program engages children, ages three to seven, in activities and exercises such as running, kicking and throwing to improve their motor skills, balance and coordination. Another invaluable part of the program is that the children have opportunities to socialize with their peers - and learn to accept those with different abilities in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.







# UNIFIED SPORTS® FITNESS CLUB

**In 2019, we had 21 active clubs with 513 members who, cumulatively, walked over 240,000 miles.**

The Special Olympics Connecticut Unified Sports® Fitness Club brings people with and without intellectual disabilities together so they may engage in regular physical activity to enhance fitness and overall health and develop friendships with other participants. The Club follows the Unified Sports® Recreation Model, which focuses on participation rather than competition.

Club activities include walking and hiking. In addition, groups enjoy and benefit from rowing, yoga, powerlifting and other forms of movement and exercise during weekly or bi-weekly meetups. Club participants wear fitness tracking devices to monitor personal and Club progress, meet goals and earn rewards.

Members of our Unified Sports® Fitness Club, collectively, reached an impressive milestone in March of 2019 – they walked one million miles since the Club's inception in 2014! This was achieved through the cumulative efforts of 35 Clubs, 903 participants strong, over a five-year span. "One million miles" was celebrated during a Universal Walk that brought members, statewide, together for a walk and health and fitness activities at Southern Connecticut State University in April. A Universal Walk and celebratory event also took place at the Farmington Polo Club in July.





# ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In addition to playing sports, Special Olympics Connecticut athletes have opportunities to serve as leaders and ambassadors for our organization. Athletes may volunteer or be nominated to serve as Board of Director and committee members, coaches, health leaders and Global Messengers.

**Global Messengers, our largest group of leaders with over 60 enrolled, represent the organization as spokespersons at games, in meetings with potential and current sponsors, through the media, at schools and at events in their communities.**

They bring a message of inclusion and acceptance and share personal stories that convey how participating in Special Olympics can be life-changing. They attend Athlete Leadership Training Days twice a year to hone their skills and improve their effectiveness in interviewing, networking and speech writing.

Health Leaders inform people about the breadth of our health and fitness programs and how we are improving the well-being of our athletes through the free health screenings and the health education we provide. Health Leaders speak to medical practitioners and students about how they can become involved as volunteers who support our health initiatives.







# HEALTHY ATHLETES®



Special Olympics  
**Health**  
MADE POSSIBLE BY FOUNDATION  
**Golisano**



## Special Olympics is the largest public health organization dedicated to serving people with intellectual disabilities.

Through its Healthy Athletes® program, Special Olympics improves the health of people with intellectual disabilities worldwide and addresses such health conditions as blindness, hearing loss, disease and chronic pain that affect this underserved population. The program provides free health screenings and educational resources, and teaches preventative care to athletes in eight disciplines – Fit Feet, FUNfitness, Health Promotion, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Special Smiles, Strong Minds, and MedFest. Healthy Athletes® also offers medical practitioners and students training and experience in working with people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics Connecticut now offers the full array of Special Olympics' Healthy Athletes® programs, with the addition of MedFest. We held our first MedFest in 2019 to provide prospective and current athletes with the physicals they need to participate in Special Olympics initially and every three years.

### We were also recognized as a Healthy Community by Special Olympics, Inc. in 2019.

We are proud to have one of only 37 programs globally to receive this distinction. To become a Healthy Community, Special Olympics programs must meet specific criteria and broaden their athletes' ability to access year-round, quality healthcare and wellness and fitness opportunities in their communities.

## 2019 Healthy Athletes® Highlights

- 726 athletes participated in our Healthy Athletes® program and received 1,361 free health screenings.
- 77 Unified Sports® partners also participated, bringing the total number of screenings to 1,477.
- 18 athletes received a sports physical screening and completed the medical form needed to participate in Special Olympics at our first MedFest event.
- 125 prescription eyeglasses, 32 prescription sports goggles and 77 sunglasses were dispensed to athletes through Opening Eyes.
- 135 fluoride varnishes and 143 custom mouth guards were provided to athletes through Special Smiles.
- Yale Cancer Center's Smilow Cancer Hospital provided 5 mammography screenings and 50 dermatology screenings, and distributed cancer prevention materials to 200 individuals at Summer Games.





# HEALTHY ATHLETES® DISCIPLINES/CLINICAL DIRECTORS



## **FIT FEET**

**Kurt Rode, DPM**

Offers podiatric screenings to evaluate ankles, feet and lower extremity biomechanics.



## **FUNFITNESS**

**Heidi Adamski, PT, MS**

**Colleen Langlais, PT, MS**

Provides screenings for physical flexibility, functional strength and balance.



## **HEALTH PROMOTION**

**Carol Flaim, RN**

**Joyce Baiardi, RN**

Offers guidance on healthy living and screenings for bone density, blood pressure and body mass index (BMI).



## **HEALTHY HEARING**

**Jamie Marotto, Au.D, CCC-A**

**Jessica Preston, Au.D. CCC-A**

Provides comprehensive hearing examinations and follow-up care.



## **OPENING EYES**

**Christopher Agro, OD**

**Susan Danberg, OD, FCOVD**

Provides free eye assessments, prescription eyewear, sunglasses and sports goggles.



## **SPECIAL SMILES**

**Deborah Redford-Badwal, DDS, PhD**

**Matthew Lepowsky, D.M.D.**

Offers dental examinations, personal oral hygiene instruction, sports mouth guards and fluoride varnish treatments.



## **STRONG MINDS**

**Catherine Chiles, MD**

Provides adaptive coping skills for maintaining emotional wellness under stress. Activities include thinking positive thoughts, releasing stress and connecting with others.



## **NEW IN 2019 - MEDFEST**

**David Frumberg, M.D.**

MedFest provides new and continuing athletes with the sports physical that is required to participate in Special Olympics.



## **FIT 5**

FIT 5 is an eight-week, comprehensive health and wellness program that educates athletes on how to make healthy lifestyle choices in three areas: nutrition, hydration and physical activity. The program is conducted during a local program's regular practices and led by coaches who are trained by our staff. FIT 5 topics include goal setting, food group and sugary beverage education and strength, endurance, flexibility and balance exercises.

Twenty-eight of our local programs offered FIT 5 to their members during practices in 2019, and 458 athletes successfully completed the program. Those offering Fit 5 for a first time in 2019 include Special Olympics Newington, Windsor, Mystic-Ledyard and Hamden, Woodstock Academy, Park City Magnet School and Putnam High School.

## **Based on data collected before and after the Fit 5 program, results include:**

- 104% increase in the number of participants reporting drinking five or more bottles of water per day.
- 87% increase in the number of participants reporting exercising three or more days per week.
- 90% of athletes reporting that they perceive their health as "good" after completing the program.

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# PENGUIN PLUNGES

The Penguin Plunge is an annual, wintertime fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut. Penguin Plunge events give participants an opportunity to come together with friends, colleagues, family members, classmates and other warm-hearted individuals in their community to have fun and support local Special Olympics athletes. Participants register and fundraise online, and then jump into the chilly waters of a lake or ocean in an exciting, festive atmosphere on the day of the Plunge. Creative costumes and team jerseys are encouraged. In addition to the chilling, thrilling Plunge into icy waters, event highlights include music, refreshments, a parade of plungers and an awards ceremony. Penguin Plunge events hosted by Special Olympics Connecticut and law enforcement departments in 2019 include:

Date	Event/Location	Amt. Raised
Feb 10	Farmington Penguin Plunge and Cool School Challenge at Winding Trails	\$45,291
Mar 2	Middletown Penguin Plunge at the Polish Falcons Club at Crystal Lake	\$85,669
Mar 2	Winsted Penguin Plunge at Highland Lake	\$79,136
Mar 3	Shoreline Penguin Plunge at Ocean Beach Park in New London	\$41,138
Mar 30	Coventry Penguin Plunge at Patriot's Park Hosted by Connecticut State Police, Troop C, and Eastern Connecticut State University Officers	\$19,332
Mar 30-31	1st Annual LETR 24-Hour Super Plunge and Community Plunge Hosted by law enforcement officers at the Westbrook Elks Lodge – Officers Joe Herten, Jay Bodell and Denny Peterson, Det. Chris Iovene, Warden Scott Erfe and MAC Brian McCarthy and Chief Dan Thornton of the US Navy plunged every hour for 24 consecutive hours, and a community plunge was held on Sunday.	\$14,448
Apr 6	Plunge at the Park at Great Hollow Lake, Wolfe Park in Monroe Hosted by Monroe Police	\$59,914
Apr 6	Fairfield Penguin Plunge at Jennings Beach Hosted by Fairfield Police and Fairfield University Department of Public Safety Officers	\$37,213





# LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN® FOR SOCT

Top 10 Departments	Amt. Raised
Monroe Police Department	\$50,681
Guilford Police Department	\$48,856
Cheshire Police Department	\$34,613
Branford Police Department	\$33,555
Enfield Police Department	\$30,513
Fairfield University Department of Public Safety	\$28,559
Wilton Police Department	\$27,756
Watertown Police Department	\$27,634
Bristol Police Department	\$21,558
Vernon Police Department	\$20,861



The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics here in Connecticut and around the globe. Officers team up with others in their departments, other law enforcement groups and agencies and local businesses to inspire acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities and gain support for our organization through their actions and words and by hosting events throughout the year. These events include Penguin Plunges, Tip-A-Cop nights and their annual Torch Run across the state, carrying the “Flame of Hope”, leading up to our Summer Games in June. To our athletes, members of law enforcement are mentors, teammates, heroes and loyal and enduring friends.



## OVER THE EDGE

Fearless fans of Special Olympics participated in Over the Edge – a fundraiser hosted by Mohegan Sun held on September 6th. Those who accepted the challenge raised funds for the opportunity to rappel more than 30 stories down Mohegan Sun’s Sky Tower and enjoy amazing views and an exciting, unforgettable experience.

For a ninth consecutive year, Mohegan Sun hosted the event and many of its employees went Over the Edge for Special Olympics, along with individuals and teams from area businesses, organizations and law enforcement departments. Special Olympics athletes were on hand to cheer on and thank participants. The event raised \$101,550, thanks to the effort and courage of 104 participants.



# 2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Annual Awards Dinner

Close to 700 guests gathered to honor outstanding athletes, volunteers and supporters and celebrate 50 years of Special Olympics at our 1st Annual Awards Dinner – Celebrating Our Game Changers. The event was made possible through the generosity of the Bozzuto and Calvanese Families and held at the Aqua Turf Club on March 21st.

Speakers and special guests included WWE Superstars Titus O'Neil and Bayley, NBC Connecticut's Ryan Hanrahan, iHeart Radio's Renee DiNino and ESPN's Trey Wingo.

*Those honored that evening and the awards they received include:*

## Hall of Fame Awards

Community Leadership Award  
WWE

Lew Perkins Coach Award  
Francis LaPointe

Sheila Schmidt Award  
Nancy Hemingway

Bozzuto Family Award  
The Violano Family

Susan Saint James Award  
Dr. Craig Edmondson

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award  
Justin Mazza

Eunice Murtha Award  
The Elmore Family

## Outstanding Local Program Award

Special Olympics Windsor Locks  
Mary Jane Hussey, Local Coordinator



## Spirit of Life Awards

Jen Carlson	Kim Masiello
Jonathan Foster	Agostinho Portelinha
Danny Kenny	Eleni Prtyko
Destiny Little	Gianel Rosario



## Unsung Hero Awards

Lt. Tim Bernier	Jenn Hess
Gary Ciccone	Stephen Longo
Julie Esposito	Suzanne Powaluk
Jeff Gill	Robin Sorey



## Annual Awards Dinner

President's Awards are presented at the discretion of the President of Special Olympics Connecticut to individuals who've made extraordinary contributions to our organization.

### *Our 2019 President's Award recipients include:*

Heidi Adamski	Dave Schultz
Mary Ellen Curran	Joyce Stille
Linda DeWolfe	Craig Weske
Sandra Gervais	John Zepp
Colleen Langlais	





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPECIAL EVENTS



## FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>

Unified Sports® teammates and friends Will Wilson and Grace Hartmann represented our state program at **Special Olympics' Annual Capitol Hill Day** in Washington DC. They shared the importance and impact of Special Olympics' Unified Sports® programs in schools and health initiatives with our Senators and Representatives, including Congresswoman Jahana Hayes.



## APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>

Unified teammates, coaches and sponsors gathered for the 17th Annual **Michaels Jewelers' Unified Sports® Cup Awards Banquet** presented by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and Special Olympics Connecticut at The Aqua Turf. Honorees included Whisconier Middle School of Brookfield and Francis T. Maloney High School of Meriden, both recipients of the Ann Malafronte Rookie of the Year Award.



## AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup>

**Dream Ride 2019** to benefit Special Olympics and the Hometown Foundation, inspired by Michael Bozzuto of Bozzuto's Inc., was held at the Farmington Polo Club. In addition to thousands of car and motorcycle enthusiasts and friends, 320 Special Olympics athletes from 21 states, Australia and St. Kitts-Nevis participated, bringing the "World Together One Smile at a Time". The event raised an astounding \$2.5 million!



## SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

Friends from the **LAZ Charitable Foundation** organized and hosted their annual golf tournament at the Tunxis Country Club in Farmington. The event raised \$50,000 to support our programs. Athletes were invited to be part of the fun and iHeart Radio's Renee DiNino served as emcee for the reception.



## SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

The **Enterprise Golf Tournament** for Special Olympics Connecticut was held at Lake of Isles and raised over \$60,000 to support our athletes. Through this annual event, caring Enterprise employees and tournament participants have raised more than \$300,000 for us over the past six years.



## OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

MONZA World Class Karting hosted its **2nd Annual KartRace** powered by AmeriGas and hosted by Foxwoods Resort Casino. Fourteen teams and sixteen athletes, who served as team managers, participated and over \$30,000 was raised.





#### SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

Members of our Special Olympics Local Programs and NBC Connecticut's Bob Maxon got to ante in and win at the **13th Annual Susan Saint James Poker Tournament** hosted by Board of Directors Member Susan Saint James and benefitting local teams. The event was held at Foxwoods Resort Casino and raised over \$9,000 to support our dedicated athletes.



#### SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

The **18th Annual Eversource Special Olympics Connecticut Golf Tournament** presented by BOND, hosted by Foxwoods Resort Casino and held at the Lake of Isles Golf Course raised over \$125,000. Athletes Stephen, Will, Chris and Wesley from our Special Olympics Groton local program participated and NBC Connecticut's Bob Maxon served as emcee at the reception.



#### NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

The Hotchkiss School celebrated a milestone as it hosted its **25th Annual Swimathon** to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut in 2019! A record-breaking 247 swimmers participated - surpassing the previous record of 235 swimmers - and at least one person remained in the water throughout the fundraiser.



# PARTNER SPONSORS



## BOZZUTO'S INC., THE HOMETOWN FOUNDATION

"Adams and IGA Supermarkets, along with Bozzuto's Inc., and The Hometown Foundation, are proud to be a community partner with Special Olympics Connecticut. By supporting the good work of this organization, our employees and customers have a unique opportunity to be champions of change within their communities as we continue to seek and support inclusion for all."

- Michael Bozzuto, CEO  
**Bozzuto's Inc., The Hometown Foundation**



## ESPN

"Many of our employees have volunteered for Special Olympics Connecticut for over 35 years, and ESPN is proud to support this impactful organization in an effort to promote social inclusion and acceptance on and off the field of play. Under Beau Doherty's leadership, we have watched Special Olympics athletes both in Connecticut and around the world be inspired through the power of sport. We are honored to work closely with Beau and his team, as well as all of the incredible athletes."

- Kevin Martinez, Vice President  
**ESPN Corporate Citizenship**



## ENTERPRISE

"Enterprise Holdings is committed to giving back to the communities where our employees live and work. That's why we are proud to support Special Olympics of Connecticut and their mission to change lives by inspiring inclusion, understanding and respect for people of all abilities. Our team looks forward to a continued strong partnership with this inspiring organization and its more than 12,000 athletes."

- William Gardner, Vice President/General Manager  
**Enterprise Holdings**



## EVERSOURCE

"Eversource has been a proud supporter and host of the Special Olympics Winter Games here in Connecticut for almost 35 years. It's an honor for our company and our employee volunteers to support these spirited athletes and their dedicated families as they compete, take on challenges, succeed and grow."

- James J. Judge, Chairman, President and CEO  
**Eversource Energy**



## THE FREDERICK A. DELUCA FOUNDATION

"The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation is proud to support programs that empower people to lead healthy and productive lives. It is a privilege to help further Special Olympics Connecticut's mission of promoting inclusion, acceptance and equal opportunity for all. We are dedicated to helping expand SOCT's Health & Wellness programs and through this critical funding, we are able to broaden athletes' abilities to access year-round quality health care, wellness, and fitness opportunities."

- Angelika Schlanger, PhD, Director  
**Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation**





## GOLISANO FOUNDATION

*"I have seen first-hand how Special Olympics Connecticut has built relationships and developed partnerships with providers and organizations in their region to improve access to year-round health, wellness and fitness activities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They are dedicated to closing the gap that prevents people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from getting essential health services so they may live productive lives with dignity and contribute to their communities. That is why we support Healthy Communities. And it gives us great joy to see people realizing the benefits of our shared mission."*

- Ann Costello, Executive Director  
**Golisano Foundation**



## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN®

*"The Connecticut Law Enforcement Torch Run® is part of an international campaign for Special Olympics, coordinated and managed by all divisions of law enforcement officers and officials throughout the world whose mission is to raise funds and awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide. The statewide Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Connecticut has been recognized throughout the world for many years as one of the top grassroots fundraising organizations for Special Olympics. The law enforcement community serves as the Guardians of the Flame, spreading awareness and bringing others into our movement to continue to support individuals with intellectual disabilities."*

- Lt. Tom Madera and Lt. Rob Didato, Executive Directors  
**Law Enforcement Torch Run®**



## NBC CT AND TELEMUNDO CONNECTICUT

*"Inspirational games, accomplished athletes and committed volunteers: Special Olympics Connecticut represents the best of Connecticut. NBC Connecticut and Telemundo Connecticut are proud to be part of this winning team and to showcase all the good this organization does across the state all year long. We are committed to connecting our viewers to the wonderful stories from Special Olympics Connecticut and all the people who make the revolution to include a reality!"*

- Diane Hannes, President & General Manager  
**NBC Connecticut and Telemundo Connecticut**



## TD BANK

*"We strengthen our communities when we include and that's why TD chooses to support Special Olympics each year. Through employee volunteering and fundraising, we have the opportunity to make a tangible, positive impact on the athletes and families who face challenges on and off the playing field."*

- Robert Pregnotato, Retail Market President  
**TD Bank**



## UNITED TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

*"United Technologies Corp. is committed to supporting organizations in the communities where our employees live and work. There is no better example of this commitment than our proud 40-year+ partnership with Special Olympics of Connecticut – our home state. Over the course of the past four decades, our CT-based business units have contributed more than \$2 million, and thousands of UTC employees have generously donated their time and effort to help SOCT athletes excel on and off the field."*

- Tizz Weber, Senior Director, Communications  
**Pratt & Whitney**



## WWE

*"WWE continues to be inspired by Special Olympics athletes in our home state of Connecticut and around the world. These athletes demonstrate endless passion and dedication to their sport, and teach all of us what inclusion really means. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Special Olympics Connecticut and proudly supporting the global Inclusion Revolution."*

- Stephanie McMahon, Chief Brand Officer  
**WWE**

# FINANCIALS

## Statements of Activities For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

*Note: financial reporting standards  
changed in 2018 from previous years*

### Revenue and Other Support

	2018			2017		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Totals	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Totals
Contributions, grants and allocations	\$2,730,296	\$187,309	\$2,917,605	\$2,854,028	\$250,134	\$3,104,162
Donated materials and services	5,410,473	--	5,410,473	5,239,468	--	5,239,468
Fundraising	2,077,681	--	2,077,681	1,974,499	--	1,974,499
Net assets released from restriction	238,437	(238,437)	--	317,664	(317,664)	--
<b>Total Revenue and Other Support</b>	<b>10,456,887</b>	<b>(51,128)</b>	<b>10,405,759</b>	<b>10,385,659</b>	<b>(67,530)</b>	<b>10,318,129</b>

### Expenses

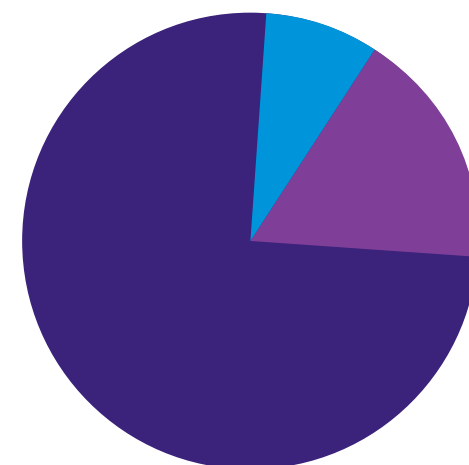
Program services	8,806,924	--	8,806,924	8,704,587	--	8,704,587
Fundraising	1,390,309	--	1,390,309	1,328,888	--	1,328,888
Nonoperating and general	449,389	--	449,389	439,650	--	439,650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,646,622</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10,646,622</b>	<b>10,473,125</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10,473,125</b>
<b>Loss from Operations</b>	<b>(189,735)</b>	<b>(51,128)</b>	<b>(240,863)</b>	<b>(87,466)</b>	<b>(67,530)</b>	<b>(154,996)</b>

### Nonoperating Items

Investment return	73,833	134,987	208,820	64,679	84,159	148,838
Realized and unrealized (loss) gain on investments	(191,562)	(297,706)	(489,268)	249,950	320,790	570,740
<b>Net Nonoperating Items</b>	<b>(117,729)</b>	<b>(162,719)</b>	<b>(280,448)</b>	<b>314,629</b>	<b>404,949</b>	<b>719,578</b>

### Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Support

<b>Over Expenses and Losses and Nonoperating Items</b>	<b>(307,464)</b>	<b>(213,847)</b>	<b>(521,311)</b>	<b>227,163</b>	<b>337,419</b>	<b>564,582</b>
<b>Net Assets - Beginning</b>	<b>3,977,043</b>	<b>4,967,507</b>	<b>8,944,550</b>	<b>3,749,880</b>	<b>4,630,088</b>	<b>8,379,968</b>
<b>Net Assets - Ending</b>	<b>\$3,669,579</b>	<b>\$4,753,660</b>	<b>\$8,423,239</b>	<b>\$3,977,043</b>	<b>\$4,967,507</b>	<b>\$8,944,550</b>



83% PROGRAM SERVICES  
13% FUNDRAISING  
4% GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE



# MICHAEL BOZZUTO

Under the leadership of CEO Michael Bozzuto, we receive immeasurable support from Bozzuto's Inc., a family owned, full-service wholesale food distribution company and Adams Hometown Markets/IGA. We also receive extraordinary support from The Hometown Foundation, Inc., the charitable foundation that supports the community in conjunction with Bozzuto's Inc. and its IGA retailers. The Dream Ride Experience is the signature event of The Hometown Foundation, Inc.

Through Bozzuto's, we receive generous in-kind donations of food for our athletes at their competitions, financial contributions, and use of an exceptional venue for our teams' sports practices – the Farmington Polo Club. Michael Bozzuto and his family of caring employees and community partners also make incredible experiences possible for our athletes, such as a Special Olympics horse grooming program and a highlight of the year for our athletes - the Dream Ride Experience. Dream Ride weekend features motorcycles, classic and exotic cars, music and entertainment and attractions for all to enjoy. The event raised \$2.5 million in 2019.



In addition, Michael and members of his dedicated team volunteer at our events, including Unified Sports® school tournaments, and support athletes in their endeavors, as true, encouraging and loyal friends. They are impactful advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and exceptional champions of inclusion. Day after day, they enrich the lives of our athletes in countless ways.

**We thank Michael Bozzuto for his leadership, for his commitment to helping our organization and its athletes grow and thrive and for the love and heart he demonstrates. Most of all, we thank Michael for transforming lives, One Smile at A Time.**







# YEAR-ROUND SUPPORTERS

## YEAR-ROUND SUPPLIERS



## MEDIA

### RADIO

#### iHeart Media Connecticut

The Beat 100.9 FM  
Country 92.5 FM  
ESPN Radio 1300 AM  
ESPN Radio 97.9 FM  
KC 101.3 FM  
KISS 95.7 FM  
News Radio 1410 WPOP AM  
The River 105.9 FM  
WELI 960 AM NewsTalk

#### Connoisseur Media

99.1 WPLR FM

#### Cumulus Media

105.5 FM Q105

#### iCRV Radio

#### TELEVISION

ESPN

NBC Connecticut and Telemundo  
Connecticut

#### PRINT

The Day

Hearst Connecticut Media Group  
Connecticut Post  
The Norwalk Hour  
New Haven Register  
The Middletown Press  
The Register Citizen  
Stamford Advocate

#### VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

Erin Bond  
Dan Burns  
Denise Ciccarelli  
Rich Coyle  
William DeKine  
Kevin Fletcher  
Matt Glad  
Steve Glad  
Norbert Herzog  
Jeffrey Hynds  
Tammy Knowlton  
Glen Kutler  
Chad Lyons  
Mel Morales  
Helen Pappas  
Diane Parsons  
Ed Reilly  
William Shea  
Eileen Scully  
Helen Taylor



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Access Audio Visual Systems, Inc.  
Adam Greenberg  
Adams Hometown Markets/IGA  
Advantage  
Aetna Ambulance  
American Medical Response - AMR  
AmeriGas  
AMF Circle Lanes  
The Aqua Turf Club  
Atlas Copco  
Aunt Chilada's  
Barnum Engineered Systems, Inc.  
Bowlero  
Bozzuto's, Inc.  
Chase Collegiate School  
Chick-fil-A of North Haven  
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Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast  
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Crosby High School  
Crystal Rock Water & Coffee Company  
CT Sportsplex  
DialAmerica  
DialAmerica Marketing, Inc.  
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Essilor  
Eversource  
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Farmington Polo Grounds  
Fascia's Chocolates  
First Transit  
Foxwoods Resort Casino  
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Grower Direct Farms  
Guida's Dairy  
Hamden Hall Beckerman Athletic Center  
Hartford Wolf Pack Community Foundation  
Hartford Yard Goats

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Healy Sportswear  
HighLife, LLC (AND1)  
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iHeart Media Connecticut  
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Loomis Chaffee School  
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Mount Southington Ski Area  
NBC Connecticut and Telemundo  
Connecticut  
Nestle Waters North America  
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New York Racing Association  
Ocean House  
Orange Hills Country Club  
O'Rourke & Birch Florist  
Papa's Dodge  
Pepperidge Farm  
Points of Light  
Post University  
Powder Ridge Ski Area  
Pratt & Whitney  
Quinnipiac University  
Raceway Golf Course  
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Scalzi Park  
Seasons Magazine  
Show Lighting Corporation

Ski Sundown  
Sleeping Giant Golf Course  
Southern Connecticut State  
University Foundation  
Southwest Airlines  
State of Connecticut Judicial  
Branch Community Service  
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T & J Supermarket/IGA #1234  
Target of Waterbury  
TD Bank  
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The Roger Sherman Inn  
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University of Connecticut  
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West Side Marketplace/IGA #503  
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Weston Schools  
Windham IGA  
Winding Trails Recreation Center  
World Wrestling Entertainment  
WORX  
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# CORPORATE SPONSORS

## \$100,000+

Eversource Energy  
The Hometown Foundation, Inc.  
Law Enforcement Torch Run

## \$50,000 - \$99,000

Enterprise Holdings  
ESPN  
Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Inc.  
TD Bank  
The LAZ Parking Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
United Technologies Corporation  
World Wrestling Entertainment

## \$25,000 - \$49,999

Adam's Hometown Markets  
Bearingstar Insurance  
Brass Axe Capital  
Campus Customs  
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Connecticut Elks Association  
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Hoffman Auto Group  
Sikorsky - A Lockheed Martin Company  
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## \$15,000 - \$24,999

Connecticut Club Managers Association  
Foxwoods Resort Casino  
Henkel Corporation  
Praxair, Inc.

## \$10,000 - \$14,999

AmeriGas Propane  
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Connecticut

Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation  
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## \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Coverys Community Healthcare Foundation  
Fairfield County Bank  
Feroletto Steel  
GEICO  
Halloran Sage  
Hartford Wolf Pack Community Foundation  
IBEW Local Union #488  
KBE Building Corporation  
Leidos Company  
Lincoln Waste Solutions, LLC  
Otis Elevator Company  
Pratt & Whitney  
Starwood Infrastructure Finance  
Suzio York Hill Companies  
Synchrony Financial  
Yale New Haven Health Systems

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

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Avangrid/ Southern Connecticut Gas Company/  
UIL Holdings Corporation

Black & Veatch

Blum Shapiro Foundation, Inc.

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Click Bond, Inc.

Connecticut Section of the PGA

George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation

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Jones Lang LaSalle

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Mohegan Holding Company, LLC

NYAC Athlete's Fund

Olsen Construction

PwC

Prudential Annuities

Purdue Pharma

The Richard Davoud Donchian Foundation

Thomaston Savings Bank

Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation

Walter Camp Football Foundation

#### **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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The Bigelow Tea Company

Charitable Trust Administration Company

Chelsea Groton Bank

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Emera Energy

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Key Bank

Magnacare Administrative Services, LLC

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NBC CT and Telemundo CT

Northwest Community Bank

The Nurse Network

SBK Construction Company, LLC

Special Olympics New Hampshire

Straight Jacket USA, LLC

Trinity Health of New England

Triple Stitch Promotional Solutions

Waterbury Hospital

Weston Police Benevolent Association



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## IN MEMORY OF

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Frederick Nevin  
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Billy Oldham  
Brian House Olympians  
Stanley Opozda  
Erin O'Reilly-Saez  
Emly Pavitt  
William Pendell  
Trey Perry  
Lucas Pierson  
Christopher Piotrowski  
Joseph Prignano  
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Andrew Szczesny  
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(Brent, George,  
Spence, Saieff  
& Logan)  
Jake Tuchfeld  
Nancy Tuthill  
Tom Ullmann  
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# THE CHAMPION'S SOCIETY

## LEAVING A LEGACY

The Champion's Society is a caring group of individuals who have chosen to make a planned gift through their will or real estate planning to help further our mission and work in the future. Their commitment and generosity will help ensure that we have funding to continue and build upon our life-changing sports and health programs and inspire greater acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.

Members of the Champion's Society are invited to attend a reception each year in their honor. The 6th annual Champion's Society gathering coincided with our 2019 Unified Sports® Fall Festival croquet competition, held at The Ocean House in Rhode Island, on the event's 10th anniversary. Those who attended enjoyed watching Unified teams play croquet, the beauty of the venue and being in good company.

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*We are sincerely grateful to our friends with the Department of Developmental Services for their continued support and generosity. They are true partners and champions in helping us provide sports, health and fitness programs that enrich our athletes' lives and help create more inclusive communities.*



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(203) 230-1201

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