



**Kelli Bigelow** joined Special Olympics Connecticut as the Program Assistant in September of 1989. In this role, she oversaw registration for all sports events, served as the contact for Local Coordinators and helped run events. She left Special Olympics in April of 1998, but returned in July of 2000 to become Executive Assistant to the President. In this position, she coordinates meetings for the organization's Board of Directors and supports its President in all aspects of his job. Kelli also organizes Special Olympics Connecticut's Annual Awards Dinner (previously known as the Hall of Fame Banquet) which honors the organization's outstanding athletes, volunteers and sponsors.

Kelli's favorite Special Olympics memory is participating in the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games in New Jersey as a partner on the Unified volleyball team. She is proud that the team took home the silver medal! The USA Games experience also provided Kelli with the opportunity to make many new friends and gain a new perspective of Unified Sports® and inspired her to become a Unified Global Messenger with athlete and teammate Sharon Rivera. Kelli and Sharon remain great friends who enjoy spending time together!

## **Fun Facts:**

***Favorite sports memory:*** Playing on the Unified volleyball team at the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games in New Jersey

***Sports hero:*** Phil Simms

***What does inclusion mean to you?*** Having friends with intellectual disabilities and doing things with them in addition to playing sports on a Special Olympics team; seeing movies, having dinner, attending events together, etc.