



***Special
Olympics***
Florida

REVEALING
THE CHAMPION
IN ALL OF US



WELCOME TO THE INCLUSION REVOLUTION

Dear Champions,

For 50 years, Special Olympics Florida has fought to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities are treated with dignity and respect. We have championed the principle of inclusion, and our athletes have shown the world they will achieve remarkable things if they are only given an opportunity.

That was never more apparent than in 2022, a milestone year for our organization and the incredible athletes we serve. In 2022, we celebrated our 50th anniversary and hosted the Special Olympics USA Games. Special Olympics Florida athletes turned in a dominant performance at those Games, capturing more than 325 medals, 139 of them gold.

Those achievements, and many others, were made possible by the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, sponsors and partners. Thanks to their commitment – and compassion – we helped improve the lives of some 60,000 athletes from Key West to Pensacola.

On behalf of our athletes and their families, thank you for being part of our mission. Together, there is nothing we cannot do.

In the spirit of gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry A. Wheelock".

Sherry Wheelock
President and CEO
Special Olympics Florida



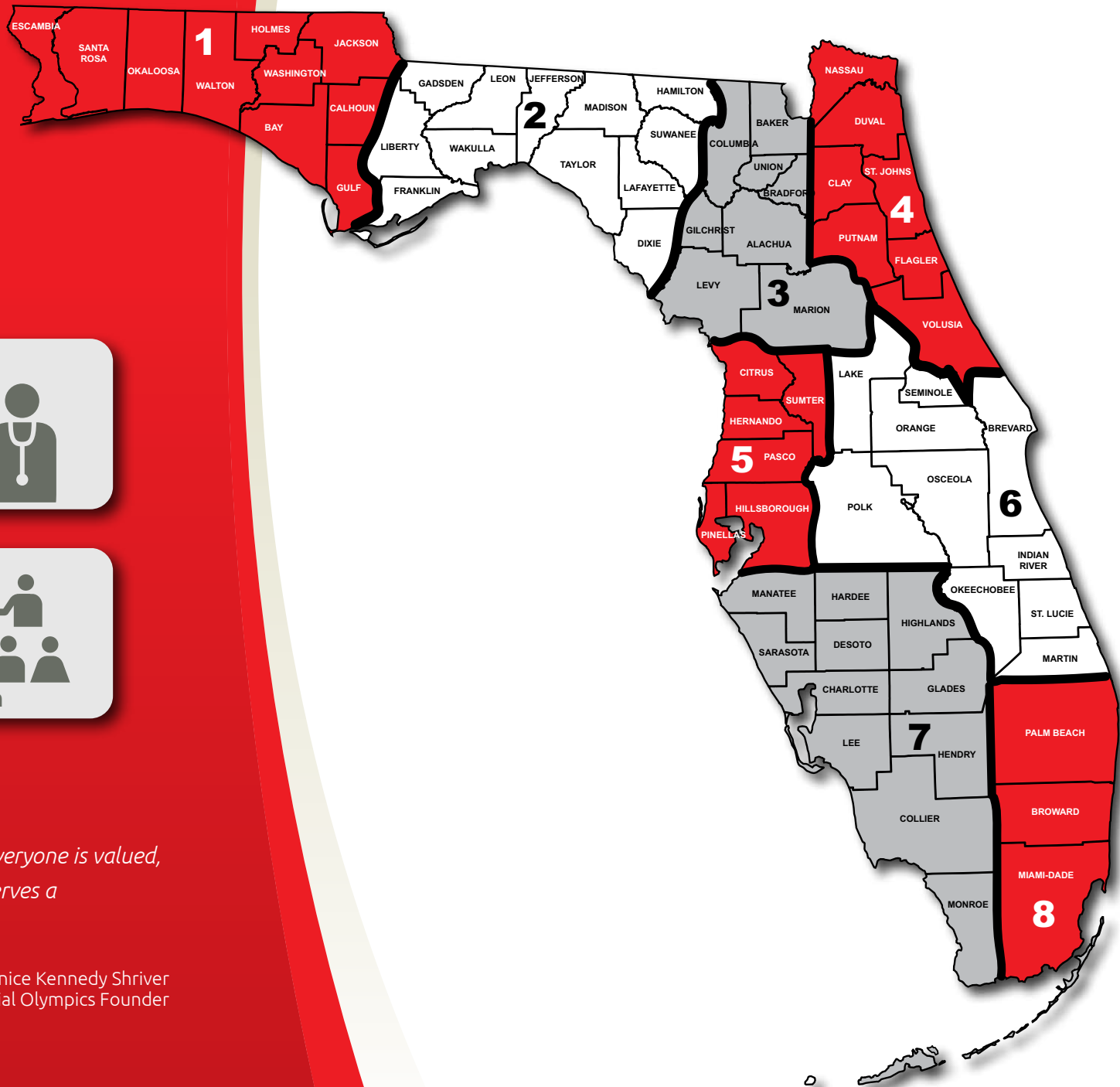
OUR REACH

Please join us as we work to build a community where everyone has the lifelong opportunity to develop physically, emotionally, and socially through sports, wellness, and leadership training.



"We are united behind the belief that everyone is valued, everyone is welcome, and everyone deserves a chance to be celebrated."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Special Olympics Founder



PROVIDING QUALITY SPORTS TRAINING AND COMPETITION

Since 1972, Special Olympics Florida has empowered people with intellectual disabilities to demonstrate their unlimited potential by providing top-notch athletic training and competitions. Our programs promote inclusion and acceptance and provide a platform for athletes to showcase their talent, courage and tenacity.

Our athletes participate in an array of Olympic-style sports, including:

Alpine Skiing	Flag Football	Softball
Athletics	Golf	Speed Skating
Basketball	Gymnastics	Stand Up Paddle
Bocce	MATP *	Surfing
Bowling	Open Water Swim	Swimming
Cheerleading	Pickleball	Tennis
Cycling	Powerlifting	Triathlon
Equestrian	Roller Skating	Volleyball
Figure Skating	Soccer	

* The Motor Activity Training Program is designed for those athletes with severe disabilities whose physical and/or behavioral limitations preclude participation in traditional sports competitions. In 2022, there were 3,323 athletes enrolled in this unique program across the state.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

79,004

ATHLETES

58,461

VOLUNTEERS

36,742

COMPETITIONS

236



BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities means ensuring they can access the health care they need and deserve. As a group, our athletes face greater health risks than the general population, yet they often struggle to find appropriate health services. To fight that inequity, Special Olympics Florida provides both online and in-person health screenings and services to athletes and individuals on the APD waiting list across the state.

In 2022, those programs provided:

HEALTH SCREENINGS *

20,341

HEARING AIDS

101

PRESCRIPTION GLASSES

954

PRESCRIPTION SPORTS GOGGLES

374

SWIM GOGGLES

51

SUNGLASSES

433

PAIR OF SHOES

111

INSOLES

11

DOCTOR REFERRALS

626

FLUORIDE TREATMENTS

682

FINANCIAL IMPACT

\$2,000,000



Special Olympics
Healthy Athletes®



* Represents all screenings that took place in Florida, including 2022 Special Olympics USA Games participants.

PROMOTING YOUTH AND EDUCATION



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools®**

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools operate on the principles of inclusion and acceptance. They use inclusive sports – which joins athletes of all intellectual abilities – youth leadership, and whole-school engagement to create communities where everyone is respected, appreciated, and treated with dignity.

- Unified programs are active in **442** schools and on **13** college campuses.
- 97% of high school seniors say program activities are changing their school for the better.
- 84% of students generally regard participation in the program as a positive turning point in their lives.
- 86% of school staff feel the program has made a big impact in reducing bullying and teasing in their school.
- 96% of students feel comfortable carrying on a conversation with a student with intellectual disabilities.



FOCUSING ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Our Young Athletes program uses sports-play activities to help children from 2 to 7 years old develop physically, cognitively and socially. Participating preschoolers with intellectual disabilities hit important milestones three times faster than those not enrolled in the program. For children with autism, the gains are nearly four times as great.

There are **20,395** athletes and Unified partners participating in **42** counties and **319** schools.

Healthy Kids at Play encourages elementary-aged athletes to develop lifelong healthy habits. Children are introduced to healthy lifestyle choices, such as nutritious eating, staying hydrated and getting exercise. The goal is to help them grow into health-conscious adults.

"With programs like these, our eyes are open to endless possibilities."

-- Mother of a child with autism describing the benefits of Young Athletes





DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Special Olympics Florida athletes can be inspiring leaders, and our Athlete Leadership programs help them develop those skills. Athletes serve as team captains, coaches, officials, board members, and spokespersons. They play critical roles while developing the skills and the confidence they need to build happy and productive lives.

Our course-based Athlete Leadership Academy offers five majors: Communications, Governance, Sports, Finance and Employment. Athletes graduate ready to serve in meaningful leadership roles, influence change and ultimately create more inclusive communities around the world. Our Unified Leadership approach has two primary goals: help people without intellectual disabilities recognize the talents and leadership potential of people with intellectual disabilities and urge them to create environments where people with ID are invited to fill key roles.

Let me **win.**
But if I
cannot
win,
let me be
brave
in
the attempt.

Special Olympics Athlete's Oath

BE A FAN. GET INVOLVED!

Volunteering with Special Olympics Florida can be the most fulfilling and fun thing you'll ever do! Here's how you can be part of our mission:

Coach

No one makes a bigger impact on the life of an athlete. We will train you and get you certified in program policies, sports rules, and coaching techniques.



Day-Of Volunteer

Change an athlete's life – and your own. Join us and witness the transformative power of sports. No experience necessary.

Unified Partner

Train and compete with Special Olympics athletes in our Unified Sports® programs. Teams comprised of people with and without intellectual disabilities foster inclusion, challenge the competition, and build lasting friendships.

Mentor

Help athletes gain the skills and confidence they need to improve their lives and their communities.

Donor/Sponsor

Your generous contributions – both individual and corporate – mean that no athlete or family ever pays a fee to participate in our programs.

86%
OF ALL DONATIONS
SUPPORTED
PROGRAM SERVICES
IN 2022



YEAR-ROUND SPONSORS

Premier

Publix Super Markets

Partner

Aquatica Orlando
Bally Sports Sun
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation
Jersey Mike's Subs
Law Enforcement Torch Run®
Nomi Health
Orlando Health
Procter & Gamble
Wawa
Walt Disney Company

Platinum

American Legion Family
Bank of America
DeCurtis Corporation
Fanatics
Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Knights of Columbus
Lions Club International
The Loxahatchee Club

Gold Medal

Academy
Accenture
Florida Distributing Company
Garden of Life
Jabil
Opal Key Resort & Marina
Pinch A Penny Pool Patio & Spa
Ron Jon Surf Shop
Service Now
St. Lucie Mets
Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation
Talk of the Town Restaurant Group
TD Bank
Universal Orlando Resort

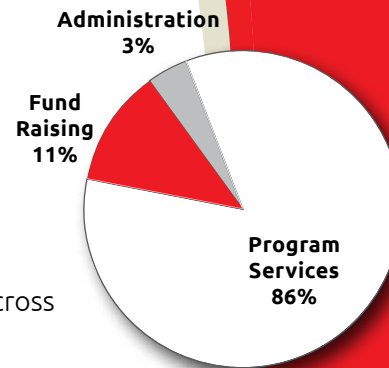
Silver Medal

Anheuser Busch
Dick's Sporting Goods
Holiday Inn Club Vacations
Massey Services, Inc.
Pepsico
Westgate Resorts Foundation



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- **50th Anniversary:** Throughout 2022, we celebrated the founding of Special Olympics Florida, honoring those who came before us and those who make our work possible today. Anchored by a dedicated 50th anniversary website, the year-long celebration highlighted our mission to build a world of inclusion and acceptance.
- **Special Olympics USA Games:** More than 4,000 athletes from across the country and the Caribbean came to Orlando in June for the Special Olympics USA Games, hosted by Special Olympics Florida. Athletes spent a week showing the world that people with intellectual disabilities will achieve amazing things if they are just given the chance. Team Florida turned in a dominant performance, capturing more than 325 medals, 139 of them gold.
- **Breaking Boundaries:** Special Olympics Florida athletes and Unified partners continued to make headlines and shatter expectations. For example:
 - Athlete Chris Nikic was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame.
 - The Special Olympics Florida College Club at the University of Florida was named National Champion of the Special Olympics Virtual College Rivalry Championship, presented by ESPN.
 - Athlete Kamari Graham, of Homestead Senior High School, was chosen Special Olympics Athlete of the Year by USA Today.
- **Inspiring Competitions:** We held more than 230 competitions, including State Summer Games, which drew nearly 2,000 athletes. In addition, the expansion of regional games throughout the state provided an elevated competition experience for more athletes at the local level. We staged six other State Games drawing more than 2,800 athletes and hosted 600 athletes at the USA Games Training Camp in March. In total, we served approximately 60,000 athletes across the state – including those in our Developmental Sports Programs.



2022 FINANCIALS

(\$ in thousands)

Program Services:

Games	\$5,929
Training	2,461
Health, Unified Champion Schools, and Development Sports	3,084
Other Programs	3,556
Total Program Services	\$15,030
Management & General	590
Fund Raising	1,952

Total Expenses

\$17,572

2022 GOAL

Serve 60,000 healthy athletes using 34,000 volunteers through fundraising that generates \$16M+ supporting cash revenue.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Athlete Leadership:** As part of our commitment to Athlete Leadership, we produced five videos that profile Athlete Leaders in different roles they play, featuring athletes Megan Bell, Maryann Gonzalez, Tajha Ilerant, Stephen Lepore and Eddy Maldonado; and a training video that helps Athlete Leaders speak with the media, featuring athletes Jacquie Clare and Ricky Dager and television journalists Kelly Blanco and Jim Payne.
- **Area and State Athlete Leadership Councils:** The councils have been reignited and provide a channel for collective athlete feedback for enhancing the athlete experience and use athlete input to support the region's goals to strengthen the program.
- **Connecting Across the World:** To support Special Olympics athletes displaced by the war in Ukraine, Special Olympics Florida helped launch Special Stars, a sports club serving Ukrainian refugees with intellectual disabilities now living in Slovakia. We provided financial and programmatic support and, later, took a small group of athletes to Slovakia to connect with their overseas' counterparts. The effort was largely initiated by our athletes.
- **Expanding Camp Shriver:** In partnership with the Community School of Naples and the Naples Children & Education Foundation, we launched the first-ever Camp Shriver in Collier County. This inclusive camp brings together young people with and without disabilities. It was created by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in the 1960s and marked the beginning of the Special Olympics movement. We also offer Camp Shriver in Orange County and at two locations in Miami-Dade County.
- **Race for Inclusion:** Year two events were even bigger and better than year one. The annual campaign grew from six to nine venues, drew more participants and raised more money to support our mission. This year's campaign featured events from Key West to Pensacola and furthered our efforts to build communities of inclusion and acceptance. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and sponsors – and the work of our athlete ambassadors – the campaign raised more than \$500,000.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES BERLIN 2023

In June 2023, over 7,000 athletes from across the globe will meet in Berlin for the Special Olympics World Games.

Special Olympics Florida will be sending a delegation of 21, comprised of athletes, Unified partners and coaches to be part of the contingent representing the United States, as it competes on the international stage in basketball, cycling, open water swim and tennis.

Our athletes – and their competitors from some 170 countries – will show the world that prejudices and intolerance can be overcome by the power of sport and principle of inclusion.



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SPORTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Sports Advisory Council for Special Olympics Florida includes leaders from professional sports organizations who help us elevate and articulate the role sports can play in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

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2022 MAJOR GIFTS

1ST US VOLUNTEER CAVALRY REGIMENT
- ROUGH RIDERS
ABACODE CARES
ACCENTURE
ADOBE SYSTEMS
AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ALEX RUSSO
ALICE PERRY
ALL SPORTS ASSOCIATION
ALLEGIS GROUP FOUNDATION
THE ALYS FOUNDATION
AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
AMERICAN LEGION BH POST 45
AMERICAN LEGION POST #129
AMERICAN LEGION SAL SQUADRON 238
AMERICAN LEGION SONS OF THE LEGION-
DUNEDIN MEMORIAL POST 275
ANHEUSER-BUSCH
ARTHREX
ARTHUR J GALLAGHER & CO
ASHTON WRIGHT
ATOS IT SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES
AZ NUTRITIONAL
BA SPORTS NUTRITION
BANK OF AMERICA
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA
BARBARA CARLEN
BARBARA M KENT ESTATE
THE BATCHELOR FOUNDATION
BERT W. MARTIN FOUNDATION
DANIEL BERDAKIN JR.
DAVID BERDAKIN
DIEGO BERDAKIN
BILZIN SUMBERG BAENA PRICE &
AXELROD
BIMBO BAKERIES USA
BLUETRITON BRANDS
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TIM RYAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONROE COUNTY
THE BOUSIS FAMILY
BRIAN ROBERT FRANCIS SUPPLEMENTAL
NEEDS TRUST
BROOKS REHABILITATION

BROWARD HEALTH
BROWN & BROWN OF FLORIDA
THE BRUNETTI FOUNDATION
BUTTERBALL
THE CAMPBELL FAMILY
CAMPBELL SNACKS
CANON SOLUTIONS AMERICA
CAPITAL CITY CHALLENGE CORP
THE CANCRO FAMILY
THE CARLO T CECCHINI MEMORIAL
ENDOWMENT FUND
THE CATO FAMILY
CEMEX FOUNDATION
CHARLES F THOMAS IV POST 117
CHARTER SCHOOLS USA
CHEP
CHRISTOPHER D. NILES
CHRISTOPHER FRUEH
CIBER GLOBAL
CISCO SYSTEMS
CITY OF SUNRISE
CITY OF TALLAHASSEE
CITY OF WINTER HAVEN
CLIPPED WINGS
THE CLINTON FAMILY FUND
COCA COLA BEVERAGES FLORIDA
THE CODY FOUNDATION
COGNIZANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OCALA
MARION COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF
SARASOTA COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES
CRAIG AND ANA WEATHERLEY FOUNDATION
CROWE
CSX
THE D'ORTONA FAMILY
DANIEL BERDAKIN AND SUSANA ALBERTI
FAMILY FOUNDATION
DAVID HARRIS
SKY DAYTON
DECURTIS CORPORATION
DEFY SECURITY
DELL
DELOITTE CONSULTING
DIGITAL PARTNERS
DIMITRIS M. BOUSIS

DISNEY WORLDWIDE SERVICES
DORIS SATTERWHITE
DOUGLAS PRIDGEN
DUCKIES SHOP OF FUN
THE DUNBAR FAMILY
E & J GALLO WINERY
E*TRADE FINANCIAL
EMERALD COAST KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ENGEL & VOLKERS ST. PETE
ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS FOUNDATION
EPAM SYSTEMS
ERNST & YOUNG
EXPERIENCE KISSIMMEE FLORIDA
FAIRLIFE
FALCONE & ASSOCIATES
FANATICS
FIELDS AUTO GROUP - LAMBORGHINI
ORLANDO
FINISH LINE
FIRST COAST HONDA DEALERS
FIRST HORIZON ADVISORS TRUST SERVICES
FLORIDA BLUE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
COUNCIL
FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS CHARITIES
FLORIDA KEYS FUTURE FUND
FLORIDA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITIES
FOUNTAINS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
FRANCIS J. RYAN FOUNDATION
FRANK HUBBARD FAMILY FUND
FRESHPOINT
FRIENDLY KIA
FRITO-LAY
GAGNON FOUNDATION
GARDEN CLUB OF PONCE INLET FOUNDATION
GARDEN OF LIFE
GARY C. WENDT
GERARD LYNCH
GLOBANT
THE GOODMAN FAMILY
GOOGLE
GRAND HAVEN WOMENS GOLF ASSOCIATION
GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE
GREENBERG TRAUIG
GUJARATI SAMAJ OF TAMPA BAY



2022 MAJOR GIFTS

GUMMELS FAMILY FOUNDATION
HANDI - FOIL CORPORATION
THE HARRY T MANGURIAN JR FOUNDATION
HAYES LOCUMS
HCL AMERICA
HCSO CHARITIES
HITACHI VANTARA CORPORATION
HOLCOMBE FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND
HOLIDAY INN CLUB VACATIONS
HOMETOWN FOUNDATION
HORMEL FINANCIAL SERVICES
HYLANT FAMILY FOUNDATION
INDIAN RIVER SHORES PUBLIC SAFETY
DEPARTMENT
INSIGHT INVESTMENTS
ISERMANN FAMILY FOUNDATION
ITALIAN-AMERICAN GOLF ASSOCIATION
J J TAYLOR DISTRIBUTING FLORIDA
J&J SERVICES
JABIL
JAC PACK
JACK LINK'S LINK SNACKS
JANE GOODMAN
JANET A. MCCONNELL
JANICE RUBEL
JASWA FAMILY FUND
JAYNE HARE
JEEP BEACH
JERSEY MIKE'S
JMC DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT
JOHN GREISCH
JOSH GREENLY
JPMORGAN CHASE
JUNIPER NETWORKS
KATIE SOLOMON
KEVIN KEATING
KING'S HAWAIIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #11680
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #13277
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #3358
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #5629
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #5737
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6344
KNOX FAMILY FOUNDATION
KPMG
KROLL ASSOCIATES
LACTALIS HERITAGE DAIRY

LAKE SUMTER LIONS CHARITIES
LARSEN & TOUBRO
LATITUDE AT DAYTONA BEACH FOUNDATION
LEE GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES
LEO GOODWIN FOUNDATION
LIONS CLUB OF FLORIDA & BAHAMAS
LIQUID WASTE RECOVERY
LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE #1308
LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE LODGE #2276
LUMEN
MAPLE LEAF FOODS
MARATHON MASONIC #323
MARGUERITE SERENA
MASSEY SERVICES
THE MANZO FAMILY
MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
SALLY HEYMAN
THE MIAMI FOUNDATION
MICHAEL R. GEIGER
MIKE'S HARD LEMONADE
MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL
MORAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT
NAPLES CHILDREN & EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
NATURE'S BOUNTY
NICKLAUS CHILDRENS HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION
THE NORTH HIGHLAND COMPANY
OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRIES
OLD MEMORIAL GOLF CLUB
OPAL KEY RESORT & MARINA
OPENDRIVES
ORANGE BOWL COMMITTEE
ORLANDO CITY SOCCER FOUNDATION
ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION
OSI RESTAURANT PARTNERS
PACIFIC DENTAL - SMILE GENERATION
THE PAPA JOHN'S FOUNDATION
PASCO COUNTY SHERIFF'S CHARITIES
PASCO TC GIVES
PEPIN DISTRIBUTING COMPANY
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PROFESSIONAL CARE I
PUBLIX SUPERMARKETS
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QUALITEST
RAYS BASEBALL FOUNDATION
RBK 3
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RELICISO
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RICK THOMPSON
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RONALD ASSAF
RONALD FULOP
ROSEMARY BEACH FOUNDATION
RS&H
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RYAN SANDERS SPORTS SERVICES
SALESFORCE.COM
THE SALLARULO FAMILY
THE SANDY HILL FOUNDATION
SAP AMERICA
SARGENTO FOODS
SCOTTY FOUNDATION
SECURITY COMPASS
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOTEL AND
CASINO - TAMPA
SEMINOLE REGION CHARITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT
SERVICENOW
SILVER SANDS JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS
SLALOM
SMART CITY TELECOM
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SQUADRON #283
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SQUADRON #347
SORINEX EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
ST. COLEMANS MENS CLUB
THE ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NAPLES
ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN FOUNDATION



2022 MAJOR GIFTS

STANTON R. SHEETZ
STEPHEN C. NELLIS
STEVE FRICKE
SUNCOAST CHARITIES FOR CHILDREN
SURFING'S EVOLUTION & PRESERVATION CORP.
SUSAN H. MCCURRY
T MOBILE USA
THE TAFT FOUNDATION
TALK OF THE TOWN RESTAURANT GROUP
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING
TANIUM
TD BANK
TD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
TECH DATA
TECHNOLOGENT
TEKSYSTEMS
THE TAFT FOUNDATION
TERRY DOYLE
THE THOMAS AND IRENE KIRBO FOUNDATION
THOMA BRAVO
THOMAS FAMILY FOUNDATION
THOMAS HOGUE
TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
TRAVEL + LEISURE COMPANY
TRUIST
UNILEVER
UNITED WAY OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY
UNIVERSAL ORLANDO FOUNDATION
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT
UPS FOUNDATION
UPSHOT FOUNDATION
VERITIV CORPORATION
VERIZON
VILLAGE OF PINECREST FLORIDA
VIRAGE CREATIVE
W.T. BLAND JR CHARITABLE TRUST
THE WALSH FAMILY
WAWA
THE WHEELLOCK FAMILY
JAMES BRADFORD WHITE
WILLIAM & LYNN VOGEL FOUNDATION
WORLD WIDE TECHNOLOGY
WX BRANDS
YORKTEL TELECOM CORPORATION
ZONES

2022 TRIBUTE GIFTS

IN HONOR OF:

Kathryn D. Clark
Jack Dopsky
Terry Fenstermaker
Harry Fowler
Kevin Kennedy
Ashley Magill
Horace E. Mathis
Erik Pedde
Mary Spry
Scott M. Werner

IN MEMORY OF:

Judy P. Brewer
AnnMarie Brickman
Deborah J. Buckley
Susan Caruso
Carl W. Chorba
Judy Clifton
Sandi Eakins
JoAnn Geelen
Lawrence Geiger
Chris Hahr Goodman
Patricia Greiner
Karen J. Holmes
Richard Irving
Barbara Kearney
Katelyn Kemp

Roger Kennedy
Larnie Killen
Diana Kovarik
Donald Laflamme
Zella Landry
Marjorie Lynch
Jerry Malin
Ross Martin
Mary Jane McCarthy
Bernice Melton
James T. Morgan
Suzanne Morris
B Myhe
Bob Myhre
Mike Nowe
William D. Peck
John Pepper
Margaret E. Perkins
Gail Ray
Lydia G. Ray
David S. Rimmer
Mary A. Stanfield
Marc Telson
Jenn Thomas
Patricia A. Tolyon
Dawn Veit
Leroy Webb
Mary Whaley
Wayne Wilson

2022 MATCHING GIFTS

COMPANIES WHO HAVE MATCHED THE CONTRIBUTIONS
MADE BY THEIR EMPLOYEES

CyberGrants, Inc.
Dell Inc
Disney
Duke Energy Foundation
Elizabeth Chang
Equitable Foundation
Finastra
Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC
Johnson & Johnson Foundation
Novartis US Foundation

State Farm Companies Foundation
Synchrony
The Allstate Giving Campaign
The GE Foundation
The Merck Foundation
The Progressive Insurance Foundation
Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
UBS Financial Services Inc.
Verizon Foundation

ATHLETE PROFILE

JOSHUA OLDS

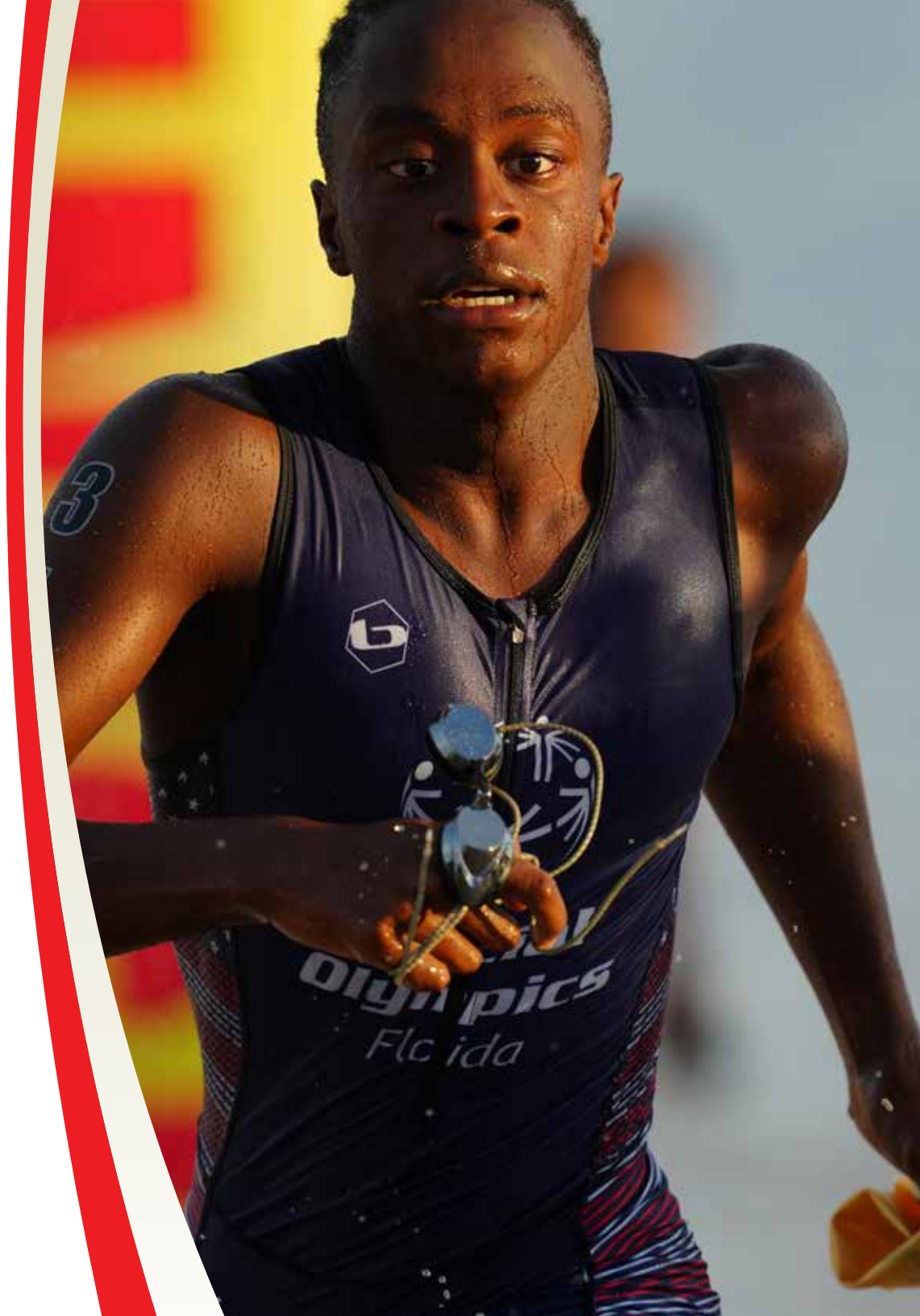
Joshua Olds is drawn to the water.

The Broward County athlete has been with Special Olympics Florida for six years, participating in stand up paddle, surfing, swimming, and open water swim. At the State Games, he's competed in half-a-dozen sports.

Last year, Joshua discovered – and fell in love with – triathlon. It's now one of his two favorite sports – along with swimming. At the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, Joshua captured two gold medals – one in open water swim and one in triathlon.

For inspiration, Joshua, who has autism, looks to Jamaican swimming great Alia Atkinson, a five-time Olympian and world-record holder. “She is an amazing swimmer,” he says. “I want to swim my breaststroke like her.”

That will take effort, but Joshua has never been afraid of hard work. His favorite quote? “Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard.”



ATHLETE PROFILE

SAMANTHA RODRIGUEZ

Like many people with intellectual disabilities, Samantha wasn't expected to become an elite athlete. Diagnosed at the age of 2 with autism, doctors told her mother, Karina, she might never walk and almost certainly wouldn't play sports.

Samantha and Karina took note of those opinions and set about proving them wrong. Samantha received intensive therapy and, over time, her balance improved. She joined Special Olympics Florida - Seminole County about seven years ago and learned to swim.

Then she began attending road races with Karina, an accomplished long-distance runner. Somewhere along the line, Samantha decided she wanted to begin running with her mom, so the two began training. It was hard, she said, but running "made me happy." She started with short distances, gradually adding mileage and racking up ribbons.

Last year she ran both the Boston and New York City marathons, and in June, she took home two bronze medals at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.



ATHLETE PROFILE

CALEB PREWITT

Caleb Prewitt came to Special Olympics Florida through our Young Athletes program in Duval County when he was just 3-years-old. Now in mid-teens, he competes in seven sports, including equestrian, golf, and triathlon.

A resident of Jacksonville, Caleb represented Team Florida at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, capturing a silver medal in the open-water swim. That's on top of medals and ribbons he earned at State Summer Games and State Fall Classic. He loves competing, but his parents say Special Olympics Florida's real benefit has been giving Caleb a place to feel included and accepted.

"He's made lifelong friends ... with Special Olympics," says his mom, Karen. "Teammates of all abilities, wonderful, dedicated coaches, and of course all the amazing volunteers."

Those relationships have improved Caleb's social skills and confidence. He serves as a USA Triathlon Foundation Ambassador, was featured in our annual torch icon fundraising campaign at Publix, and has amassed a following of more than 34,000 on Instagram.



ATHLETE PROFILE

ANN JAMES

Ann James is a Special Olympics Florida original.

The Okaloosa County resident has been participating for more years than the organization has existed. It's possible she's the very first gold-medal athlete in Florida and the athlete who has competed for the longest period of time.

Most remarkable of all, she still competes today at age 64.

James' connection to Special Olympics began in 1969, three years before Special Olympics Florida was founded. She was 11-years-old and part of a county group led by Special Olympics Florida Hall of Famer Charlie McFarland.

James' is an all-around athlete, but her specialty is swimming. In 1969, she was part of a team that McFarland took to a competition in Columbia, S.C. There, James captured two gold medals in swimming. She's collected dozens of other awards since then.

It's been an amazing career for an athlete who, as a young girl, was institutionalized and given little chance of achieving great things. James says she will continue to train and compete "until I can't walk anymore." And then? "I'll go to support my friends."

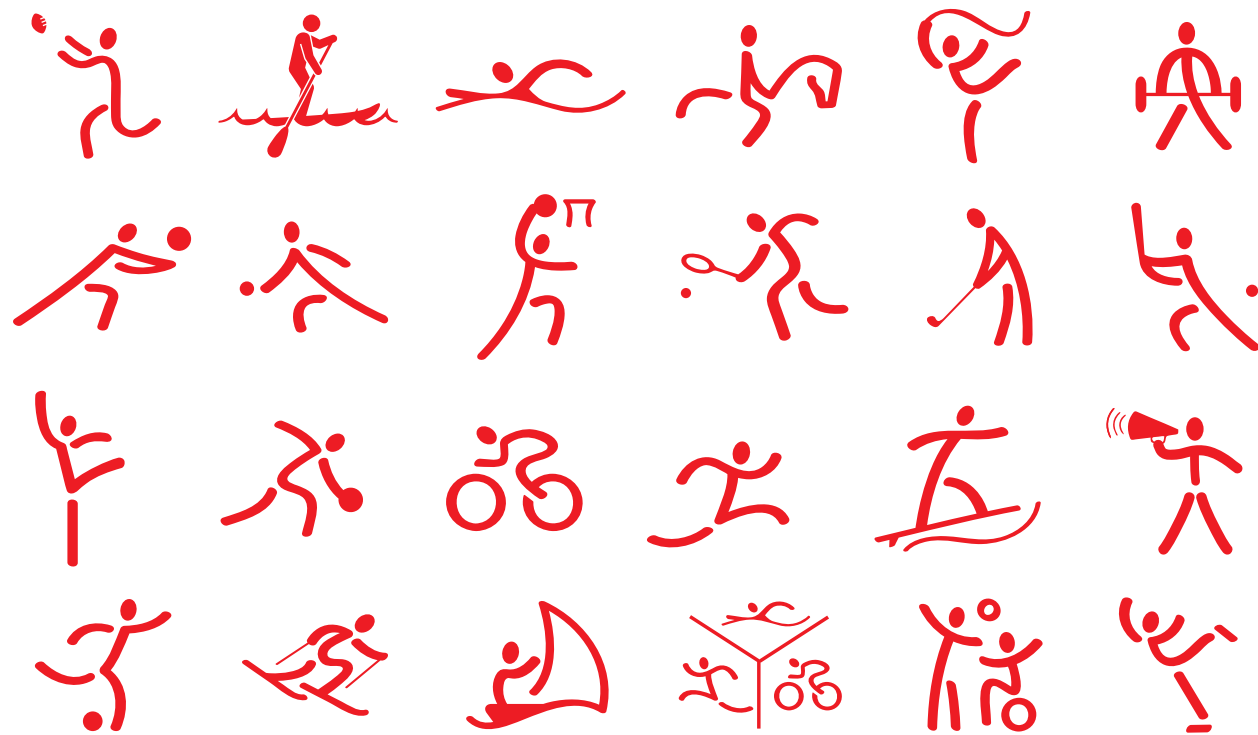




*"Special Olympics
has given my life purpose
and given me pride and
confidence in myself
and my abilities to
accomplish my goals."*

Special Olympics Florida Athlete

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