

**AL SENAVITIS
MISSION IMPACT FUND
(ASMIF)**

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013

May 2014

***Special
Olympics
Pennsylvania***



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I. **Background**

The Al Senavitis Mission Impact Fund (ASMIF) Program was created by Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) in 2013 as a mechanism for assisting local Special Olympics programs in launching new initiatives, creating program enhancements and sustaining program viability by providing financial assistance.

The ASMIF is intended to help local SOPA programs enhance the quality of their initiatives, achieve success at a level over and above what is currently being done and establish a foundation for continued growth. The ASMIF is not intended to become a continuing source of support for a single initiative or need, nor is it intended to substitute for good faith efforts to develop resources locally. Through the ASMIF Program, SOPA local programs are encouraged to identify opportunities to enrich the experience for their athletes in ways that expand or improve their participation and are sustainable over time without continued ASMIF support. The full text of the Program Guidelines and Process is available on the SOPA web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

In January, 2013, SOPA formed an ASMIF Committee, which was responsible for developing the guidelines that would govern the program and entertaining requests for financial support. A Mission Statement and Committee Charter, Program Guidelines and Process and Grant Application were completed in draft in March of 2013 and submitted to the Local Program Managers for comment at that time. The documents were revised in accordance with the suggestions received and the final documents were adopted in April. The program announcement providing the information needed for requesting support was emailed to Local Program Managers on April 29 with initial requests due by June 30, 2014.

The members of the ASMIF Committee are attached as Appendix A.

The Program Guidelines envisioned quarterly grant cycles with the initial “year” of funding truncated to three quarters to allow for calendar year cycles moving forward. For the initial quarter concluding on June 30, no applications were received from local programs. In order to reinforce the availability of funding and encourage requests for support, Kellee Torroso, a member of the ASMIF Committee, made a presentation in the SOPA Leadership Conference in early September. The presentation was well received and the influx of applications for the second quarter of funding ending September 30 saw a total of eight requests from local programs.

II. Awards

A total of \$27,000 (10% of the ASMIF) was made available in the initial year for requests. The awards experience of the first year for the ASMIF Program is shown in the following table:

Table 1

<u>ASMIF AWARD HISTORY</u>			
<u>2013</u>			
<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
<i>Second</i>	None	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Third</i>	Armstrong/Indiana	\$2,412.00	\$2,412.00
	Crawford	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	Delaware	\$400.00	\$0.00
	Huntingdon	\$2,881.32	\$2,881.32
	Monroe	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	Montgomery	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
	Philadelphia	\$3,000.00	\$3,000
	Schuylkill	\$3,000.00	<u>\$0.00</u>
<i>Total Q3</i>		\$20,693.32	\$14,293.32
<i>Fourth</i>	Area P	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
	Fulton	\$2,430.00	\$2,430.00
	Greene	\$1,950.00	\$0.00
	Mercer	\$1,450.00	\$0.00
	SOPA	\$3,000.00	<u>\$0.00</u>
<i>Total Q4*</i>		\$11,830.00	\$ 2,430.00
<i>Total 2013</i>		\$32,523.32	\$16,723.32

** While the requests for support from Greene and Mercer Counties were rejected, each county was offered technical assistance in developing its application and Mercer subsequently submitted a request for \$3000 in the first quarter of 2014 that was approved.*

As can be seen in Table 1, the requests for support totaled \$32,523.32 and \$16,723.32 (51.4%) was approved. Twelve local programs and the SOPA organization submitted requests, of which six (50%) were approved.

There were two principal reasons for rejecting requests. Due to some miscommunication, a misunderstanding was created wherein some local programs did not adhere to the requirement that requests be limited to those that could not be supported via local funding. Thus, several requests were rejected due to the committee's feeling that local programs were capable of funding their requests with local resources. In other instances, the applications were deemed insufficient in the quality of the information provided to sustain a vote of approval. In those instances, local programs were offered technical assistance to improve their applications.

A sampling of requests that were approved shows funds were provided to support the initiation of new sports, uniforms, transportation expenses, advertising, registration fees and office equipment.

III. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following lists the summary of accomplishments for the ASMIF Program in its initial year of operation:

- Created the organizational structure for the operation of the program including a Mission Statement and Committee Charter, Program Guidelines and Process, Grant Application and Closing Report
- Reviewed and approved all requests for support on schedule as projected in the Program Guidelines
- Provided \$16,723 in support for program enhancements at the local level

IV. CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

The experience of the initial year has been instructive. While the committee is generally pleased with the requests that have been approved and the enhancements that have been or will be implemented through the additional support, the level of interest in the program has been disappointing. There is a need to nurture the development of appropriate requests so that more dollars can be approved to advance local initiatives. The Program Guidelines and Process have been revised to

better inform Local Program Managers of the opportunities that exist via the program and a “sample application” has been developed to help Local Program Managers better understand the types of information sought.

The committee needs to work with the Regional Field Directors (RFD), who serve an important function of developing and screening requests, so that local programs are fully apprised of the opportunities via the ASMIF and proceed to identify and acquire support for needed initiatives. The committee will be working closely with the RFDs in the second year of the program’s operation toward this end.

On a final note, the ASMIF Committee has, since its inception, sought feedback from Local Program Managers on ways to develop and improve the program. That commitment to working with local programs to ensure that the ASMIF Program is fulfilling its intended purpose has not wavered. The committee continues to value local input and invites comments at any time on strategies that could advance the program.

Comments are encouraged and can be submitted to Eric Cushing, SOPA’s Vice President for Marketing and Development, at ecushing@specialolympics.org or (610) 630-9150 ext. 229 or to John Kunkle, Chairman of the ASMIF Committee, at kunkle27@comcast.net or (717) 732-3520.

APPENDIX A

ASMIF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<u>Member</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Penny Coup, Secretary*	SOPA Staff
Kathy Guy, Vice Chair	Allegheny County
Nicole Huya	Athletes
John Kunkle, Chair	Area M
Pieter Ouwehand	Centre County
Greg Stewart	SOPA Board
Kellee Torroso	York County

* Replaced by Eric Cushing in 2014