OUR MISSION

Special Olympics provides 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.

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Allow us to better explain some of the terms included in our 2013 Annual Report:

• Screenings: Volunteer health care professionals provide free health screenings and education to our athletes in the form of eye, ear, dental and podiatry care, as well as physical therapy.

• Global Messengers: Are Special Olympics athletes who help spread the message and vision of the movement as well as the benefits they have gained by participating in Special Olympics.

• Athlete Representatives: Are responsible to represent all registered athletes in their Area/County program as a member of the Management Team.

• Local Program Leadership Roles: The individuals who act as managers for our 56 city/county programs, and comprise our management teams, are primarily volunteers. They raise funds, oversee volunteers, help recruit athletes, and provide training and competition opportunities.

• Sports Directors: Sport Directors are experts who serve as an extension of the state sports staff, serving as the technical liaison on sport rules, training techniques and competition management.

• PIAA: The PIAA or Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. includes almost all of the public and many of the private junior high/middle schools and senior high schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

• NCAA: The NCAA or National Collegiate Athletic Association is the governing body that oversees 23 different sports and athletic championships at 1,200 colleges and universities in the United States.

• Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR): The Law Enforcement Torch Run unites officers from law enforcement agencies and corrections departments across the state in a year-round effort to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics.