



Contents

Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a nonprofit, international program of year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Chairman
Timothy P. Shriver, Ph. D.

President and COO
J. Brady Lum

Founder
Eunice Kennedy Shriver

Chairman Emeritus
Sargent Shriver

Spirit Staff:

Publications Director
Doug McAllister

Managing Editor
Kathy Smallwood

Contributing Writer
Martha Jo Braycich

Senior Graphic Designer
Stacy Kramer

Photo Editor
Neil Ostrander

Spirit is published by Special Olympics to promote its aims and programs and to provide information about Special Olympics to its participants, volunteers and others interested in the movement.

Mailing permit no. 174

© copyright 2008
Special Olympics
1133 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
All rights reserved.

Any articles accompanied by a copyright © may not be reproduced without written permission.

Web Site:
www.specialolympics.org
E-mail:
info@specialolympics.org



Special Olympics launched its Global Football Initiative at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in China. Football (soccer) is one of the five most popular sports in Special Olympics. Everyone can play; why not you? Join a Unified Sports® football team in your community and be a fan of fun! Go to www.specialolympics.org to find a Special Olympics Program near you.



Cover:

1) Tendai Mangati of Zimbabwe competes in bocce at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland. **2)** Special Olympics Slovakia athlete Milan Panencan (left) and his Unified Sports® football (soccer) partner Matus Bires. **3)** Medalists from the 1st International Special Olympics Games in 1968 at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois (USA). **4)** Hsu Pi Chuan of Chinese Taipei competes in the 200M snowshoe race at the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. **5)** Members of the Special Olympics Iraq gold-medal winning football (soccer) team at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. **6)** Troy Rutter of Pennsylvania wins the first Special Olympics marathon at the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games in New Haven, Connecticut. **7)** Special Olympics weightlifter Andy Leonard of Pennsylvania has been ranked among the top five in the world for his weight class in the sport. **8)** Special Olympics swimmer Andy Miyares of Florida who, at the 2004 U.S. Paralympic Trials, came home with four first-place finishes in the mile, breaking the PanAm record. **9)** Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics. **10)** Breda Byrne of Ireland takes part in the bean-bag lift during a Motor Activities Training Program skills activity at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland. **11)** Kevin Erickson of Wisconsin (USA) shot a hole in one at the 2003 Special Olympics U.S. National Golf Invitational, which he went on to win.

In This Issue:

- How It Began** 4
Eunice Kennedy Shriver looks back more than 40 years and describes the stigma and loneliness of people with intellectual disabilities that gave rise to the creation of Special Olympics
- Reaching the Most Neglected Population and Areas of the World** 14
People with intellectual disabilities still endure heartbreaking isolation and rejection in many regions of the world
- Creating a World of Inclusion, Dignity and Respect** 19
When individuals, communities and governments are exposed to the example of Special Olympics athletes, they see how people with intellectual disabilities can participate in society in a meaningful way
- Fostering Community Building and Engagement** 24
From students to professors, factory workers to corporate executives, the famous and not so famous, Special Olympics relies on nearly 800,000 volunteers to ensure that athletes experience quality sports training and competition
- Leading the Way in Learning** 29
Special Olympics has emerged as the global leader in cutting-edge research and evaluation of the issues surrounding intellectual disabilities
- Showcasing the Best in Sports** 34
Nearly 3 million Special Olympics athletes from 180 countries train and compete in 30 Olympic-type sports and are regularly acknowledged for their outstanding skills and sportsmanship
- Building a World of Fans** 40
With Special Olympics, people around the world can be fans of unity, joy, courage, acceptance and dignity long after the Games have ended
- Expressing Thanks and Gratitude** 45
Over the past 40 years, countless individuals, companies and organizations have contributed to advancing Special Olympics around the world