



**Special  
Olympics**  
Kansas

Let me win.

But if I cannot win,

let me be brave in the attempt.

ANNUAL REPORT  
2015

## LETTER FROM THE CEO & PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Looking back to the beginning of 2015, SOKS had just ended the previous year by redefining the priorities for the organization. Going forward, programs to be offered fit into one of three categories: 1) Empower Individuals with Intellectual disabilities; 2) Engage Communities; and 3) Educate Constituents. Today, a full year-after focusing on the priorities, we can say we are a more effective and efficient organization and have increased the quality of the programs.

2015 was the year to create the new Strategic Plan to be implemented in 2016 to carry SOKS through 2020. The new Plan will focus on three goals:

- 1) Empower athletes to perform at the best by improving quality and access to our programs.
  - A. Enhance athlete performance levels by improving the quality of sports programming.
  - B. Increase inclusion and broaden access through Unified Sports, Young Athletes and expansion in schools and new areas.
  - C. Grow our health program to support athlete participation in sport and society.
- 2) Change Attitudes Towards People with ID.
  - A. Improve external awareness through PR, celebrities and government engagement.
  - B. Connect everyone in the Movement so we can harness our power and speak with a collective voice.
  - C. Maximize external impact of Games and competitions to showcase athletes' abilities.
- 3) To Build Capacity, by improving resources and leadership.

As SOKS moves forward to implementing the new Strategic Plan, our Mission is as relevant today as it was almost 50 years ago when Special Olympics was founded. As Nelson Mandela said, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does... Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair... It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." Sport is still the primary method SOKS utilizes to achieve change, supported by work in health which has become critical to our mission. At the core, Special Olympics Kansas is a sports organization that uses the power of sport as a catalyst for social change. By drawing attention to the gifts of people with Intellectual Disabilities (ID), we break down misperceptions and tackle negative attitudes.

While SOKS has made a tremendous impact, there is clearly much more to do. Ours is an urgent mission, and we must continue to provide opportunities that enable everyone to embrace people with ID as full members of society. When we do that, we show the world that there are millions of different abilities, not disabilities. In the words of a Unified sports partner: "What do you mean? What differences? We are all human -- this is what matters."

Together, we will achieve!



Chris Hahn  
President/CEO

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



### UNIFIED RELAY



Special Olympics Kansas athletes, families, coaches, staff and law enforcement officers were all a part of a unique and historic event as the Flame of Hope crossed the United States en route from Athens, Greece to the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, CA.

In a hand-to-hand exchange torchbearers ran, walked and biked through Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City to Dodge City and from there handed off to Special Olympics Colorado. Special guests carrying the torch included sponsors and four SOKS athletes attending the World Games in Los Angeles.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD

### SUMMER GAMES



Cody and Kristi



Michael Bottom, Casey Hostetler and Chevi Peters.



Coach Sid Kanter



Coach John Lair

In July, 2015, Los Angeles was the stage for 6,500 Special Olympics athletes from 165 nations to compete in 25 Olympic-type sports. Three Kansas athletes competed.

Michael won two Silver medals in tennis, Casey won a Silver and a Bronze in tennis, and Chevi Peters won three Gold and a Silver in powerlifting. Chevi was also honored as a featured athlete on ESPN.

Athlete Cody Pierce, Pittsburg, was one of only 10 athletes world-wide selected to run in the Final Leg along with Detective Kristi Powell of Topeka Police Dept.

## SONA SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL



The Special Olympics North America (SONA) Softball Invitational Tournament was held in Wichita, in September. This was the first time this international tournament has been held in Kansas. This was an extremely rare opportunity for Kansans to see Special Olympics athletes from an array of states and nations compete at the highest levels and be inspired by the power and pure joy of sport.

More than 430 Special Olympics athletes, representing 30 teams from the U.S. and Canadian Special Olympics Programs, competed. Kansas was represented by three teams: the Wichita Storm, the Newhope Bulldogs (Pittsburg), and the Topeka Stars.

The tournament was made possible by the generosity of Presenting Sponsor Moose International, as well as ASA/USA Softball, High Touch Technologies, the Coca-Cola Company, and many local volunteers.

## KANSAS UNIFIED SPORTS LEAGUE

2015 was a significant year of growth for the SOKS Unified Sports League (USL) program. SOKS introduced a 3rd sport, bocce, providing a great Unified opportunity for athletes with limited mobility.

In addition, the program increased from 16 schools, 110 athletes and 126 partners in 2014 to 21 schools, 202 athletes and 233 partners, a 33% increase in schools and almost 50% in participation. The Unified Soccer tournament had as many participating teams as the traditional soccer program's State Tournament and the first adult division was added to the league.

Sporting KC continued the MLS Exchange program sending a SOKS Unified team to Colorado to compete against SOCO and hosting the return match in Kansas at Children's Mercy Park.

## KANSAS LETR EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

The impact the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run has on Special Olympics Kansas is pretty amazing.

- \* In 2015, officers helped raise \$540,090.41 through various fundraisers, sponsorships and plunges across Kansas!

- \* 1,297 LETR members participated in events, including Polar Plunge, Tip-a-Cops, Torch Runs, medal presentations, etc.

- \* The Torch Run covered 1,563 miles in Kansas, by running, biking, horseback riding, and roller skating carrying the Flame of Hope through local communities en route the Opening Ceremony of the Summer Games! This event promotes awareness of SOKS athletes and programs in local communities.

- \* Kansas Officers presented 23,316 medals and ribbons to SOKS athletes at regional and state competitions, enduring the heat, the cold, the rain, & the sun to present awards and give high fives!

- \* Sgt. Chris Moore, Pittsburg Police Department was inducted into the Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame for his contributions to the KS LETR.



Chris Moore

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Family of the Year 2015 *Making a Difference*



Family of Jason Shirley  
Wichita Independents



## Coach of the Year 2015 *Making a Difference*



Ron Just  
Dodge City Dodgers



## Business of the Year 2015 *Making a Difference*



2015



## Special Event Volunteer of the Year 2015 *Making a Difference*



Jennifer Hughes



## Program Volunteer of the Year 2015 *Making a Difference*



Tracy Ortiz  
Bonner Springs



# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Roy Baxter  
Dodge City Dodgers



Chuck Crawford  
Midwest Wildfires



John "J.J." Fleenor  
Topeka Shawnee

# MOST INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETES

Michael Bottom  
Hutchison Reno County Hawks  
State Basketball

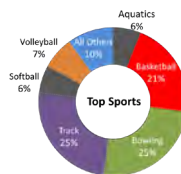
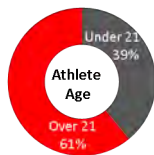
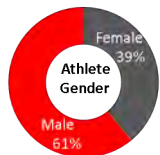


Dustin Gunter, Royal Valley Panthers,  
with Cpl. Adam Taylor,  
Prairie Village PD,  
lighting the Flame of Hope at Summer Games

# 2015 Special Olympics Kansas Reach Report

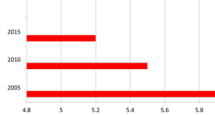
## ATHLETES SERVED

5,165



## ATHLETE CHANGE

IN THOUSANDS



## COMPETITIONS

124



## COACHES

2,294



## VOLUNTEERS

16,575



## UNIFIED SPORTS

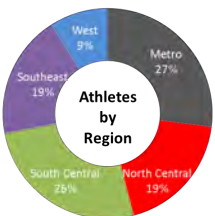
ATHLETES

158



PARTNERS

179



## HEALTHY ATHLETES

DISCIPLINES

5

SCREENINGS

537

CLINICS

5



## GLOBAL MESSENGERS

TRAINED ATHLETE SPEAKERS

18



## SUPPORT

\$6,846,793

CASH IN-KIND  
\$2,402,481 \$4,444,312

## LOCAL PROGRAMS

107



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Taylor Miller - Chairperson  
Mark Malick - Chairperson-Elect  
M. Theresa Davidson - Past Chairperson  
Dale Chaffin - Treasurer  
Patricia Sweeney - Secretary

## MEMBERS

Jim Burgess  
John Cassidy  
David Coleal  
Dan Dolan  
Glen Grunwald  
Christy Hass  
Allan Henderson  
Sherri Hetler  
Jennifer Hughes  
Rick Jones

Tim Klein  
John Lair  
Amy Loder  
George Martin  
Aaron Neighbors  
Cory Powell  
Eric Rector  
Marilyn Richwine  
Travis Salmon  
Charles E. Watson

## STAFF

**Chris Hahn** - President and CEO  
**Tim Rehder** - Sr. VP of Program Operations  
**Donna Zimmerman** - Sr. VP of PR & Communications  
**Clint Armistead** - Director of Sports  
**Terri Price** - Director, Metro/Southeast Regions  
**Krystin Guggisberg** - Director, North Central Region  
**Ali Barnard** - Director, South Central Region  
**Kim Pianalto** - Director, West Region

**Luke Schulte** - VP of Development & LETR  
**Kate Buenger** - Development Director  
**Mitch Guthrie** - Development Director  
**Betty Werner** - Director of Finance  
**Sheri Stanton** - Assistant Director of Finance  
**Lynda Krupp** - Executive Assistant Ops. & Comms.  
**Michele Johnson** - Program Operations Manager  
**Linda Hunt** - Athlete Records Manager

## REVENUES

Special Events	1,007,924
Donations	772,112
Games Sponsorship	419,275
Foundations/Grants	175,137
Program Assessment	95,884
Investment Income	-9,468
Merchandise	18,281
Interest	8,984
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$2,488,129</u></b>

## IN KIND VALUES

Product	389,202
Volunteers	3,940,942

**TOTAL** **\$4,330,144**

**TOTAL REVENUES** **\$6,818,273**

## EXPENSES

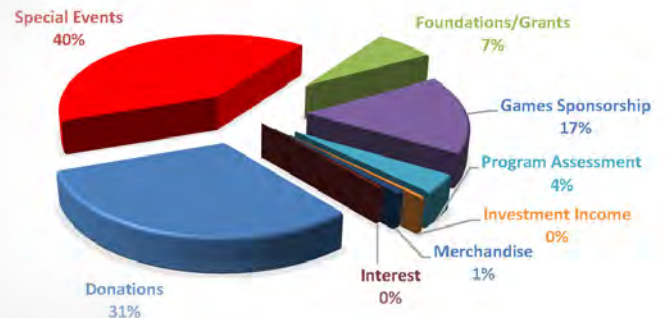
Program Services	1,869,583
Fundraising	386,368
Mgmt & General	233,817

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$2,489,768**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** **\$-1,639**

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS AUDITED STATEMENT of REVENUES and EXPENSES

Year Ending December, 31 2015



Stanion Wholesale Electric  
Charity Golf Classic



To Benefit  
Special Olympics Kansas  
September 17, 2015

### **Stanion Wholesale Electric Company Breaks the \$1 million Mark!**

Stanion Wholesale Electric Co. completed its 13th Charity Golf Classic to benefit Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS). Stanion, its valued employees, customers and vendors came together raising an impressive \$100,000 in 2015. This brings the grand total of proceeds donated from the past 13 tournaments to \$1,016,034.00. Stanion Wholesale has been a significant partner and SOKS has enjoyed their philanthropic philosophy and their commitment to Special Olympics Kansas.



# ***Special Olympics Kansas***

Energized by the pride and power of teamwork, Special Olympics Kansas provides individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to be an athlete... and more... through acceptance, inclusion, physical fitness, health and nutrition programs, and leadership development.

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Follow us on Facebook  
Special Olympics Kansas



@SOKansas

Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation for the benefit of  
persons with intellectual disabilities