

# Special Olympics Missouri

Whose Mission is . . .

*to provide 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.*

This is the 45<sup>nd</sup> year for Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO). During that time, they have grown to be recognized as the leader in supporting athletes that are intellectually challenged and in creating Unified activities for sibling participation. The competition begins locally, and extends to Area, District, Regional and State every year. Every 4 years there are National Games and International Games.

## **\$1 MILLION CHALLENGE**

The Missouri State Knights of Columbus have been challenged by SOMO to raise \$1,000,000.00 over a five year period. These funds will be used for SOMO's Capital Campaign for the new "Training for Life Campus" which will be built in Jefferson City. Your State Council has accepted this challenge, and is developing a new fundraising plan to meet this goal. We need every Council to participate.

In addition to the \$1 million goal for the Training for Life Campus, we continue to support SOMO's statewide operations. Our goal this year is to collect \$60,000; \$30,000 for their statewide operations, another \$30,000 in donations made directly to SOMO entities on the city, county or regional level. Councils are recognized for their donations by being designated a Gold, Silver or Bronze level supporter.

The goal is to raise enough money that athletes will not have to stay home because their families cannot afford to send them to Special Olympics events. Many of the athletes who participate are totally reliant on the financial support that SOMO provides to them. As a state, we have made a pledge to give \$30,000 to SOMO on an annual basis to be used for their statewide games; however many councils also support SOMO events which take place in their area through donations of time and money. And remember, you can designate that your turnaround funds from the Drive for Persons with Developmental Disabilities go directly to Special Olympics Missouri.

The Supreme Council is offering each state a chance to receive up to \$8,000 in matching funds that will be given based on the money and volunteer time donated by that particular jurisdiction. It is measured by filling out Form 4584 Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics. *Please fill this out whether your council supported SOMO this year or not!* This form is given to every council and can also be filled out online at [www.mokofc.org](http://www.mokofc.org) This matching money will give us additional funds we can use to support SOMO.

## Special Olympics Medal Awards . . .

The top three councils who financially contribute the most to SOMO (per member) will be recognized at the State Convention through receipt of a Gold, Silver or Bronze Olympic Medal award, which will have an actual Special Olympics medal incorporated into it. Councils can donate to their local Special Olympics programs by sending a check to Columbian Charities with a note that they wish to have a check to be given locally. If you want to have a check presentation with the Special Olympics Athletes in your area, please contact your State Chairman and he can assist in having some of them be at your meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to show your community where and how your Tootsie Roll funds are used.



<p><b>For more information please contact:</b></p> <p><b>Lou Holtmann ,Special Olympics Chairman</b> 5751 Wickershire Lane, Oakville MO 63129 Phone (D &amp; N) 314-487-2820 somo@mokofc.org</p>	<p><b>Please mail all donations for Special Olympics to:</b></p> <p><b>Ralph Cupelli, Columbian Charities Treasurer</b> 6 Circle Drive, Kirksville, MO 63501 Phone (D) 660-785-4221 (N) 660-665-1927 cupelli@mokofc.org</p>
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