

## **Featured Program — Special Olympics**

The power of fraternity is most evident when Knights of Columbus and their families come together to volunteer, raise millions of dollars and promote the dignity of people with physical and intellectual disabilities by participating in Special Olympics. 11 Orderwide Program — Gary Sinise Foundation The Gary Sinise Foundation is committed to ensuring that the sacrifices of our nation's brave men and women of our armed forces are never forgotten. One of the many programs established by the Gary Sinise Foundation is its R.I.S.E. program (Restoring Independence & Supporting Empowerment). Through the R.I.S.E. program, the foundation attempts to assist wounded heroes and their families overcome their new life challenges. The Knights of Columbus encourages your council to join in the Order's partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation by raising funds to benefit the foundation and its R.I.S.E. program. Organizing a council-sponsored trip to a sporting event, and promoting it to your parish and community, is just one of several ways to promote and raise much-needed funds for this worthy and charitable cause. For additional information on the Gary Sinise Foundation, visit [garysinisefoundation.org](http://garysinisefoundation.org).

Here are the steps for your council to follow to partner with Special Olympics:

- Locate a Special Olympics local affiliate by visiting [specialolympics.org](http://specialolympics.org).
- Invite the Special Olympics affiliate director or promotion person to a council meeting to explain what Special Olympics is doing in your community and what their needs are.
- Appoint a Special Olympics chairman to organize your council's participation.
- Recruit volunteers for the games.
- Plan and recruit help for various fundraisers to support Special Olympics.
- Provide all fundraiser dates and the games' schedule to your council's public relations chairman to provide advance notice to members to ensure good attendance.
- Publicize your council's involvement with Special Olympics in your local newspaper and parish bulletin.
- Invite the entire parish community to volunteer with your council.