



Hello, 2023 marks the 39th Anniversary of the Maine Law Enforcement Torch run for Special Olympics. Our Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest annual fundraising and grassroots awareness event for Special Olympics Maine. Each year over 600 members of Maine Law Enforcement raise upwards of \$300,000.00 to help support our program. Special Olympics is a year-round sports training and competition program for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In Maine there are well over 5000 athletes involved in the program. Using the power of Sport as a platform, Special Olympics also provides numerous socialization opportunities, inclusive medical health and follow up, athlete leadership positions, self-esteem building, choice, and opportunity. While building “communities of inclusion” within school settings, the workplace, and beyond. Hosting 18 “state/regional level” competitions each year (and over 70 additional “Area” events), our largest event of the year, our State Summer Games, are fast approaching, June 9-11. At this event, over 1,500 athletes will compete at the University of Maine in Orono. Special Olympics is often the only opportunity for people in Maine, who have intellectual disabilities, to train and/or compete in organized sports...an opportunity to excel, to make friends, compete with their peers and to be seen for ability, not inability.

At Camp Tall Pines, a year-round lakefront camp, owned and operated by Special Olympics Maine in Poland, one elderly athlete heard an echo for the first time in his life. At our State Summer Games an adult athlete was screened for eyesight evaluation, and as a result, received (there at the Games) their first pair of glasses ever and saw the world clearly for the first time in their life. For the past 10 years, through Unified basketball, bocce and volleyball, hundreds of Special Olympic Maine athletes have competed for the first time on a high school sports team. You see, the Special Olympics is an opportunity for many positive “firsts” in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities! Simply put, we provide our athletes with the skills needed to live a healthier and happier lifestyle.

With an annual budget upwards of \$1.5MM, and the task of raising 100% of that budget, Special Olympics Maine relies on the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Without the Law Enforcement Torch Run, we would not be able to continue such a successful program. As a matter of fact, one out of every three dollars we spend comes from the Law Enforcement Torch Run. We would be most thankful for any help that you could give to Maine Law Enforcement members toward their fundraising efforts. Your generosity and support of Special Olympics Maine and the Maine Law Enforcement Torch Run would be greatly appreciated beyond words. On behalf of over 5000 Special Olympics Maine athletes, thank you for considering a donation or sponsorship, and thank you for caring and sharing.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Philip R. Geelhoed

President & CEO
Special Olympics Maine