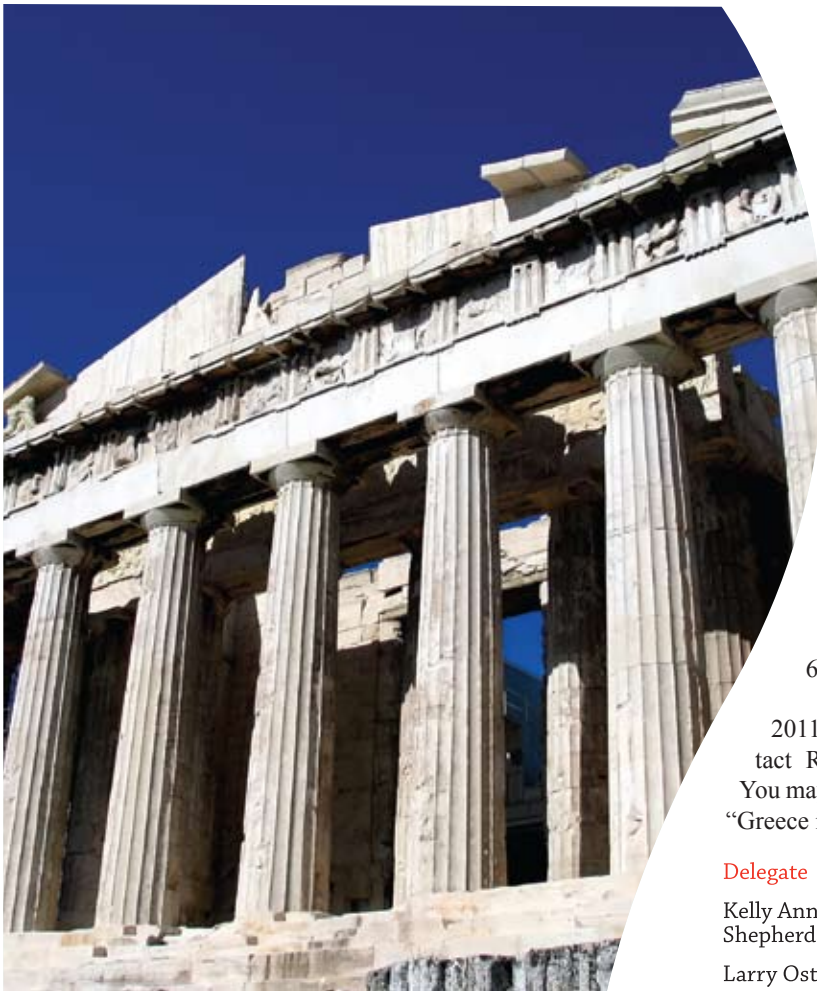




# SPORTSREPORT

An Official Publication of Special Olympics Utah

## 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece!



**Special Olympics Utah** is proud to send 9 delegates representing Team USA at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

The delegates had a wonderful time mingling and getting to know their teammates at the Team USA training camp in San Diego, CA, March 27 – 31. Everyone is excited to join Team USA, once again, in Baltimore, MA for the send-off to Greece on June 18. They will join 7500 athletes and 2500 coaches from 180 countries at Host Town from June 20 – 24 to learn about Greek culture, practice for their competitions, and enjoy wonderful Greek cuisine!

The games will begin with a celebration at opening ceremonies hosted by the Kallimarmaron Panathinaikon Stadium on June 25th. Competition will take place the next day, June 26 in 22 sports at a number of venues in Athens, Greece and will wrap up on July 4.

The Utah delegates will be welcomed home on July 6 at the Salt Lake International Airport.

If you are interested in sponsoring an athlete for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, please contact Rochelle Deeter at 801-860-2171 or [deeter@sout.org](mailto:deeter@sout.org). You may also donate online at [www.sout.org](http://www.sout.org) through the link for “Greece is the Word!”

Delegate	Local Team	Sport	Type
Kelly Ann Shepherdson	Lehi High School	Aquatics	Athlete
Larry Ostler	Golden Spikers	Aquatics	Athlete
Jeff Jensen	Panthers	Bowling	Athlete
Jennifer Neumann	University of Utah	Bowling	Athlete
Elizabeth Leatham	Utah State University	Cycling	Athlete
Jason Greenhalgh	Utah State University	Cycling	Athlete
Denton Taylor	Panthers	Golf	Athlete
BobbiJo Kanter	SOUT Staff	Equestrian	Sports Manager
Rochelle Deeter	SOUT Staff	Bowling	Asst. Sports Manager



## Board Roster

Katina Curtis  
Ryan Evans  
Jeffrey A. Beal  
Chelsea Brandt  
Wade K. Carpenter  
Lena Dibble  
Lori Hooley  
Jeffrey F. Jagard  
Dennis Marcus  
Scott M. McCullough  
Donna Schurtz  
Debbie White  
Sommer Wiscombe

## Staff Roster

Chris Briseno  
Sam Christensen  
Dave Chappell  
Rochelle Deeter  
Alisa Graham  
Amy Hansen  
BobbiJo Kanter  
Galadriel Lee  
Tamara Lofthouse  
Jeff Petersen  
Mallory Platt  
Lyn Rees  
Merlene Timmons  
Helen Thomas  
Sarah Young

## Staff Updates

Special Olympics Utah has a new staff members! Please welcome **Amy Hansen** our new CEO and **Mallory Platt** in the newly-created position of Project Unify Liaison.

athletes just like they would at any other sporting event. And they experience it for themselves as their understanding of people with intellectual disabilities expands. Every day those of us lucky enough to work full-time for the Special Olympics movement hear amazing stories from people about the difference our program has made in their lives.

These stories are powerful and inspiring, and the telling of them opens doors and hearts. These stories paired with the outcomes and statistics about our programs remind us that these stories are not isolated and that Special Olympics Utah is making an important contribution to our communities. The scope and impact of Special Olympics Utah is not just “a nice thing;” it is important.

Because our organization is important, we need to grow our revenue so that we can serve more athletes! You have the chance to help us right now. You can encourage those you know to make a donation to help send our Utah athletes to the World Games, where they have the opportunity to showcase for the world the abilities of Special Olympics athletes. We are asking for 500 people to each give \$25 now! You can also go to [www.vivint.com/givesbackproject/charity](http://www.vivint.com/givesbackproject/charity) and vote for and endorse Special Olympics Utah. Vivint is giving away \$1.25 million dollars to local charities. The top 20 in each region advances to the finals. Currently Special Olympics is in 17<sup>th</sup> place in the Mountain Region. Please vote today and every day through June 11.

As always, the many ways you support Special Olympics is appreciated and needed.

Amy Hansen  
CEO

## Special Olympics Utah names new CEO: Amy Hansen

On March 21, Amy Hansen took the helm as CEO of Special Olympics Utah. Amy’s skills and background in the nonprofit sector will be invaluable in helping our organization meet expansion and service goals,” said Board Chair Katina Curtis.

Ms. Hansen will draw on experience with other Utah nonprofit entities such as American Red Cross, March of Dimes and Boys and Girls Club as she begins her work with Special Olympics Utah. Ms. Hansen debuted in her new role just in time for two of the key Special Olympics Utah competitions; the 2011 Winter Games in the Weber County area on March 26, hosted by the Weber State University and sponsored by Boeing, and the 2011 Special Olympics Utah Summer Games, June 2, 3 & 4 in Cedar City, hosted by Southern Utah University and sponsored by Harmons.

When asked about her new role with the organization, Ms. Hansen said, “I’m looking forward to working with the dedicated staff, coaches, and athletes of SOUT, and growing the organization to serve even more than the 2,200 athletes currently active in Utah.”

## Fall Sports Classic

Thank you to the University of Utah for hosting another amazing event! Special Olympics Utah is proud to host our Fall Sports Classic at such an incredible venue with an excellent Games Organizing Committee and a host of dedicated volunteers.

This year, more than 730 athletes and Unified Sports® partners competed in aquatics, basketball and bocce. The athletes received support from roughly 250 coaches to ensure each participant competed at their best!

We would like to recognize Wadsworth Brothers Construction as

our presenting sponsor along with Swire Coca Cola, Panda Express, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Utah Families Foundation, Kyle Korver Foundation, and Harmons as additional sponsors of the 2010 Fall Sports Classic.

## Snowball Classic

PHEW! What a busy sports season for Special Olympics Utah! With 18 area events leading up to the Snowball Classic, athletes had ample opportunity to work on their bowling deliveries and volleyball serves! A special THANK YOU to all of our Field Service Coordinators for putting on quality area events across the state.

The Special Olympics Utah Snowball Classic, hosted by Ritz Classic, Bonwood Bowl and the Intermountain Volleyball Association, celebrated the spares, strikes, sets and spikes of more than 830 athletes and Unified Sports® partners. Thank you to the coaches and volunteers who donated their time to support the competitors. We would also like to recognize Harmons as our presenting sponsor of the 2011 Snowball Classic.

## Project Unify

Special Olympics Project UNIFY® is an education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Utah is in its third year implementing this project.

Following are some of the successes we have witnessed this school year:

We were contacted by a teacher from the Karl G. Maesar School expressing interest in getting her students involved with Special Olympics and that they wanted to host an event. After meeting with the class, they went to work to planning and implementing the Karl G. Maesar's Snowshoe Shuffle. It was held at a local park and eight athletes competed in the races. A number of the student body came to the event to help volunteer as well as support their fellow classmates and athletes. After the excitement this event inspired, the student body officers put together a video to promote "Spread the Word, to End the Word" and unveiled it at an assembly for the entire student body.

We had several high schools host a "Spread the Word, to End the Word" campaign to their student body. Highland High School had over 500 students sign a poster and take the pledge to ban the "r"-word from their vocabulary.

Bingham High School hosted their second annual "Spread the Word, to End the Word" campaign, reaching over 1,000 students. The student body mingled with Special Olympics Utah athletes and Unified Sports® Partners from the Bingham High Special Olympics team. Bingham has been working hard to prepare their three soccer teams for competition at the 2011 Special Olympics Utah Summer Games in June.

Bingham competed in their second volleyball competition, hosting two teams. Both teams played hard and earned 4th place.

Provo High School competed in the 2011 Special Olympics Utah Snowball Classic in the sport of Unified Sports® volleyball for the first time. Through hard work and dedication of the coaches, athletes and Unified Sports® partners, they went home with the silver medal!

Special Olympics Utah is currently working with Cyprus and Woods Cross High Schools to incorporate this great program.

## Hall of Fame

The 2010 Special Olympics Utah Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner was hosted by the downtown Marriott on November 16, 2010. We extend a very special thank you to the Marriott and their amazing staff for their dedication to making Hall of Fame a night to remember. Our Gold Medal sponsor of the evening was Maverik, Silver Medal sponsor The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Foundation, and Bronze Medal sponsors Utah AFL-CIO, Harmons Grocery, Hershey Candy, Kellogg Cereal, Meadow Gold Dairy, Pepsi, and General Mills.

Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver was honored during the dinner ceremonies. Mrs. Shriver passed away August 11, 2009. "One Woman's Vision" was the theme of this special night. Mrs. Shriver's love for and dedication to individuals with intellectual disabilities was commemorated during the dinner with a slideshow of her accomplishments and the message to "Play On!" with the 300 million+ Special Olympics athletes across the world to keep her vision of hope, love, and inclusion alive through the power of sports.

The Hall of Fame inductees for 2010 are Robert Mooney for program building and athlete William J. "Pete" Alvey. Also awarded for their contributions to the success of Special Olympics Utah were Maverik (Janet Q. Lawson Inspire Greatness award), UPS Foundation (Lifetime Giving award), TD Ameritrade (Outstanding Corporate Sponsor award), Utah Trucking Association (LETR Light The Torch award), and Jeremy Shaw of Utah State Parks (LETR Guardian of the Flame award).



## Summer Games 2011

Special Olympics Utah is very excited to announce that our Summer Games competition is moving to Southern Utah University in Cedar City and will be held June 2nd, 3rd and 4th. We are very excited about this new opportunity – especially the chance to create new partnerships and provide better services to our teams in the southern areas of the state.

Thank you to Brigham Young University and the students and community members who have served over the years on the Games Organizing Committees. We look forward to continuing to work with the athletes, coaches and volunteers from the central area at our existing events and at other opportunities that may become available locally. In addition, while we recognize this may create some new challenges for some of our teams, we also hope that this move will be beneficial to the athletes, coaches and volunteers as we make Special Olympics Utah state-level events more accessible to our participants state-wide.





Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns – we value the passion and dedication of all the athletes, coaches and volunteers – we look forward to hearing from you!

### Healthy Athletes– Summer Games

Exciting news on the Healthy Athletes front! The Salt Lake Unified Police Department has donated an older Mobile Command Center for us to convert into our Mobile Healthy Athletes Unit! With the 27 foot mobile unit we will be able to travel to area competitions and perform Healthy Athlete screenings on site. This will allow us to provide services for a greater number of our athletes. Currently we are serving a very limited number of athletes at only two state-level competitions. We hope to greatly increase the number of screenings we are able to perform by going to the athletes in their areas.

At Summer Games this year, screenings will be taking place all day Friday and Saturday and we hope to have the debut appearance of the new mobile screening unit!

### Harmon's Frozen Food Month

Every year during the month of March, Harmons and Special Olympics Utah join forces to promote National Frozen Food Month. Harmons donates a portion of frozen food sales during this time and receives incredible support from the vendor community. Harmons also hosts an annual charity golf tournament in St. George. Harmons' customers always have the greatest impact during the month-long promotion with tremendous contributions through icons purchased at checkout and enjoying root beer floats made by local athletes. Athletes are in all the Harmons stores on Friday evenings and all day Saturday during the month of March.

One hundred percent of the funds raised during March Frozen Food Month go directly to Special Olympics Utah. Funds raised for Special Olympics Utah helps fund year-round sports training, competition, local and state events, as well as health and wellness programs and screenings. Money raised by individual teams during the in-store weekly root beer float sales stays with those teams to help pay for their uniforms, equipment and travel expenses.

### Volunteer opportunities for large corporations

There is a lot of truth in the “strength in numbers” statement. At Special Olympics Utah we could not provide what we do without the tremendous number of volunteers we have each year. Many of those volunteers come to us by way of their employer, either through a match program, paid-release time, days of service or other employee volunteer programs. Not only does volunteerism benefit Special Olympics Utah but it benefits the corporations and employees alike.

According to the website serviceleader.org, employee volunteerism has gained momentum as a critical component of corporate citizenship. As of 2003, 33 percent of

have an employee volunteer program (Hitachi Foundation and The Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College, 2003). Employee volunteerism offers a tangible way for businesses to become more personally invested in the local community, to strengthen employee skills and morale, and to cultivate a more positive and productive business environment

Many studies have been done regarding corporate volunteerism as well as individual volunteerism and statistics show that Utah is a great volunteer state! Following are some of those results:

- Despite the economic crisis, the national volunteer rate went up to 26.8 percent in 2009, with 63.4 million volunteers donating approximately 8.1 billion hours of service in communities across the country.
- In 2009, approximately 906,000 volunteers in Utah contributed 200 million hours of service.
- With an average of 86.9 hours per resident– Utah ranks 1st among the 50 states and Washington D.C.

The Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship (BCCCC) wrote a report called “The State of Corporate Citizenship 2009: Weathering the Storm” and found that 83 percent of large companies support employee volunteering because of its positive community impact. BCCCC also found 62 percent of employees said they would rather work in companies that allow them volunteer opportunities with nonprofit organizations than those that don't offer civic engagement programs.

Whether through a one-time volunteer experience or building an ongoing partnership with a company, Special Olympics Utah knows the power and strength of volunteering. For more information about how your company can become involved in Special Olympics Utah, contact Sam Christensen at [christensen@sout.org](mailto:christensen@sout.org) or visit our website at [www.sout.org](http://www.sout.org)



### Denny's All-American Slam

Be a fan of Special Olympics on your next visit to Denny's

On May 25, 2010, Special Olympics and Denny's announced a year-long national sponsorship to raise awareness and support for people with intellectual disabilities. Consumers can now help support Special Olympics at more than 1200 participating Denny's restaurants across the United States. When a customer orders an All-American Slam® from now through August 2011, 10-cents will be donated to Special Olympics. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics in communities across the U.S. and will allow us to provide greater services and programs for the 3.5 million athletes who are part of the Special Olympics movement around the world.

## 2011 Torch Run Kick Off

The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will officially start Friday, April 29 at 10:00 AM at the Utah State Capitol. Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank will officially begin the Torch Run; state Torch Run Director, Lt. Dennis Vincent from Brigham City Police Department will officiate. The kick off will conclude with four torches being ignited and running in four different directions, signifying the Torch Run relay during May that will reach the four corners of Utah. Please check the online calendar at [www.sout.org](http://www.sout.org) to find more information of the torch in your area.



## Polar Plunges

January and February in Utah is cold – VERY COLD; so if you're going to be freezing, some people were 'freezin' for a reason<sup>®</sup>. The Law Enforcement Torch Run hosted four Polar Plunges this year. **Cool people with warm hearts** plunged into the icy waters of

Hyrum State Park on January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, hosted by Cache Valley Law Enforcement, into the Lake at the Hill in Cedar City on January 29<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Cedar City Police Department and Cedar City Leisure Services, into Utah Lake on February 12<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Saratoga Springs Police Department, and the final plunge was into the icy waters at Deer Creek Reservoir on February 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Heber City Police Department. Special Olympics Utah appreciates the hard work of the law enforcement personnel to make these events a success, and thanks all of the venue locations that were so generous with their hospitality.

## Special Olympics Utah on "The Hill"

This past Utah Legislative session was an exciting time for Special Olympics Utah and individuals with intellectual disabilities statewide. On March 29, Governor Herbert signed into law House Bill 230, which changes outdated and derogatory language referencing individuals with intellectual disabilities in Utah state documents to people-first language preferred worldwide by Special Olympics. House Bill 230 takes effect on May 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a ceremonial signing event at the Capitol on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, as the legislative session was coming to a close, several Special Olympics Utah athletes had the opportunity to participate in a day of lobbying. The athletes who came to the capitol building learned how to get a face-to-face meeting with their representative and many received several opportunities to talk about Special Olympics Utah and what the organization means to them. Thank you very much to the athletes who came to lobby for Special Olympics

granted \$10,000 by the Governor's Office of Economic Development to support the Healthy Athletes program, which is about to go "on the road" for the first time. This grant is particularly spe-



cial because Special Olympics Utah was the only special interest non-profit group to receive funding from the session. We extend our gratitude to the Utah State Legislature, and Lauren Richards Wall of Exoro Group for her expertise, compassion, and guidance to lobby effectively.

Chris Briseno (Global Messenger) and Debbie White of the Board of Directors, attended Special Olympics' Hill Day. The message they were to deliver to the senators and representatives in Washington D.C., was the value of the reauthorization of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Act. The act includes future funding for valued programs such as Best Buddies International, Healthy Athletes and Project UNIFY. Mr. Briseno was instrumental in representing Special Olympics Utah as he shared his thoughts along with information regarding our efforts in the state to expand the Healthy Athletes program.

## 2010 Special Olympics Utah Annual Conference

The Special Olympics Utah Annual Conference returned in 2010 after a four year hiatus! Coaches, Heads of Delegation and Unified Sports<sup>®</sup> Partners came together, at the Downtown Marriott, for a day of education and to mingle with their peers!

The conference focused on Unified Sport<sup>®</sup>, website training, registration process and fundraising education. We were privileged to have Seth Quealy share his expertise regarding Sports Psychology. We would like to thank Seth for taking time out of his busy schedule to share his knowledge with the coaches and staff!

The highlight of the day was the awards luncheon attended by over 110 individuals.

George Bateman received the Gary O Totland Award of Excellence for his many years of service and dedication to the athletes and mission of Special Olympics Utah.



## Other awards are as follows:

### Central Area

Volunteer of the Year **Joleen Glassett**  
Athlete of the Year **John Story**  
Coach of the Year **Michelle Holbrook**

### Metro Area

Athlete of the Year **Greg Meyer**  
Volunteer of the Year **Amanda Wilson**  
Coach of the Year **Lee & Linda Shuster**  
Family of the Year **The Kunder's**

### North Area

Coach of the Year **Lara Krause**  
Family of the Year **The Kopecky Family**  
Volunteer of the Year **The Fessler Family**  
Athlete of the Year **Shelley Mooney**  
Sponsor of the Year **Swan Lakes Golf Course**

### South Area

Athlete of the Year **Justin Tuft**  
Coach of the Year **Paul & Julie Montgomery**  
Volunteer of the Year **Paul Forcier**  
Sponsor of the Year **Washington Community Center**  
Family of the Year **The Knudsen Family**

### South Central Area

Volunteer of the Year **Michael Howland**  
Sponsor of the Year **Snow College Multicultural Center**

### South East Area

Coach of the Year **Tracy Johnson**  
Sponsor of the Year **Transitions**  
Athlete of the Year **Elliot Ostler**

## Upcoming Events

**June 1st** LETR Final Leg in St. George

**June 2nd-4th** Summer Games at Southern Utah University

**TBD in June** Send-off party for World Games attendees (watch the website for more information)

**June 10th** Minuteman Showdown at Hill Air Force Base

**June 25th-July 4th** World Games in Athens, Greece

**July 9th** Hartvigsen School Golf Fore Gold

## Special Thanks

(\$500+ Donations)

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Bear River Association of Governments

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Wadsworth Brothers Construction • Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Washington County Auditor • Western Sheet Metal  
XO Marketing Group • Zions Bank

## Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign

Special Olympics Utah is now part of the Combined Federal Campaign. Federal employees may make direct donations to Special Olympics Utah through payroll deduction with their employer. Our CFC number is 38253.

