Special Olympics Utah is thrilled to announce a three-year partnership with Miller Family Philanthropy and the Utah Jazz to grow basketball as a Special Olympics Utah sport and create more opportunities for those with and without intellectual disabilities to learn and participate in basketball.

This exciting partnership will launch the NEW! separate state basketball season and state basketball competition. It will also facilitate the expansion of three-on-three basketball teams for those with intellectual disabilities and unified basketball camps for those ages 8 to 14 with and without intellectual disabilities.

During this three-year partnership, Miller Family Philanthropy and the Utah Jazz will be the exclusive title sponsor of the Special Olympics Utah State Basketball Tournament. The first State Basketball Competition will be March 23-24, 2018 at the University of Utah.

“We are so grateful to the Larry H. Miller Family and the Utah Jazz for believing in Special Olympics Utah and for their very generous support. The Miller name is synonymous with basketball, and we are very proud to be associated with the Miller Family and the Utah Jazz, and together grow participation in basketball at all skill levels, for all ages.”

— D’Arcy Dixon Pignanelli, President and CEO, Special Olympics Utah
Get in on the Action

There will be lots of action when Special Olympics Utah basketball converges at the University of Utah on Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, 2018.

- Six courts of 5v5
- Two courts of 3v3
- One court dedicated to skills
- MATP athletes highlighted at the Opening Ceremonies
- Over 400 participants, 40 teams, 100 games!

Special Olympics Offers Many Ways for Athletes to Train and Compete in Basketball

**Five-on-Five**: 5v5 is played both traditional and Unified. Unified basketball is where those with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete on the same team. An individual without an intellectual disability playing on a Unified team is called a Unified Partner.

**Three-on-Three**: 3v3 basketball is a step between 5v5 and Skills (see below). An athlete still learning ball handling, passing, shooting, and general game awareness and movement, could be a good candidate for 3v3.

**Skills**: There are two levels where individual athletes compete in three events: **Level I** with Target Pass, 10 Meter Dribble and Spot Shot, and the more advanced **Level II** with 12 Meter Dribble, Catch & Pass and Perimeter Shooting. The totaled three event scores are the final score.

**MATP**: The Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) is designed for athletes with intellectual disabilities who also have more severe physical, mental, or emotional disabilities and need an individually designed training program. MATP prepares athletes for sport-specific activities appropriate for their abilities.

Support the athletes! 200 volunteers needed. volunteer@sout.org
**Creating More Avenues to try Basketball**

Through the support of Miller Family Philanthropy and the Utah Jazz, Special Olympics Utah athletes and Unified Partners will have more avenues to learn, train and compete in basketball, and develop friendships along the way. Here’s how.

**Separate basketball season and tournament.** A stand-alone season assures all athletes can try basketball, and form more teams. The more teams, the more opportunity to division teams for the most fair and competitive competition possible.

**Development of 3v3 teams.** 3v3 basketball, played on half-court, allows athletes to focus on developing and practicing individual skills, while still playing on a team sport. Team sports promote interaction and building of friendships, which is important to helping athletes build confidence and communication skills.

**Unified clinics for ages 8-14.** Unified Sports is where those with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete on the same team and compete against other Unified teams. Through a common goal of learning a sport, children ages 8 to 14 can break down barriers, stereotypes and misconceptions. Unified camps can provide a way to learn basketball skills and learn to Play Unified at a young age and build Unified teams to compete at the State Basketball Tournament. Feedback indicates Unified Sports® is countering bullying. (Clinic dates to be announced)

From the entire Special Olympics Utah family, we extend our sincerest and heartfelt thanks to Miller Family Philanthropy and the Utah Jazz for supporting more avenues to try basketball.

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**NBA Cares Special Olympics Unified Sports® Basketball Game**

Special Olympics Utah athletes Anna Thain and Treven Cole were selected to participate in the NBA Cares Special Olympics Unified Sports® Basketball game held during the NBA All-Star weekend. From the entire world only 12 Special Olympics athletes were chosen and two of them were from Utah! The NBA Cares Unified Sports® Basketball game featured two teams competing in 5v5 Basketball with 10 players on each team comprised of six Special Olympics athletes and four NBA/WNBA players and legends as Unified Partners. Congratulations Anna and Deven!

Anna Belle Thain has been training and competing with Special Olympics Utah for 25 years and has been playing basketball for 21 years. “In basketball you learn teamwork. I like working as a team, and seeing how we use our different skills and abilities to work as a team. I encourage every athlete to try basketball. It is a great way to develop teamwork skills.” — Anna Thain

Treven Cole has been training and competing with Special Olympics Utah for 20 years, and playing basketball for nine years. “In addition to training and competing with my Special Olympics Utah team, I play basketball once a week with my family. It has taken a lot of practice and patience to learn ball handling skills, but it was worth it! Playing basketball is a great way to get exercise and build friendships.” — Treven Cole
Support Special Olympics Utah in March

Harmons Neighborhood Grocer has been a partner of Special Olympics Utah for almost a quarter of a century and dedicates the month of March to raising funds for Special Olympics Utah.

During March, please visit a Harmons Neighborhood Grocer store and support Special Olympics Utah in the following ways:

- Buy a root beer float on a Friday or Saturday at a Harmons’ store. Athletes will pop up to serve you when you least expect them!
- Make a donation at the register when you are checking out at a Harmons’ store.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Harmons Family, the Store Teams and all the customers of Harmons Neighborhood Grocer for supporting Special Olympics Utah during the month of March.

Help an Athlete

April 6-23, 2018. Get an athlete started with Special Olympics Utah so they can participate in the Summer Games. The summer sports are athletics (track and field), swimming and softball. Athletics and swimming are great developmental sports offering a variety of ways to train and compete. Special Olympics is a sports training and competition organization so athletes must train for several weeks before a competition. Start now to get an athlete registered and connected with a team. Email information@sout.org or call 801-363-1111.

State Summer Games

June 8-9, 2018 in Utah County. Volunteer to support the summer games. Email volunteer@sout.org or call 801-363-1111.

Mark These Dates

State Basketball Tournament

March 23-24, 2018 at the University of Utah sponsored by Miller Family Philanthropy and the Utah Jazz. Support the athletes. Volunteer today at volunteer@sout.org.

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