

Special Olympics Utah is more than sports **IT CHANGES LIVES.**



ATHLETE: Jason (Jax) Golly
Participating since 2010

Nancy Golly says the Special Olympics Utah program has helped her son Jason (Jax), immensely. “Before he joined (Special Olympics Utah), we struggled to find something that would help him feel better about himself,” she said. “Jax was starting to realize he was different and wasn’t as good in sports like the kids around him at school.” Jax’s motor skills were behind for his age and although he participated on a city swim team, he took last place every time. He was very discouraged.

Joining Special Olympics Utah was the answer. His swimming improved because he was able to compete with those with the same abilities. Jax, age 17, experienced the thrill of working hard and succeeding. “The day he won his first medal in Special Olympics will be a day I will never forget,” Nancy said. “The look on his face was priceless when he looked up and saw that he was first. He lifted his hands straight up in the air with his head tossed back and had the biggest smile I have ever seen.” This has given him confidence and helped him understand he can accomplish hard things. “I like Special Olympics because it gives me a chance to feel successful and have some fun,” said Jax.

Outside of Special Olympics Utah, Jax is very active. He has participated in the top school choirs since 7th grade and now sings in the A Cappella and Chamber choirs at Timpanogos High School in Orem. He tried out and made an Honors Choir made up of boys from all over Utah. At the 2015 Summer Games, he was given the honor of singing the National Anthem at the Opening Ceremonies. Jax may have to work harder than most to earn A’s at school, but he has maintained a 3.9 GPA since 8th grade. He got his first job in July 2014 working at Taco Amigo and loves it. He received his driver’s license and travels to Lehi MATC for his first year in Culinary Arts. He is applying for colleges and his dream is to become a chef and earn a college degree.

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