OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics develops and empowers leaders, catalyzing actions that directly benefit people with intellectual disabilities and their communities. By harnessing the power of people to change hearts, minds and behaviors, we create more cohesive and accepting civil societies around the world.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics is the world’s largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics provides year-round training and competitions in over 30 Olympic-type sports to more than 5 million athletes through 226 Accredited Programs in 174 countries.

Lions Clubs International has been supporting the Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes® Program for 23 years. Since the partnership’s inception in 2000, the Lions Clubs International Foundation has provided over 300,000 Special Olympics athletes with quality vision care.

In 2013, Special Olympics and Lions Clubs International expanded their partnership to include new areas of collaboration beyond vision – including Unified Sports®, youth activation, family support, Healthy Hearing and Athlete Leadership. Lions continue to play a key role in the success of Opening Eyes through hands-on event support.

GLOBAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Outlined below are metrics of success for Opening Eyes®, Family Health Forum and Unified Sports.

CONTACTING YOUR SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAM

All countries and states with active Special Olympics Programs are run by volunteer or full-time Program Directors. The contact details for all Programs may be found by searching for Program Locator on specialolympics.org.

Program leaders will be able to direct you to Special Olympics Programs in your area and can provide details of major events or exams where your involvement and support would be greatly appreciated.