

***Special  
Olympics  
Louisiana***





Special Olympics was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

Louisiana had 11 athletes from Belle Chasse State School participate in athletics & swimming.



Special Olympics Louisiana today:

- 15,106 people with intellectual disabilities
- 18,000 volunteers
- over 100 different competitions a year

# Mission of Special Olympics



To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.



# Reputable Organization



- ✓ Recognized by the International Olympic Committee
- ✓ Named 1 of the 100 Best Charities in America by Worth Magazine
- ✓ Most Creditable organization according to the Chronicles of Philanthropy
- ✓ One of Top Ten Charities in New Orleans voted on by Louisiana residents
- ✓ 97% brand recognition
- ✓ Ranked #1 as Organization with the Greatest Impact for People with Disabilities by Philanthropedia
- ✓ 50% more Special Olympics athletes have jobs than their counterparts with intellectual disabilities who do not participate.



# We are a Worldwide Movement



- 172 countries
- 5.6 million athletes and partners
- 108,000 + competitions

# Organizational Setup

**Special Olympics  
International, Inc.**



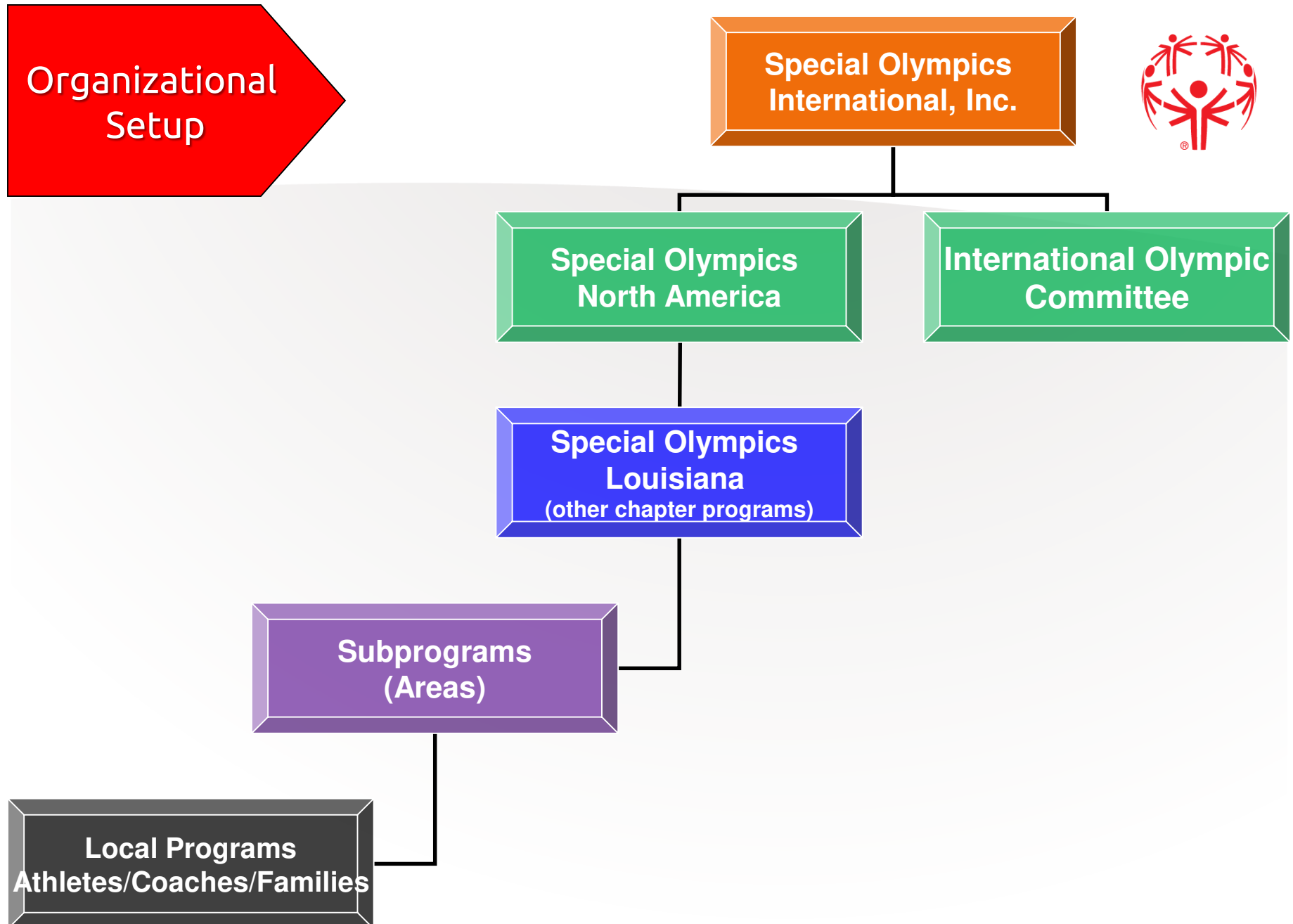
**Special Olympics  
North America**

**International Olympic  
Committee**

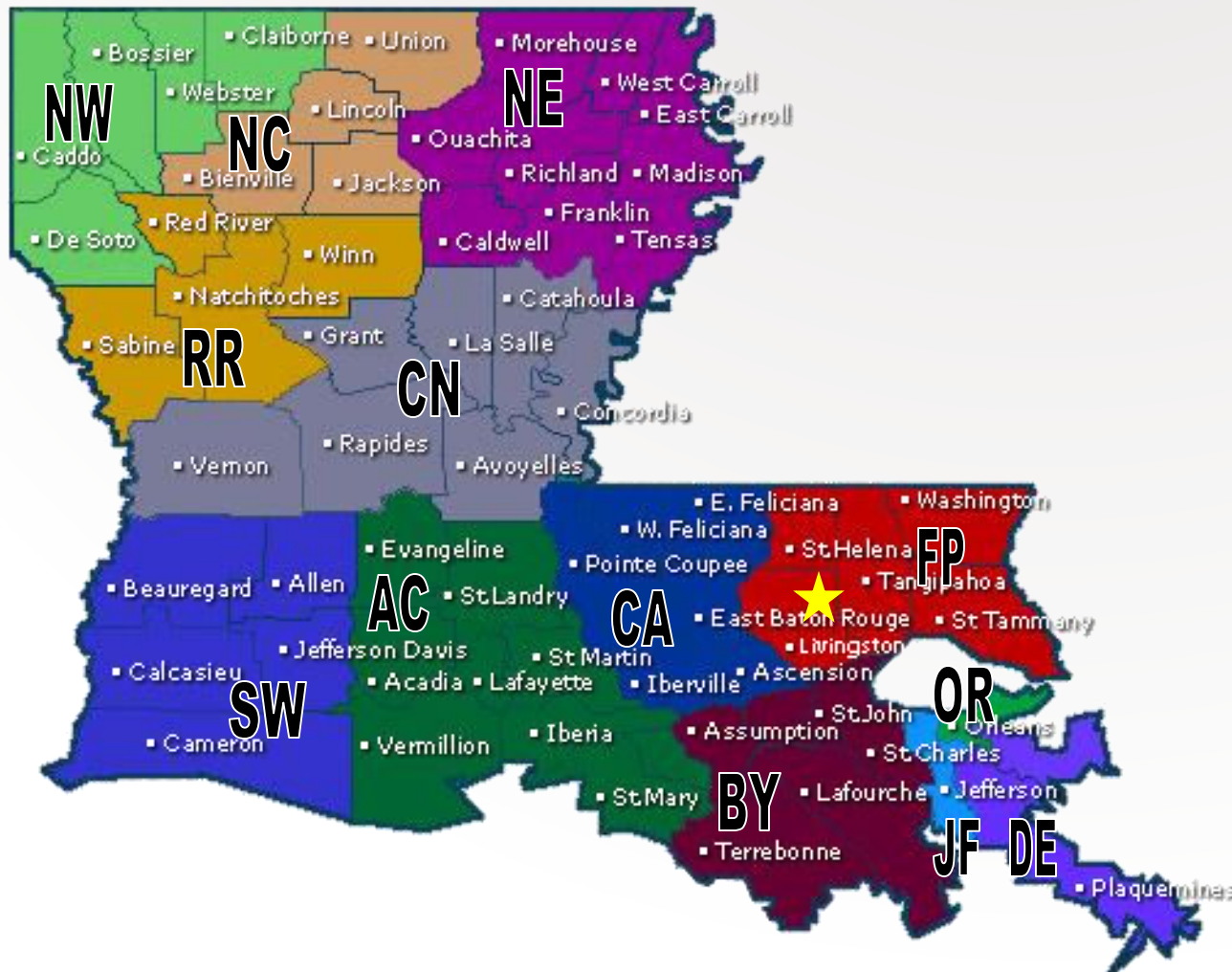
**Special Olympics  
Louisiana**  
(other chapter programs)

**Subprograms  
(Areas)**

**Local Programs**  
**Athletes/Coaches/Families**



# Special Olympics Louisiana has 13 areas.



- AC - Acadiana
- BY - Bayouland
- CA - Capital
- CN - Cenla
- DE - Delta
- FP - Florida Parishes
- JF - Jefferson
- NC - North Central
- NE - North East
- NW - North West
- OR - Orleans
- RR - Red River
- SW - Southwest

# More than sports



Sports & Competition

Unified Sports

Unified Champion Schools

Healthy Athletes

Get Into It

Family Support Network

Athlete Leadership

Motor Activity Training

Young Athletes



# We couldn't do it without



- Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Civic Groups
- Individual Donations
- Corporations/Foundation
- State of Louisiana
- Similar Organizations
- In-Kind Donations
- **VOLUNTEERS!**



We raise approximately 3 million dollars a year to provide our programs.

# The Law Enforcement Torch Run Movement



- Largest grassroots fundraising event
- Most successful public awareness campaign in Special Olympics history

Officers act as "Guardians of the Flame," ensuring the delivery of the "Flame of Hope" to the Games for our athletes.



# What sets us apart



- No fees charged to athletes
- Sports opportunities for all ability levels
- Division for equitable competition
- Awards for all participants
- Follow rules for advancement to higher levels of competition



We are the **ONLY** organization that provides these types of services!



# Why we do it



- Promote awareness of self worth
- Increase employment abilities
- Strength building
- Boost socialization skills
- Enhance self-esteem & confidence
- Build coordination skills
- Improve family understanding
- Introduction to sports & competitions



# Who can do it



- **Athletes** gain life benefits that transcend to the playing field
- **Families** experience joy & comfort through acceptance & inclusion
- **Coaches and Volunteers** are afforded life altering experiences
- **Everyone** is challenged in their mindset, stereotypes and misperceptions of people with intellectual disabilities

**Our programs provide individuals and supporters real, tangible evidence their contribution makes a difference.**



# Sports & Competition



- Opportunities regardless of gender, age or ability
- Rules accommodate all athletic abilities
- Participants compete against athletes of similar skills
- All have a fair chance to win

Artistic Gymnastics

Athletics

Badminton

Basketball

Bocce

Bowling

Cycling

Equestrian

Flag Football

Football (Soccer)

Golf

Horseshoes

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Motor Activity Training

Powerlifting

Softball

Swimming

Table Tennis

Tennis

Volleyball

Unified Sports



Training available in many more...

# Competition Advancement



SO World Games

SO USA Games

Regional & Invitational Events

State Level Competition

Area Competition

Parish Competition

Local Level Competition



# Unified Sports



Brings together athletes with & without intellectual disabilities on the same team for training and competition.

Three models :

- Competitive Unified Sports
- Unified Sports Player Development
- Unified Sports Recreation

All sports offered can become unified.



# Unified Champion Schools



Special Olympics  
**Unified Champion  
Schools**

(Formerly Project UNIFY)

A movement to initiate inclusion in all schools.

- Advocate for people with intellectual disabilities
- Exercise students as agents of change
- Foster respect & dignity

Over 40,000 Louisiana  
students have been  
reached!



# Healthy Athletes

Special Olympics  
**Healthy Athletes®**



Focuses on athlete overall health & fitness through:

- health screenings
- preventative & treatment services
- educational information
- referrals for follow-up care

Six disciplines:

- **Health Promotion**
- **Opening Eyes**
- **Healthy Hearing**
- **Fit Feet**
- **Special Smiles**
- **Fun Fitness**

Also educates health care professionals who participate!



Meet Jonathan Sanders



# Get Into It



Special Olympics  
**Get Into It®**

- Curriculum resource kit
- Regular education classrooms
- Grades K-12
- Students with & without disabilities
- Many languages
- 5 different educational levels

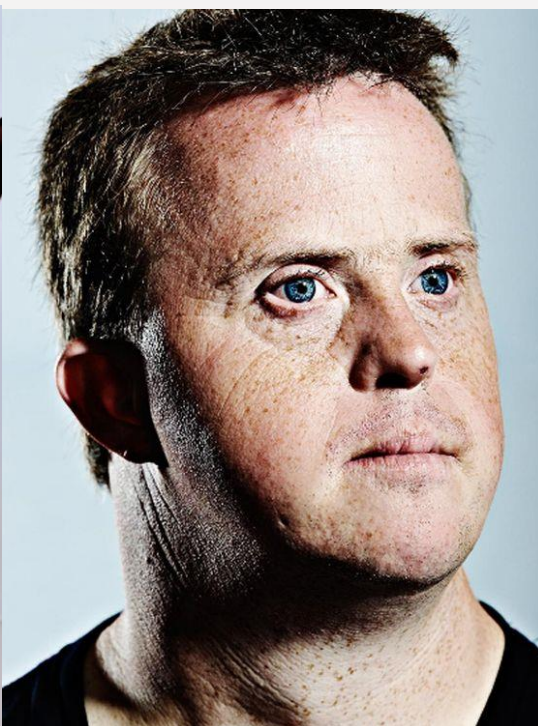
Program goals are positive youth development & character education.



# Family Support Network



Connects families with one another to provides supportive links & information. Offers families opportunities for sports, socialization & fun.



# Athlete Leadership Program



Athletes take active leadership roles both on and off the playing field. Athletes are taught governing functions to serve as:

- Board of Directors
- Team captains
- Coaches & officials





# Motor Activity Training



- Athletes with severe or profound intellectual disabilities
- Ability appropriate sport activities sport-specific activities
- Ensures each athlete is provided the most challenging experience



# Young Athletes



- Children 2 to 7 yrs. old
- Introduction prior to competition at eight
- Develops fundamental motor tracking
- Eye-hand coordination play







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# Videos



- Your Recruitment Letter:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CoBO273KFg>
- Changing the World is a Contact Sport:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vc17w3WWWPA>
- Meet Macy:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElxUfPpLWWQ>

# PLAY. COACH. VOLUNTEER. DONATE. WIN!

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