Special Olympics Kansas
2009 Annual Report

The right to play on any field?
You have earned it.
The right to study in any school?
You have earned it.
The right to hold a job?
You have earned it.
The right to be anyone's neighbor?
You have earned it.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver

Be a fan of courage. Be a fan of joy. Be a fan of unity.

2009 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CHRIS TUCKER, member of Haysville Campus Colts. Called the "Silent Giant" on his team, he helps coach struggling athletes and is a leader his teammates turn to. Always the first to say "you'll get the next one." Special Olympics has provided Chris confidence to continue his schooling.

RICK WHEELER, member of Air Capital Flyers. Despite physical limitations he is still a strong competitor in basketball, track, softball and bowling. He enjoys hanging out with his teammates at events other than competitions.

DAVID HARRISON, member of Lakemary Stars. He has his own exercise routine in addition to his team training. David is a strong sportsman with sense of fair play. Special Olympics brought David out of his shell to become an active team participant.

GEORGE GREAR, member of New Hope Pittsburg. At 73 is one of the oldest athletes to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He trains 156 hours per year in bocce, bowling, softball and aquatics. George is the one who "pumps up his teammates" and gets them excited.

ADAM CHAFFIN - BIG 12 RECOGNITION

Each season, two Special Olympics athletes are selected among the seven states in the Big 12 footprint for their outstanding participation in Special Olympics. Adam Chaffin, member of the Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department Rangers was selected as the Male Special Olympics athlete of the year. Chaffin was a guest at the BIG 12 Football Championship Game at Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, and received a commemorative ring for his honor.

Let me win.

But if I cannot win,

let me be brave

in the attempt.

– Athlete Oath

Mission Statement

Special Olympics Kansas is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports competitions, health and nutrition programs and leadership development. Offering year-round initiatives to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics Kansas is a platform for acceptance and inclusion as well as one of the largest advocates for healthy lifestyles in the state – regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or cultural differences.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN (LETR)

• LETR continues to be largest grassroots fundraiser for Special Olympics. The LETR started in Wichita, Kansas in 1981 and now has participation in all 50 states and 38 countries around the world

• Kansas Highway Patrol Col. Terry Maple was named Honorary Chair of Kansas LETR

• Detective Bill Lovewell, Hays Police Department, was elected Kansas LETR State Director

• Todd Martens, McPherson Police Department, was the Final Leg runner representing Kansas at World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho

• Members of Kansas LETR held over 37 events and raised $354,135 for SOKS through Torch Runs, Polar Plunges, Tip-A-Cops, Sunflower Ride, Truck Convoy, Golf Tournaments, merchandise sales, etc. This was a 15 percent increase in revenue from 2008

• The Truck Convoy set a new record, with a total raised of $22,612.57. With 34 trucks participating in this event, Kansas became one of the top ten convoys held in U.S.

• Over 750 law enforcement officers and escorts ran 1,000 miles through 43 counties carrying the Flame of Hope to Wichita to light the torch for the start of the opening ceremonies at Summer Games

• At the International Torch Run Conference, Kansas was recognized with the Sapphire Award for the third consecutive year (for raising in excess of $250,000)

YOUNG Athletes

Special Olympics has provided opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, ages 8 and up, to participate in sports training and competition since the late 1960's. Over the years, children too young to compete had to sit on the sidelines and wait to join the movement. The Young Athlete Program opens the door for participation by those children, ages 3-7, to develop fundamental skills, building the foundation for a healthy lifestyle and the transition to Special Olympics. Created in consultation with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, to meet the physical and developmental needs of children, ages 3-7, the program focuses on the basics that are crucial to cognitive development: physical activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination, and the application of these physical skills. Parents and younger siblings are encouraged to participate in the free training sessions and upon completion, each family is given a free complete activity kit along with an activity guide. Funding is provided in part by grants from the Kansas State Council Knights of Columbus and the Wal-Mart State-Giving Foundation. In 2009, over 158 children participated in the program.

HIGHLIGHTS

• George Martin, member of Olathe Trailblazers, was elected to the SOKS Board of Directors.

• Project Unify continued for a second year with four participating schools:

Blue Valley Northwest High School
Emporia Middle School
Abilene High School
Hays High School

As part of Project Unify, Chris Hahn, President/CEO, Michelle Boeding, teacher at Blue Valley NW High School, student Joanna Shin and athlete Morgan Crapser attended Capitol Hill Day in Washington D.C. and visited with elected officials.

• Healthy Athletes trained two new clinicians at World Games in Boise Idaho.

• SOKS sent two athletes Casey Hostetler (Campus Colts) and Larry Williams (New Hope of Pittsburg) to World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

• The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) of Kansas State University and University of Kansas held sports clinics and/or activities for Special Olympics Athletes.

25TH ANNIVERSARY of Wilt Chamberlain Kansas University Basketball Clinic

The 25th anniversary of the KU Clinic was celebrated in January. In the spring of 1983, Kirk Miles, SOKS Executive Director and Chris Hahn, Coach of Lawrence Special Olympics Team Green Machine, met with KU Head Basketball Coach Larry Brown. Miles and Hahn had seen a video created by a pro basketball player who had held a clinic for a Special Olympics team in another state. They thought the idea could be expanded and would work for a college team to handle such a clinic. That discussion led to the first KU Clinic that was held in January 1984. Upon the death of the great Wilt Chamberlain, the clinic was named the Wilt Chamberlain Special Olympics Basketball Clinic, recognizing a bequest in his will for the continuation of the event. All players have a great afternoon. Assistant Coach Danny Manning was a player when the first clinic was held in 1984. Manning stated, "Whether as a Jayhawk player or now as a coach, the involvement is just as much fun."

SOKS COACH, John Lair, Honored by MLB

Pittsburg Special Olympics Coach, John Lair, was named by Major League Baseball, Kansas City Royals and People Magazine, as the Royals "All-Star" in the "All-Stars Among Us" campaign. Lair was one of 30 All-Stars selected nationwide to be honored at the 2009 MLB All-Star Game. Selection was based on individuals who serve their communities in extraordinary ways. Lair started a Special Olympics team in Pittburg in 2001 and has coached three World Champion Special Olympic athletes. He donates more than 600 hours of his time every year to the organization. Lair is also a member of the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council.

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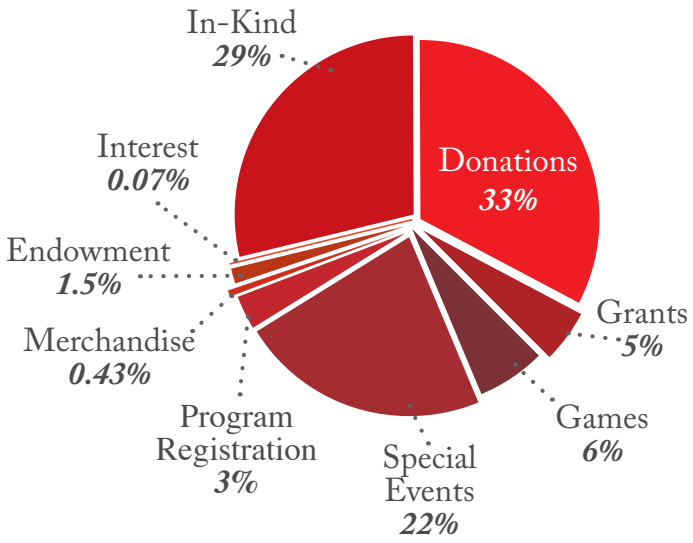
2009 Statement of Revenue and Expenses (Unaudited)

REVENUES

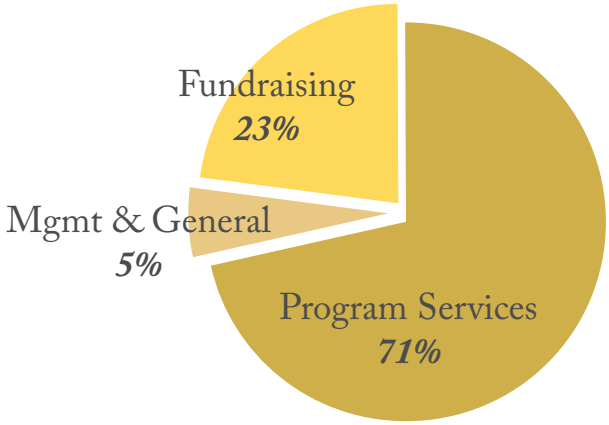
Donations	$1, 098, 350
Foundations/Grants	$159, 484
Games	$208,437
Interest	$2,355
In-Kind*	$967,058
Merchandise	$14,455
Program Registration	$102,402
Special Events	$759,440
Endowment	$49,911
TOTAL REVENUES	***$3,361,892***

*Budget relieving goods & services



EXPENSES

Program Services	$1,688,748
Management & General	$129,148
Fundraising	$544,245
TOTAL EXPENSES	***$2,2623,141***



Impact of Economic Conditions: The economy at the start of 2009 was a significant concern to our nation, and non-profits were especially concerned with the impact the instability would place on personal donations. Corporations and foundations had reduced their charitable contributions, and with that trend in mind, the Special Olympics Kansas Board of Directors discussed at length how best to position SOKS to remaining financially viable while continuing to provide quality programs. As a result, the Board identified a methodology to reduce spending costs:

- Revisited the '09 budget and eliminated non-essential expenditures
- Implemented a hiring freeze
- Eliminated the vacant Communications Director position with job duties being absorbed by remaining staff
- Re-aligned the six (6) Areas into four (4) Regions
- Closed two (2) field offices

The Board felt these actions were necessary and prudent to sustain the organization during this time of economic uncertainty.

The annual budget consists of corporate partnerships, individual giving, special events, the Law Enforcement Torch Run, direct marketing (telemarketing and direct mail), budget relieving in-kind services and grants. SOKS is a member of Community Health Charities. Funds can be directed to SOKS through the Donor Choice Option with the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign.

BY the Numbers

1	First state in the nation & world to organize and implement the Law Enforcement Torch Run
21	Sports offered
38	Countries in the world that now hold a torch run
40	Number of years that Special Olympics Kansas has been changing lives through sports & outreach activities
52	Percentage of Special Olympics adults that have jobs
60	Number of athletes attending 2010 National Games in Lincoln, NE
70	State, area and local competitions
92	Local programs and teams
838	Kansas Law Enforcement personnel volunteers
1,408	Miles run across Kansas in the Torch Run
2,226	Coaches
5,194	Registered Family Members
5,489	Athletes
21,671	Volunteers
23,101	Medals & ribbons awarded at competitions
30,422	Meals served to athletes at competitions
34,375	Total number of Kansans involved in SOKS
97,800	E-Newsletters sent
882,100	Website hits

COUNTLESS

lives touched and enriched

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IN MEMORIAM: Eunice Kennedy Shriver, 1921 - 2009

Special Olympics Kansas was deeply saddened by the passing of Eunice Kennedy Shriver on August 11, 2009. She served as the visionary leader of Special Olympics for 41 years. It was through this vision and her determination that Special Olympics was founded on July 20, 1968. In Chicago's Solider field, 1,000 athletes from the United States and Canada gathered for the first Special Olympics event. On that day, six athletes from Kansas were in attendance. Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a leader in the worldwide struggle to improve and enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Timothy P. Shriver, Chairman and CEO of Special Olympics stated: "She never hoped that people with intellectual disabilities should be somehow changed into something they were not. Rather, she fought throughout her life to ensure that they would be allowed to reach their full potential so that we might in turn be changed by them, forced to recognize our own false assumptions and their inherent gifts." Recognized throughout the world for her efforts on behalf of persons with intellectual disabilities, Shriver received many honors and awards. On March 24, 1984, U.S. President Reagan awarded Shriver the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, for her work on behalf of persons with intellectual disabilities, and in 2005 she was honored for her work with Special Olympics as one of the first recipients of a sidewalk medallion on The Extra Mile Point of Light Pathway in Washington D.C.

When we wake tomorrow, let us not forget that we have miles to go to overturn the prejudice and oppression facing the world's 180 million citizens with intellectual disabilities. But, what joy, for together we have begun. May you each continue to spend your lives in this noble battle. May you overcome ignorance. May you challenge indifference at every turn and may you find great joy in the noonday light of the great athletes of the Special Olympics!

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver

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