



New Hampshire State Council Knights of Columbus

Special Olympics Annual Report



Wayne P. Griffin, PSD, Special Olympics Chairman

Since 1968 the Knights of Columbus has raised and donated more than \$600 million to programs for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Special Olympics ranks among the larger gifts the Order makes annually of time and money. In 2005, the Knights of Columbus announced a partnership with Special Olympics committing \$1 million over four years to grow the program in North America in addition to pledging increased volunteer support for state and local games. The Order also pledged to work with Special Olympics North America to expand to underserved countries. The Knights of Columbus has subsequently extended that commitment through 2021.

The Knights of Columbus commitment to Special Olympics and to hundreds of grassroots programs for people with intellectual disabilities is an expression of our belief in the worth of every human being. The Knights of Columbus believe that the Special Olympics are nearly unparalleled in their ability to show the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being. These games don't just build strength and character in the athletes and participants; it only takes a few moments with the competitors to be inspired by the force of their determination, and the true sense of God's love.

This year has been particularly challenging due to COVID Virus Pandemic. All in person events were conducted virtually. This included the Annual Penguin Plunge. During the year volunteers and staff were in regular contact with our athletes. Councils donated "Pick-Me up Packs" to our athletes. These consisted on a training guide, a tee shirt and a letter from the donor. These were distributed at the end of March and were very well received. Donations to the Annual (Virtual) State Convention in April were six thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$6750.00).

In December the NH State Council initiated the first Mission Tour. This consisted of a group of Brother Knights joining together virtually to hear from athletes and staff regarding the work and activities of Special Olympics New Hampshire. The athletes were given an opportunity to tell their personal stories. This Mission Tour was 45 minutes in duration and was followed by an interactive question and answer session. Free will offerings were encouraged. This will become a regular event for the New Hampshire State Council.

A majority of the funding for Special Olympics New Hampshire is derived from the Campaign for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (previously the Tootsie Roll Fund). Under the guidance of State Deputy Joseph J. Kowalik, III and at the direction of CPWID Chairman John Vlastelin we are hoping for additional success in 2022 including the USA Games in Orlando, FL.

Submitted by:

Wayne P. Griffin, PSD

Special Olympics Chairman