



Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting Special Olympics with your participation in these Games, whether it be as a volunteer, a coach, a health care professional, a sponsor, a fan – or all the above. Your support is critical for Special Olympics, and more importantly, for people with intellectual disabilities everywhere, whether they participate in Special Olympics or not.

All over the world and in many different ways, our communities are plagued by divisiveness, intolerance, and injustice. No group of people is on the receiving end of these negative attitudes and actions more than people with intellectual disabilities. For far too long, they have been denied a voice, denied access to education, health and services that others take for granted.

Special Olympics shows the world a better way.

These games are more than a sports competition; they are a looking glass, an example to everyone around the world of how people with intellectual disabilities can and should be included in all aspects of their communities. Our athletes have talents and gifts that should not only be recognized but celebrated – in sports but also in all aspects of life. Our “athletes” are also coaches, mentors, advocates, spokespeople and, more importantly, life-long friends. Special Olympics is a unified movement, integrating people with intellectual disabilities into everything we do.

Our mission is to be the driving force for social inclusion outside of our movement as well as inside it, demanding that communities everywhere have respect for all people. I urge you to join in this mission. Take what you see at Special Olympics back into your homes, your places of business, and your seats of government. When we are unified, we are stronger, more just, and more joyful as communities, as nations, and as a human race. Let’s make these changes together.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim', with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Timothy P. Shriver
Chairman of the Board,
Special Olympics International