



Why Special Olympics, our Wolf Pack, make sense for Spokane and our Member Athletes

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-around sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

In Washington State, we have over 17,000 Special Olympic participants and there are over 5 million participants worldwide. In Spokane, Project id has 94 men and women adults that participate in basketball, baseball, bowling, flag football, softball and other sport activities. It costs about \$ 25,000 each year, to fully fund our member athletes or our Wolf Pack to be able to participate in these local, regional and state level events. Because of this cost in the last year, our member athletes in the Wolf Pack have successfully raised over \$ 17,000 through a variety of fundraisers. That is why a continuing fund raising effort is needed to help finance our Special Olympic program at Project id.

Some Special Olympics participants have the following to say, “it’s a place where people like me can just be ourselves and not be judged by our disability or our skill level. It’s a place where we can make friends who we’ll have for the rest of our lives.” “It gives people the ability to forget their problems, get out of their comfort zones and compete without being judged or pitied; to gain self-esteem, friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.” “It builds friendships and confidence and teamwork.” “It promotes a healthy lifestyle for individuals with intellectual disabilities physically, mentally and emotionally.” “It builds friendships and confidence and teamwork.” “It gives these extra special people a sense of belonging in a world that at times can be very isolating.” “As a **volunteer**, I got more from the experience than I gave.”

We know continually raising funds to support worthy causes is important for many in Spokane. However, we would like to think that our Wolf Pack being pretty self-reliant as they are, on their ability to raise needed funds to participate in Special Olympics, has been successful. However, we also need YOUR outside support to help us finance our future Special Olympic program. Please give some serious consideration to signing up to help support this worthy effort. You can contact Project id’s Executive Director, Bob Hutchison at 879-3372 or bob@projectidspokane.org to discuss an ongoing pledge program that you could afford. Many thanks for your support of the Wolf Pack at Project id, and may God bless you for your support!