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Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
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Dear OACP:

On behalf of thousands of athletes across Oregon, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the OACP for their generosity and care. Your donation of \$4,000 to Special Olympics Oregon directly supports athletes with fitness, social connection, competition, and comradery. We have all struggled during the pandemic, but the support from our community has helped us be resilient. Special Olympics Oregon has sustained online programming, virtual fundraising, and hosting live broadcasts which have helped athletes stay fit and engaged. We could not do this work without the generosity of many like you. I am sharing a letter from our CEO to the Law Enforcement community. I hope we can all find our MOMENT with the incredible athletes in the Special Olympics movement in the coming year.

Most gratefully,
Kirsten Goetz
VP for Development

PS. Join the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) communication list and Special Olympics Oregon social media for opportunities to join the movement!

www.SOOR.org/LETR



Dear Oregon Law Enforcement:

Each of us who has had the opportunity to spend time with a Special Olympics athlete has **A MOMENT**. A moment when we became hooked on this movement. My moment was in Minnesota, where I lived before moving to Oregon in 2018. While volunteering for the Summer Games, my role was to escort an athlete, Bob, to each of his events. We enjoyed such a fun day together! I loved cheering him on, and I felt so honored to be “his person.” After each competition, he would look up into the stands to wave to his family and my heart would dance at the prideful look on his face.

As our beautiful, perfect afternoon was winding down, it took a turn; Bob was incorrectly awarded a gold medal that had to be changed to a bronze. The volunteers felt horrible for the error and as we explained the situation to Bob and he moved from the 1st place stand on the medal podium to his rightful place at 3rd – I watched Bob’s face go from the thrill of winning a gold, to crushing disappointment. As my dancing heart started to break, something so amazing happened; Bob’s dismay morphed into the most genuine joy for the athlete who won the gold medal. He threw his hands in the air, his smile beaming, and yelled, “yes, yes, yes – YOU did it!” **I will never forget that moment** – it was one of the most selfless and authentically acts of kindness I have witnessed.

About three years after that Summer Games in Minnesota, I found myself having lunch with Bob and his mom – letting them know that I had just accepted the CEO role for Special Olympics Oregon. I asked Bob for advice and his answer was perfect: **Get to know the athletes!**

Britt Oase
CEO, Special Olympics Oregon