

Celebrating Champions at the Special Olympics State Games

There are moments that remind us exactly why we do what we do, and the Special O State Games was overflowing with them.

We are thrilled to celebrate incredible athletes from CHI who recently took the Special Olympics State Games by storm! They didn't just participate; they poured their hearts into their events and brought home some hardware!

The Journey to the Podium

Success at the State Games doesn't happen overnight. Behind every single medal hanging around athletes' necks are months of dedication.

They showed up day after day. They put in the sweat, the practice, and the focus required to compete at the highest level in the state. Seeing that immense effort culminate on the state stage was a powerful reminder of what is possible when determination meets opportunity.

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

— *The Special Olympics Athlete Oath*

We are incredibly proud of the entire team's camaraderie and sportsmanship!

Gold Medalists

To capture a Gold medal at the state level requires a near-perfect performance, and these athletes did exactly that.



Anna – Gold in Mini Javelin



Liz – Gold in Individuals Bocce



Bronze Medalists

The competition was tough, but these athletes dug deep, showed incredible grit, and secured a spot on the podium.



Amber & Crystal– Bronze in Teams Bocce



Bronze Medalist and Sportsmanship Award Winner

In the Special Olympics, the Sportsmanship Award is a special honor given to athletes, coaches, or teams who best exhibit the spirit of fair play, respect, courage, and joy. Rather than focusing purely on winning medals, it recognizes those who support their teammates, encourage opponents, and embody the core values of the organization.

Congratulations Matt!

This recognition highlights not just athletic talent, but the character, integrity, and positive attitude that truly define our team.



Special Olympics State Games Participant

Greg-Softball

Several talented CHI athletes also stepped up to compete at the regional level, showcasing their skills against a wider field of competitors. Their hard work paid off tremendously, with multiple participants securing podium finishes and winning medals for their outstanding performances.

Special Olympics Regional Games Participants

Joey-Bronze in Individual Bocce

Kristal-Bronze in Softball

More Than Just the Hardware

Winning state and regional medals is an unforgettable milestone, but the true victory of the weekend extended far beyond the podium.

The real magic of the Special Olympics is found in the community it builds. When athletes weren't competing, they were right there at the sidelines, acting as some of the loudest cheerleaders in the stadium. They lifted up their teammates, high-fived their competitors, and embodied the purest spirit of sportsmanship. The confidence gained, the friendships forged, and the pure joy shared this weekend are the achievements that will last a lifetime.

A Huge Thank You to Our Support System

An achievement of this magnitude takes a dedicated village. We want to extend a massive thank you to:

- **Our Coaches and Volunteers:** Thank you for donating your time, your weekends, and your passion to help our athletes reach their peak potential.
- **Our Staff & Families:** Thank you for putting in the extra time to get everyone to practice, for the cheering sections, and the daily encouragement that makes dreams like this a reality. Your support is the foundation of their success.