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11th Annual
BREAKFAST
WITH
CHAMPIONS

—TUCSON, ARIZONA—

Special
Olympics
Arizona



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11th Annual
**BREAKFAST
WITH
CHAMPIONS**

—TUCSON, ARIZONA—

**Special
Olympics**
Arizona



**FRIENDS
PURPOSE
SHARING
FUN**



LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends:

Special Olympics Arizona is a resilient organization that has risen to the challenge the last two years to continue to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities in Arizona. Our return to sports after the pandemic was met with uncertainty and challenges. Navigating constantly changing mitigation measures and mandates. However, we came back strong with only an average 35% reduction in participation return rates and we are proud to have served over 12,000 athletes and partners in 14 different sports. Many things have changed to get us to this point and will continue to change but one aspect that won't change is what drives us to continue to build this community up to ensure inclusion for all.

In 2007 I was first given the opportunity to work with an off-season bowling league for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Feeling nervous would have been an understatement. Yet, as I sat down to collect money and provide lane assignments, I felt like I was home. For the first time I found a group of people with so much skill, joy, and love that I instantly felt a part of their community. I wasn't judged on first impression because of my disability but on the friendship I was willing to offer. From that day forward I have had a love for the mission and drive to see the organization become bigger and better so all individuals across Arizona with an intellectual disability have a place to feel at home too. I attribute my unwavering support to my reason for being a part of this truly amazing movement. What is yours?

I hope you take this opportunity today to share your why to spread the inclusive movement and if you haven't found your why yet that you might be able to find a little piece of that here.

For too long individuals with intellectual disabilities have been hidden away in the corners of society with little connection to the outside world. Until that changes in every classroom and community across Arizona our mission is not done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Heckerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Jamie Heckerman
President & CEO

3

LETTER FROM CEO



Presentation of Colors

Tucson Police Department

National Anthem

Amber Firor

Invocation

Juan Pablo Lopez

Welcome

Sean Mooney
News 4 Tucson

Opening Remarks and Acknowledgements

Jamie Heckerman
President & CEO of Special Olympics Arizona

Athlete Panel Speakers

George Hoffman
Ian Barefoot
Amber Firor
Adrienne Gonzalez
Chris Brettrager

Panel Facilitators

Steven Hastings, GEICO
Sean Whitley, Special Olympics Arizona

LETR Guest Speaker

Chief Tara Riley
Oro Valley Police Department

Parent Guest Speaker

Lynda Weigel- Firor



SPEAKERS



Sean Mooney
News 4 Tucson

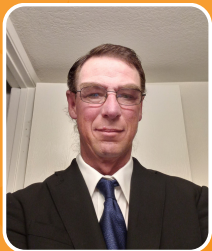
Sean Mooney has been with News 4 Tucson for nearly 12 years and is currently the station's main anchor. Despite growing up in Tucson and spending his early career working for Major League Baseball Productions, the WWE, WWOR-TV in New York, WBZ-TV in Boston and Fox Sports Arizona, he has always called the "Old Pueblo" home. Along the way, Sean has earned numerous accolades for his work, including three Emmy awards and he was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards Silver Circle this year. When he is not delivering the news that matters to Southern Arizonans, he commits his time to working with several charities such as the American Heart Association, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona.

Steven Hastings
Geico

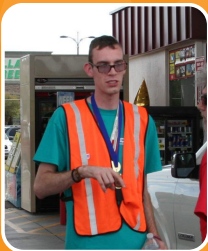
"I am the Western Market Lead for GEICO's Employee Resource Group representing people with disabilities. I am so grateful that GEICO is making huge strides with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I am humbled and excited to be included with so many amazing people. My wife and I both received a neurodivergent diagnosis late 2019, since then I have been learning and advocating more than ever to support the disabled community. Outside of work I spend as much time as possible with my lovely wife and other family, as well as playing games or solving puzzles."



Special Olympics Arizona Athlete Panel



George Hoffman



Chris Brettrager



Amber Firor



Ian Barefoot



Adriane Gonzalez

5

SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS



Kara M. Riley Oro Valley Chief of Police

Kara M. Riley has been a police officer since February 1992. Prior to being a police officer, she worked in the corrections field for five years, both at adult and juvenile jails. From 1993 to 2004, she was a police officer and sergeant with the Tucson Airport Authority. In 2004, she started her career with the Oro Valley Police Dept. She held responsibilities in all aspects of the department before being appointed Chief of Police in February 2020. Kara holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona in Sociology and a master's degree in Education. In 2012, she graduated from Northwestern University Police Staff and Command School. In September 2015, she graduated from class 261 at the FBI National Academy.

Kara had the fortunate opportunity to grow up overseas in Taiwan, Abu Dhabi and Sudan, Africa. Her father is a retired professor from the University of Arizona in the field of environmental studies. She is a mother to a University of Arizona student and aunt to six nieces and nephews. She enjoys fishing, watching any sport the University of Arizona is playing, CrossFit and spending time with her husband, Joseph Shelley.

Lynda Weigel Firor Special Olympics Arizona Parent Advocate

Lynda Weigel-Firor has been an independent consultant and grant writer in Tucson for over 20 years. Lynda has helped non-profit organizations raise millions of dollars through grant funding, special events, sponsorships, and major gift acquisitions to help them advance their missions and realize their philanthropic goals.

Lynda is very active in the autism community. She is an Honorary Board Member of the Autism Society of Southern Arizona after having served six years. During her time, Lynda served as Chair of the Parent Peer Support Group. She recently finished a \$1.2M campaign with Intermountain Centers to build the first Sensory Friendly Park for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Arizona. She established and co-led for 10 years the first fully inclusive Girl Scout Troop for girls with disabilities in Southern Arizona. Lynda is currently working with a coalition of volunteers and professionals to address affordable housing solutions for autistic adults. Lynda earned a bachelor's degree in Personnel Management from the University of Arizona and is a graduate of the Greater Tucson Leadership class of 2022 and currently serves on the GTL Board of Directors.

Lynda is mother to Amber, a Special Olympics Athlete, and Nathan who is an engineer at Raytheon. Lynda just celebrated her 28th anniversary with her husband Randy.





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The 11th Annual Tucson Breakfast with Champions would not have been possible without the generous support of these sponsors.

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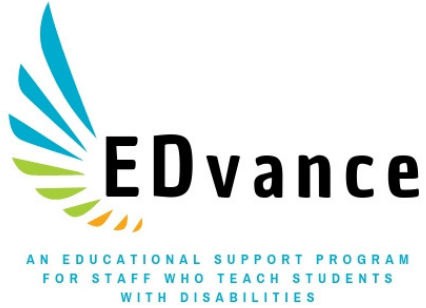


7
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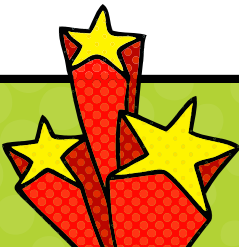


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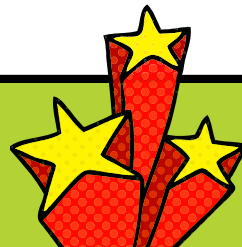
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Tucson Lodge No. 385



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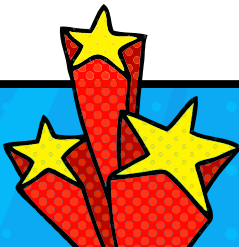
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Tucson Electric Power



DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS



9

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EVENT COMMITTEE

Special thanks to the Tucson Area Development Council for helping to plan the 11th Annual Tucson Breakfast With Champions.

Alma Gallardo
Adriana Grijalva
Chris Parker
Joe Curran
Lisa Weissberg
Sean Whitley

Sonia Felix
Steve Freeman
Steven Hastings
Wade Schultz
Wayne Burns



10

EVENT COMMITTEE

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GEICO IS COMMITTED TO EQUITY & INCLUSION

**This is just the start. We're
excited to continue growing
together!**

GEICO aligns with community partners that advocate for equality. Our commitment also includes creating inclusive opportunities and resources for the Hispanic/Latina/o/x, APIA, Black/African American, American Indian, Women, Veterans, LGBTQ+, and Disability communities.



11

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Who wins the helmet next?
Find out March 8 - 10, 2024



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12

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LETR



LAW ENFORCEMENT **TORCH RUN**[®] FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARIZONA

The Law Enforcement Torch Run[®] (LETR) is the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known honorably as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the “Flame of Hope” into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional and World Games. Annually, almost 110,000 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members carry the “Flame of Hope,” symbolizing courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the globe



13

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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IN REMEMBRANCE

LORI CHRISMAN DEDICATED HER LIFE TO SERVING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. MANY OF HER STUDENTS, FROM THE AGE OF 8, ARE NOW ADULTS STILL IN THE SUNNYSIDE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF HER INFLUENCE. LORI WAS ACTIVE WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS AS A VOLUNTEER AND LATER HEAD OF DELEGATION FOR OVER 40 YEARS. IN 2014, SHE WAS AWARDED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARIZONA. EVEN AFTER ILLNESS FORCED HER TO RETIRE AS A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER IN 2022, SHE CONTINUED TO SERVE THE ATHLETES. LORI PASSED AWAY IN MAY OF 2023

TABLE CAPTAINS

Alma Gallardo - Arizona Bilingual
Anne Peters - Engel & Volkers
BJ Workman - Tucson Conquistadors
Barbara Zuniga - Sunnyside Warriors
Chad Kasmar - Chief of Police, Tucson Police Department
Chris Parker - Advocate, Special Olympics Arizona
Curt Stinson - Engel & Volkers
Danielle Bautista - Desert Diamond Casinos
Dara Robinson - Sunbirds
David Bowers - Tucson Chamber of Commerce
Denise Ochoa-Puchi - Mercy Care
Jamie Heckerman - CEO, Special Olympics Arizona
Jessica Ruiz - Parent/Advocate, Special Olympics Arizona
Joe Curran - LETR, Special Olympics Arizona
Lillian Lewis - Jim Click Automotive
Lisa Weissberg - Engel & Volkers
Lyn Barefoot - P.S.Civitan
Lynda Firor - Parent/Advocate, Special Olympics Arizona
Mayra Garcia - Banner Plans & Networks
Marian Johnson - Amphitheater High School
Melissa Dye - Arizona Complete Health
Pam Duarte - Canyon Del Oro High School
Paul Cunningham - Council Member, Ward 2
Rick and Sam Brown, MOCHA
Sandy Roberson - Vail Trailblazers
Sonia Felix - Engel & Volkers
Steve Freeman - Parent/Advocate, Special Olympics Arizona
Steven Hastings - GEICO
Susan Grant - Vail Trailblazers
Tara Barrera - TEP/Unisource
Tara Riley - Chief of Police, Oro Valley Police Department
Wade Schultz - PepsiCo
Wayne Burns - Elks Lodge #385

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*A winner is a
dreamer who
never gives up.*



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We are proud of your
accomplishments.



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16

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HOLMES TUTTLE

Special Olympics
Arizona

Our Team is so proud to support the athletes, coaches, and staff of the Special Olympics Arizona. Your energy and commitment to growing the spirit of the Special Olympics in Arizona is amazing!

Thanks for all you do!

Jim Click Jr.

JimClick.com

CAUTION: This plate is hot!

The State of Arizona now offers license plates with Special Olympics Arizona branding and \$17 from each \$25 plate sold will benefit SOAZ programs. Personalization available for an additional \$25 annual fee.

Show your support for Special Olympics Arizona everywhere you drive.
<https://servicearizona.com/>



ARIZONA

YEAR

SOAZFAN

Special Olympics
Arizona

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Disability Pride Day in Tucson!

Join Paul Cunningham to celebrate the
International Day of Persons with
Disabilities!

December 3, 2023
11am to 7pm TCC Exhibition Hall

Disability Pride Tucson is proud to present, with the City of Tucson and the Office of Council member Paul Cunningham, the 2nd Annual Disability Pride Day! Please join us for a fun-filled day celebrating the disabled community this December 3rd. Featuring:

- Performances and music by artists with disabilities
- Food trucks, vendors, and resource fair
- Adaptive sport sessions and games
- And more!



Last year's event included adaptive sports with Mayor Romero and Councilman Cunningham! Photo credit: KGUN9 News Tucson

Media contact or other inquiries:

Chris Desborough, Ward 2 Office.
711 National Relay
Chris.Desborough@TucsonAZ.gov

(520) 791-4687,

****ASL and CART will be provided.**

Visit DisabilityPrideTucson.com for more info!

18

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19

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TO LIFT MANY!**

Special Olympics Arizona is a qualified State Charitable Tax Credit organization. Code 20882

Consider donating TODAY: \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples filing jointly.

AZ TAX CREDIT

HOW IT WORKS

Special Olympics
Arizona



This is a DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR TAX CREDIT, up to the amount of the credit, not just a deduction, but a reduction of your income tax payable.

It presents an incredible opportunity to make a donation at a net zero cost.

100% of your donation goes directly to your selected qualified charity organization, Special Olympics Arizona.

This is independent from the Public and Private School tax credits. If qualified, you can earn all three!

You do not have to itemize to qualify.