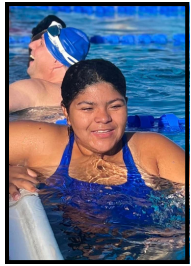




**ADVOCATE**



**PURPOSE**



7th Annual  
**BREAKFAST**  
WITH  
**CHAMPIONS**

—YUMA, ARIZONA—

Special  
Olympics  
Arizona

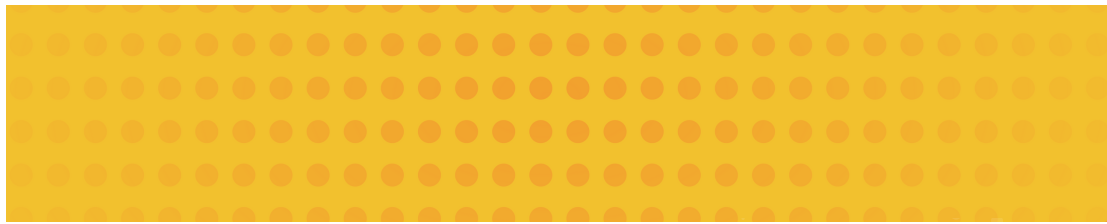


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7th Annual  
**BREAKFAST  
WITH  
CHAMPIONS**

—YUMA, ARIZONA—



**FRIENDS  
PURPOSE  
SHARING  
FUN**



# LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends:

Special Olympics Arizona has thrived over the last year, seeing some of our greatest participation numbers yet, that even exceed pre-pandemic numbers. State Basketball and Cheerleading held in March 2023 saw 1,218 athletes and partners competing for the gold! Also, at our newly restructured Fall Games we had 1,056 athletes and partners competing in swimming and bocce. Sharing numbers like this brings us so much joy and excitement as the inclusive movement continues to grow across the state.

The vision of Special Olympics Arizona over the next 5 years is to grow to serve more than 25,000 athletes and partners, grow developmental sports programs, increase trained coaches and engage families at a higher level than ever before. To accomplish our vision, we need your support. Maybe your superpower is becoming a coach in a sport you are passionate about? Or could it be sharing your love of Special Olympics at community events? Maybe it is inviting friends and companies you work with to experience Special Olympics by volunteering or attending a fundraising event. Whatever your superpower is, we hope you continue to share it so that all individuals with an intellectual disability across the state of Arizona have the chance to shine and share their superpowers.

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, written over a light blue background.

Jamie Heckerman  
President & CEO



### **Presentation of Colors**

Yuma Police Department

### **National Anthem**

Yuma Circle of Friends Community Choir

### **Invocation**

Maria Chavoya

### **Welcome**

Russ Clark

### **Opening Remarks and Acknowledgements**

Jamie Heckerman  
President & CEO of Special Olympics Arizona

### **Speakers**

Lori Franklin, LETR Yuma PD  
Gabriel Delgado, Special Olympics Arizona Athlete  
Kathryn Rodriguez, Advocate

### **Athlete Panel Speakers**

Madga Espinoza  
Alex Rippey  
Michelle Hornung  
Brian Murphy

### **Panel Facilitator**

Art Morales



# SPEAKERS



Russ Clark  
**NAPA AUTO**

Russ Clark traveled the country in his younger years as a part of a military family. When he completed college in Dover, Delaware is when his life truly started. Russ and his wife found Yuma and had two wonderful children. They acquired an auto parts business and grew it to become one of the largest in the system.

Before selling his businesses, Russ became a Dale Carnegie speech instructor and a radio talk show host. He then ventured on to become a politician and represent Yuma as a County Supervisor. This elevated his appreciation for the Yuma community.

Mr. Clark still hosts his radio show five days a week and owns a small business as part of his passion. His other passions are family, grandkids, and staying active in communication training.

Lori Franklin  
**Yuma Police Department**

Lori is originally from upstate N.Y. and she joined the United States Marine Corps at 18. Yuma was her last duty station and she retired after 20 years of honorable service. Lori was hired by the Yuma Police Department in March of 2003. She has been a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Motor Officer, and she was promoted to Sergeant in 2014. Lori has served as the Public Affairs Sergeant since September of 2015. Lori is a huge supporter of our Special Olympics Arizona – Yuma County Athletes.



# SPEAKERS

## Gabriel Delgado Special Olympics Arizona Athlete

Gabriel Delgado is a 16-year-old young man who defied all odds. Despite early challenges that led experts to doubt his ability to read, speak, or socialize, Gabriel has grown into a thriving Boy Scout and Special Olympics athlete. Gabriel has a passion for powerlifting, swimming, track and field, and basketball, he's a true inspiration proving that determination and resilience can conquer any obstacle.



## Kathryn Rodriguez Advocate

Kathryn Rodriguez is an extraordinary individual who triumphed over the challenges of a learning disability while growing up. Her journey from those early struggles led her to achieve remarkable successes. Those would include working in management at the City of Yuma Civic Center and ultimately becoming the accomplished manager at the Texas Roadhouse.

Kathryn's story is a powerful testament of determination and tenacity. She will inspire everyone this morning with her perseverance and insight.

# SPEAKERS

## Art Morales National Bank of America

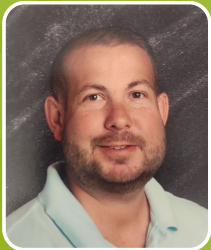
Art Morales is a dynamic community leader and the local Vice President of Commercial Banking at National Bank of Arizona. With 25 years in finance, he is also a celebrated speaker at local events, including the Special Olympics Arizona's Annual Breakfast.

Art is deeply rooted in Yuma, serving his first term as a city councilman and actively participating in numerous boards and committees, such as the Arizona Western College Foundation Board, Arizona Community Foundation Advisory Board, Chamber of Commerce Board (Chairman, 2018), Yuma Rotary Board, Adult Literacy Plus, Housing America Corp Board, NexGen Board, Yuma Regional Medical Foundation board, City of Yuma Clean & Beautiful Commission, Caballero De Yuma member and Greater Yuma Economic Development Board.

A proud graduate of Cibola High School, AWC, and the University of Phoenix, Art's passion for community and development is unwavering. Outside of his professional life, he is a devoted husband, father of two daughters, and an expectant father to a baby boy. Among his accomplishments, Art cherishes his golfing hole-in-one achieved in 2021.



## Special Olympics Arizona Athlete Panel



Brian Murphy



Alex Rippey



Michelle Hornung



Madga Espinoza



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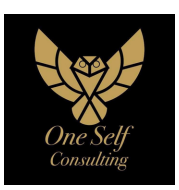


Lodge #476



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# EVENT COMMITTEE

Special thanks to the Yuma Area Development Council for helping to plan the 7th Annual Yuma Breakfast With Champions.

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Caitlin Murphy  
Cece Honaker  
Cindy Topete  
Conner Smith

Eric Jones  
Kelly Smith  
Jen Whitted- Chair  
Laura Wisniewski  
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Maria Chavoya  
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Natasha Noronha  
Sean Conkey  
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**Special Olympics**  
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# **TABLE CAPTAINS**

**Alejandra Lozano, AMPM**  
**Amanda Aguirre, Regional Center for Border Health**  
**Art Morales, National Bank of Arizona**  
**Briana Dods, New York Life**  
**Cece Honaker, Keller Williams**  
**Cindy Topete, State Farm**  
**Eric Jones, Rio Colorado Fueling**  
**Gen Grosse, Yuma Rotary**  
**George Davis, Yuma Investment Group**  
**Jaimey Polk, RDO**  
**James Sheldahl, Yuma District 1**  
**Jamie Heckerman, Special Olympics Arizona**  
**Jen Whitted, Committee Chair, Parent/Advocate**  
**Joan Cendejas, Elks Lodge #476**  
**Justin Haile, 4th Avenue Gym**  
**Kelly Smith, Parent/Advocate**  
**Kevin Smith, Ft. Yuma Rotary**  
**Larry Deason, Deason, Garner & Hansen**  
**Lillian Jauregui, State Farm**  
**Linda Gastelum, Banner Health**  
**Lori Franklin, Yuma Police Department**  
**Maria Chavoya, AZ Complete Health**  
**Mandy Evans, Special Olympics Arizona**  
**Martha Combs, LaSalle Corrections West**  
**Rosa Long, Cocopah Indian Tribe**  
**Russ Clark, NAPA Auto**  
**Tim Keller, Yuma Union High School District**  
**Tom Wells, Palms RV Resort**  
**Victoria Doiron, Parent/Advocate**



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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



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YUMA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

[yumaregional.org/WeBelieve](http://yumaregional.org/WeBelieve)



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## **HOWARD V. MOORE FOUNDATION**

**THANK YOU, HOWARD V. MOORE FOUNDATION, FOR EMPOWERING THE YOUNG MINDS AND BODIES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARIZONA ATHLETES! THEIR CONTRIBUTION EQUIPPED 10 PRE-K CLASSROOMS IN YUMA COUNTY WITH THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SOAZ'S YOUNG ATHLETES PROGRAM.**

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Show your support for Special Olympics Arizona everywhere you drive.

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# ***THANK YOU, YUMA!***

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