

# RISE WITH US.



Dear Athletes, Coaches, Family Members, Volunteers, Games Partners, Supporters of the Games, and Greater Seattle Community:

The 2018 USA Games said, “Rise with Us” and you did—with open hearts and minds. You were magnificent hosts. It was a USA Games of many significant firsts, raising the bar for future Games. More importantly, Seattle showed America and the world what a city of inclusion can look like. A community where everyone is included, valued for their gifts and skills, and given a fair opportunity to thrive.

So many moments moved me while I was in Seattle, too many to list here, but I was especially moved by my guest on stage for the Opening Ceremony, Frannie Ronan, who said to all in the stadium, “I love you.” Frannie is yet another leader in the Inclusion Revolution that is spreading a message of love and acceptance to all.

The Games lasted from July 1-6 but I ask each of you: what happens on July 7, 8, 9 and beyond? What will each of you do to turn this inspiration into action? How will you choose to include those with intellectual differences in your communities and in your lives henceforth, through acts big or small?

It is my hope that the legacy of these Games will be a Washington that is proud to have shown the way for the nation, to have been at the forefront of the Inclusion Revolution, and which will ensure that the athletes and families of Special Olympics Washington benefit from the catalyst for change that was the Games.

When my mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founded Special Olympics she was fueled by an unrelenting drive and clear vision for a world where people with intellectual disabilities would receive the respect, acceptance and opportunities they deserve.

For 50 years, Special Olympics has led a joyful rebellion, using the power of sport to create more inclusive communities around the world. But our athletes cannot wait another 50 years for her vision to become reality: the time is now and we need each of you to make it happen where you live and work.

I commend, thank and applaud 2018 Special Olympics USA Games President and CEO Beth Knox and the Local Organizing Committee, the leadership and staff of Special Olympics Washington and Special Olympics North America for their years of planning and hard work on these Games.

In closing, I think Brad Smith, President of Microsoft and Honorary Chairman of the USA Games said it best when referring to our movement when he said: “We (Seattle) will be a better place because you were here.” To Seattle we say: our movement is better because we were there.

Best wishes,



**Timothy P. Shriver**  
**Chairman, Special Olympics International**





Greetings,

On behalf of the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, THANK YOU for the open arms and hearts shown to the athletes and coaches who competed in Seattle at the 2018 USA Games. It was an extraordinary honor to produce, alongside my team, a national competition that showcased the awe-inspiring abilities of athletes from across the country.

The 11-day event surpassed all my expectations. I was inspired by the athletes and will take what I experienced with me long after the Games. I challenge myself and the volunteers, partners and supporters who were inspired by the bravery, grit and pure joy our athletes embodied to continue the momentum.

I saw incredible kindness and generosity between competitors. I challenge myself and you to take the lead from these great athletes and extend that same kindness and generosity in your own communities around the country.

I saw fierce competition from athletes determined to do their best. I challenge myself and you to face each day with the same determination to do *your* best.

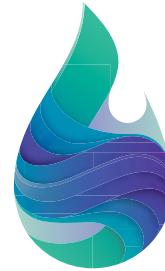
I saw resilience and commitment from my staff, from our volunteers, from our partners, and from the athletes. I challenge myself and you to rise up in the face of adversity, do whatever it takes to fulfill our commitments, see people for who they are and not for their disabilities, and make every city a City of Inclusion.

Through these intentions, along with the feelings of pride and joy we experienced, we have the power to change our lives and our communities. That will be the true legacy of the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games.

Rise Up!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Knox".

**Beth Knox**  
**President and CEO**  
**2018 Special Olympics USA Games**



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
SEATTLE 2018



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
 SEATTLE 2018



# BY THE NUMBERS

**11**  
 DAYS

**4,000**  
 ATHLETES &  
 COACHES

**14**  
 SPORTS

**517**  
 UNIFIED  
 PARTNERS

**10,000**  
 FAMILY MEMBERS  
 AND FRIENDS

**15,000**  
 VOLUNTEERS  
 FROM 48  
 DIFFERENT STATES

**39,000**  
 SPECTATORS  
 AT OPENING  
 CEREMONY

**102,200**  
 ATTENDEES AT  
 THE GAMES



**10,200\***  
 TEMPORARY JOBS  
 CREATED



**7,409**  
 MEDALS AND  
 RIBBONS AWARDED



**64%**  
 ATHLETES AND UNIFIED  
 PARTNERS SCREENED  
 AT HEALTHY ATHLETES

**\$76.4 MILLION** = ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SEATTLE\*

**7,125**  
 TOTAL SCREENINGS

**RISE  
 WITH  
 US.**

\*Projections; final numbers available 11/1



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY



- 15,000 volunteers supported the USA Games from arrival on June 30 through departure on July 7
- 25,000 volunteer shifts were filled
- Volunteers came from **48** states, **22** countries and **4** Canadian provinces
- 160,000 total volunteer hours were provided
- 4,000 volunteers formed the first-ever cheer line. Two 1-mile cheer lines led the athletes from campus to Opening Ceremony

More than 75 corporations recruited volunteers from their employee forces with Microsoft, Kaiser Permanente and Boeing each engaging more than 1,000 volunteers. 🌱



# SUSTAINABILITY

**The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games were the first USA Games to introduce a comprehensive sustainability strategy with a focus on minimizing waste, encouraging local and healthy food options, promoting accessibility and inclusion, using sustainable transportation and leaving a legacy.**

Through green team volunteers, staff commitment and partner support we encouraged widespread use of bikeshare (Limebike), rideshare (Lyft) and public transit. We educated thousands of visitors about tri-sort waste systems, re-used and repurposed many of the USA Games resources and donated hundreds of pounds of food to food banks along with other supplies. Most importantly, we engaged the athletes in the overall strategy through the Sustainability Passport education program distributing 3,200 passports during the Games.

2,018 live Douglas Fir saplings from the Department of Natural Resources were used as a moveable backdrop for the Opening Ceremony stage. Within hours they were whisked away to be part of a reforestation project at Camp Korey, a summer camp for children living with life-altering medical conditions. 🌲



# RISE WITH US.

**1.94**  
MILLION  
WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

**616.2**  
THOUSAND  
YOUTUBE VIEWS

**4.7**  
MILLION  
TWITTER IMPRESSIONS

**6.18**  
MILLION  
FACEBOOK IMPRESSIONS

**517.8**  
THOUSAND  
INSTAGRAM IMPRESSIONS  
THE WEEK OF THE GAMES

**600**  
THOUSAND  
VIEWERS OF THE  
OPENING CEREMONY  
LIVE ON ABC

**900**  
THOUSAND  
VIEWERS OF LIVE ESPN  
DAILY RECAP SHOWS

Website and social media data is from the period January 1, 2017 through July 15, 2018 except where noted.

## MARKETING RESULTS

The one-year countdown in June 2017 served as the launching point for moving current and potential Special Olympics supporters and fans through a marketing journey that revolved around building awareness for the USA Games, developing interest and engagement and ultimately, inspiring action. Across owned, earned and paid channels, the USA Games capitalized on opportunities for storytelling and generating news, all with the overarching message of inclusion.

Partners, USA Games Ambassadors, Special Olympics state programs and other stakeholders played key roles in raising awareness for the Games and inspiring action on the national and local levels.

What significantly moved the marketing and communications needle was the engagement of our partners who amplified our messages on social media, contributed their resources and creativity, and embarked on their own comprehensive marketing campaigns in support of the USA Games.

### Marketing Communications Highlights

- National weeklong coverage of the Games on ESPN
- National media hits including *Sports Illustrated*, *Good Morning America*, *CNBC* and *WWE*
- Trending topic on Twitter during the 100 Day Countdown
- Special section in *The Seattle Times* along with extensive coverage throughout the week of the Games
- Print, online and broadcast coverage in local markets
- Debut of the #ImAGameChanger storytelling and social media campaign





# THE COMPETITION



# ATHLETICS

HUSKY TRACK, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
326 ATHLETES

PRESENTED BY  Microsoft



PHOTO CREDIT: Rod Mar, Paul Harvey, Marco Catini, The 2018 USA Games, Dale Garvey, Geoff Vleck



# BASKETBALL

ALASKA AIRLINES ARENA, MARV HARSHMAN COURT, IMA COURTS – UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
REDHAWK CENTER – SEATTLE UNIVERSITY  
**395 ATHLETES, 111 UNIFIED PARTNERS**

PRESENTED BY *Coca-Cola*

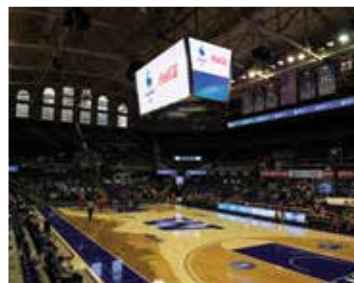


PHOTO CREDIT: Aikka Jenner, Rod Mar, Darryl Wong

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
USA GAMES  
SEATTLE 2018





# BOCCE

DEMPSEY INDOOR CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
168 ATHLETES, 64 UNIFIED PARTNERS

PRESENTED BY  COMCAST  
NBCUNIVERSAL



PHOTO CREDIT: Dixin Yan, Christopher Nelson, Raiili Ruul, The 2018 USA Games, Paul Harvey

**TEAM NEW JERSEY** athlete, **JUSTIN MALFITANO** bowled **6 STRAIGHT STRIKES** to finish with a **268** and take home the **GOLD MEDAL** in the men's high performance division.



# BOWLING

KENMORE LANES, KENMORE  
180 ATHLETES, 39 UNIFIED PARTNERS



PHOTO CREDIT: The 2018 USA Games



# FLAG FOOTBALL

IMA FIELDS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
128 ATHLETES, 61 UNIFIED PARTNERS

**Bank of America**

PRESENTED BY



PHOTO CREDIT: Locke Bradley, The 2018 USA Games, Paul Harvey

**DENNIS GAINES**, a 53-year-old Unified partner of Team Kentucky, **SHOT A HOLE-IN-ONE ON HOLE 7** and went on to take home the **BRONZE MEDAL WITH HIS STEPSON, WAKE MULLINS.**



# GOLF

WILLOWS RUN GOLF COURSE, REDMOND  
94 ATHLETES, 46 UNIFIED PARTNERS

PRESENTED BY **KPMG**



PHOTO CREDIT: Rod Mar, The 2018 USA Games, Sherwin Eng





# GYMNASTICS

ROYAL BROUGHAM PAVILION, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

39 ATHLETES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WASHINGTON'S **FRANNIE RONAN**, AGE 8, WAS THE YOUNGEST ATHLETE TO COMPETE AT THE USA GAMES.

PRESENTED BY **accenture**



PHOTO CREDIT: Alikka Jenner, Anne Todd, Marco Catini, The 2018 USA Games



# POWERLIFTING

MEANY HALL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

**85 ATHLETES**



PHOTO CREDIT: Paul Harvey, The 2018 USA Games, Rod Mar, Geoff Vleck



# SOCCER

CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD, SU PARK – SEATTLE UNIVERSITY  
193 ATHLETES, 80 UNIFIED PARTNERS

SPONSORED BY 



PHOTO CREDIT: Dale Garvey, Locke Bradley, Melissa Levin, Geoff Vleck, Maddy Grassy



# SOFTBALL

CELEBRATION PARK, FEDERAL WAY  
179 ATHLETES, 62 UNIFIED PARTNERS



PHOTO CREDIT: Matthew Kennelly, Paul Harvey, Aika Jenner, Rod Mar

INAUGURAL COMPETITION AT A USA GAMES





# STAND UP PADDLEBOARD

ANGLE LAKE PARK, SEATAC

**23 ATHLETES**

PRESENTED BY



PHOTO CREDIT: Rod Mar, The 2018 USA Games, Anne Todd



# SWIMMING

KING COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER, FEDERAL WAY  
254 ATHLETES

PRESENTED BY **UNITED** 

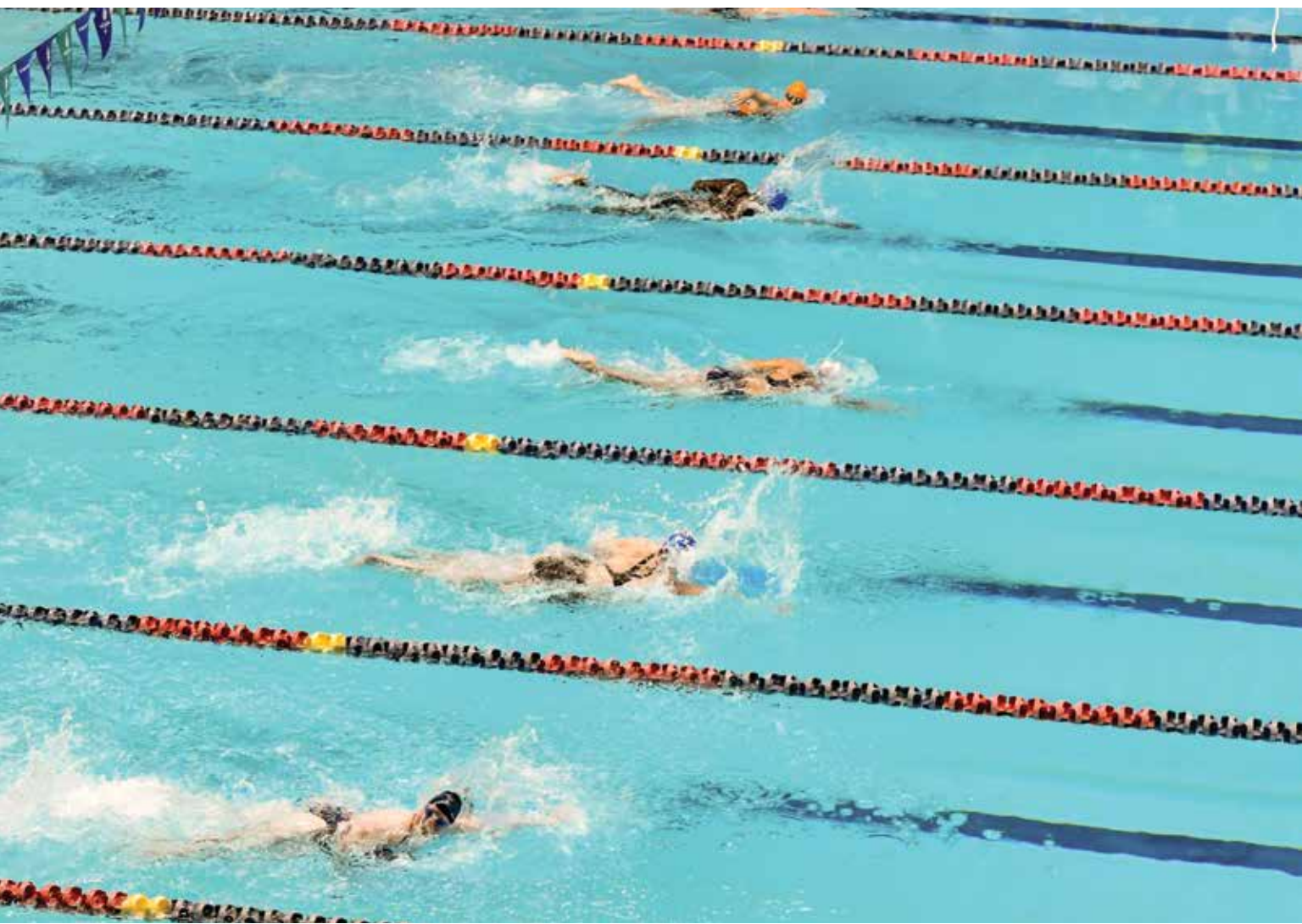


PHOTO CREDIT: Aikka Jenner, The 2018 USA Games, Paul Harvey



# TENNIS

BILL QUILLIAN TENNIS STADIUM, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
76 ATHLETES, 16 UNIFIED PARTNERS

PRESENTED BY **PACCAR**



PHOTO CREDIT: Locke Bradley, Christopher Nelson, The 2018 USA Games, Joe Nicholson



# VOLLEYBALL

IMA COURTS, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
91 ATHLETES, 38 UNIFIED PARTNERS

PRESENTED BY **PACCAR**



PHOTO CREDIT: Geoff Vleck, The 2018 USA Games, Aileen Ly







# BREAKING NEW GROUND



## SPORTS TEAMS PARTNERS

**Among the first organizations to commit their support of the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games were Seattle's professional sports franchises, pledging their engagement and influence in the community to inspire athletes and raise awareness for the USA Games. In addition, current and former players from every sports team served as enthusiastic USA Games Ambassadors, making appearances in the community and at fundraisers to build excitement and support.**

### **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**

The Seattle Seahawks kicked off their USA Games engagement by hosting a flag football clinic for Special Olympics Washington athletes with drills run by Seahawks Legends and appearances by Seahawks players. The Seahawks also provided the USA Games with activation opportunities before two home games during the 2017-18 season, engaging thousands of Seahawks fans with the

USA Games by participating in Unified Bocce and the chance to win prizes.

### **SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC**

A long-time supporter of Special Olympics Washington, Seattle Sounders FC started USA Games half-time promotions more than one year out. Just prior to the USA Games, Sounders FC featured 30 law enforcement officers and Special

## PLAYERS FROM EVERY SPORTS TEAM SERVED AS **ENTHUSIASTIC USA GAMES AMBASSADORS.**

Olympics athletes from across the country in a LETR stop before the Sounders FC vs. Portland Timbers match on June 30, 2018. Athletes Larry Crosman and Jeremy Wall carried the Flame of Hope into the pre-match ceremony to a standing ovation, exchanging a challenge coin with Sounders FC majority owner Adrian Hanauer who presented the two with custom Sounders FC-USA Games scarves.

During the USA Games, Sounders FC greats helped kick off the soccer competition at Seattle University. Sounders FC players also participated in the Young Athletes Festival as well as the soccer Unified Sports Experience at the University of Washington, playing alongside Special Olympics athletes and members of the local community.

### **SEATTLE MARINERS**

The Seattle Mariners hosted nearly 6,000 USA Games athletes, coaches and supporters for a celebratory night on July 5, 2018 where they took in a Mariners' victory over the Los Angeles Angels, complete with an in-game shout-out to Special Olympics USA Games on the jumbotron. Before the game, Team Washington softball players Patrick Gardner and Xaphya Carden-Madden threw out the first pitch. The two strikes were caught by USA Games Ambassador and Mariners third baseman Kyle Seager, and Mariners pitcher James Paxton.

During the USA Games softball competitions, Seattle Mariner second baseman Dee Gordon, Mariner greats and USA Games Ambassadors Dan Wilson and Bill Krueger, made appearances to cheer on the athletes and sign autographs.

### **SEATTLE STORM**

Led by USA Games Ambassador Breanna Stewart, the Seattle Storm declared their home game on June 19, 2018 "USA Games Night." All Special Olympics Washington athletes were invited to attend and the crowd was treated to a special halftime presentation to honor the athletes representing Washington at



the USA Games. In addition, the Storm participated in the USA Games "Show your Badge" program and provided free tickets to athletes, families and volunteers for the Storm's July 1 home game against the Connecticut Sun.

### **SEATTLE REIGN FC**

In conjunction with mutual partner Microsoft, Seattle Reign FC hosted a game dedicated to Special Olympics. Reign FC honored USA Games President and CEO Beth Knox as part of their Legends campaign, and Special Olympics Washington athletes engaged on the field, high-fiving players on the field and competing in a contest at halftime.

### **SEATTLE SEAWOLVES**

Seattle's newest professional team, the Seattle Seawolves of Major League Rugby, wasted no time getting involved with Special Olympics, partnering with both the USA Games and local program, Special Olympics Washington. The Seawolves dedicated one of their inaugural home games to the promotion of Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg. Players from the Seawolves and fellow rugby team, the Seattle Saracens, engaged as Ambassadors and made appearances at fundraisers. 🙌



# ESPN | SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS CHALLENGE

**The ESPN | Special Olympics Unified Sports Challenge Executive Division teamed up CEOs, celebrities and Special Olympics athletes to show off their athletic abilities and compete to raise over \$350,000 for the USA Games. Like many of the competitions at the 2018 USA Games, the event was played using a Unified format, promoting social inclusion by joining people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same teams.**

The competition was fierce and while most of the competitors were ready for Hot Shot Basketball and golf putting, no one was prepared for the intensity of Just Dance. After an afternoon of incredible competition, the team representing the University of Washington was crowned the winner. The top four teams all donated their prize winnings to the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games including the University of Washington's donation of \$20,000, Swire Coca-Cola's donation of \$12,500, Coca-Cola North America's donation of \$7,500, and WWE's donation of \$5,000. 🙌





## PERFORMANCE STATIONS

Performance stations provided tools and resources for the athletes to compete at their highest level. Athletes were guided through the following stations:

- **Competition Readiness:** provided extra sunscreen, hair ties, socks, shoelaces and checklists to ensure each athlete was ready for competition
- **Nutrition:** pre- and post-competition snacks
- **Hydration:** served as a refill station, but also exhibited creative ways to drink more water or choose water over sugary drinks
- **Physical Activity:** certified volunteers led athletes through appropriate sport warm ups and cool down stretches



## THE COACHES RALLY

**The Coaches Rally was the unofficial kickoff to the Games and the excitement in Alaska Airlines Arena was electric prior to the Opening Ceremony.**

Starbucks provided a healthy lunch for the athletes and delivered it with a personal touch. Seahawks Legend and USA Games Ambassador, Ray Roberts served as emcee and welcomed our guest speakers. Seattle University's head men's basketball coach, Jim Hayford, spoke about playing together, camaraderie, and enjoying the moment with your teammates. Coach Mary Lou Mulflur, University of Washington's head women's golf coach, spoke about focus and determination in individual sports, and reminded the athletes to enjoy competing. Retired NFL referee, Mike Pereira, encouraged the athletes to play by the rules and demonstrate good sportsmanship. A surprise appearance by WWE Superstars Mark Henry and Charlotte Flair got the crowd on their feet and ready for the Parade of Athletes. 🙌



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Given the uncertain world in which we live, safety and prompt medical response for the athletes, supporters and fans was one of the top priorities of the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games. Out of this commitment, the 2018 USA Games Emergency Management Team lead the initiative to form a group of highly trained, dedicated, emergency management volunteers to work with liaisons from 20 different public safety agencies and Special Olympics. This group was part of the 24/7 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and worked in a multi-jurisdictional Unified Command format with personnel prepared to quickly respond as needed throughout the competition.**

The EOC provided a general framework for the coordination of communications within the public, media, stakeholders, participants, facilities, and partners in the event of an emergency or other critical incident. In the event of an emergency requiring public media notifications, the EOC housed the Joint Information Center.

The Emergency Management Department also worked in close cooperation with Dr. Jessie Fudge, Chief Medical Officer and loaned professional from the Games' Official Health Partner, Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Fudge led a team of volunteer medical professionals who provided sideline medical care for the athletes and first aid response to event attendees.

Over the course of 20 days that covered advance Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg ceremonies, venue load-in, athlete arrival, event competition, opening and closing ceremonies, athlete departure and load-out, the EOC responded to 979 incidents, including 20 referrals to an urgent care facility. There were 16 hospital transports for follow up with no admissions to the hospital. 🙌





# FUTURE OF INCLUSION FORUM

PRESENTED BY



**One of the legacy goals for the 2018 USA Games is that Seattle will be recognized as a model “City of Inclusion” for the rest of the country. This goal and message resonated strongly with USA Games board of directors and corporate partners, and aligned strategically with regional efforts to actively demonstrate a message of welcome and inclusion to all, regardless of ability.**

The City of Inclusion Advisory Committee capitalized on the momentum surrounding the USA Games by making the inclusion network visible and amplifying this important conversation. More than 300 area businesses took a pledge of inclusion through the Welcome Inclusion Initiative (WIN) providing a lasting impact of heightened awareness and attitudinal changes toward people with intellectual disabilities.

These efforts were explored and celebrated at the Future of Inclusion Forum, presented by Accenture and F5 and held at the Seattle Repertory Theatre. We were honored to have the following speakers share their points of view on this topic.

- Tim Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics International
- Tig Notaro, GRAMMY- and Emmy-nominated comedian, writer and actor
- Brad Smith, Microsoft President and Honorary Chairman of the 2018 USA Games
- Lauren Potter, actor best known for her portrayal of Becky Jackson on Glee
- Karen Phelps Moyer, USA Games Ambassador, served as moderator for the panel discussion
- Holly Tabor, Associate Professor and Associate Director for the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics
- Special Olympics Washington Athlete Devon Adelman read her original poem “Strong”

## CITY OF INCLUSION.



# JOURNEY OF EMPLOYMENT

PRESENTED BY

**SourceAmerica** 

**Presented in partnership with SourceAmerica, the first-ever USA Games Job Fair provided a complete Journey of Employment for Special Olympics athletes and the community.**

Designed to build confidence, provide resources, and allow for interview experience, athletes met with 17 sponsorship partners and national nonprofits. SourceAmerica also offered disability awareness training for participating companies. 🌐



# XBOX GAMING TOURNAMENT

**The Xbox Gaming Tournament at the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games was a first-of-its-kind competition. Tim Shriver called this a “revolutionary” step for Special Olympics and it captured the attention of the packed venue, state delegations, and Gaming industry.**

Players from across the nation competed in *Forza Motorsport 7*, a popular racing game by Microsoft Studios. Qualifying rounds were held in Microsoft stores around the country and the preliminary teams were whittled down to the eight fastest times from Connecticut, Utah and Washington. The semifinal rounds consisted of three pre-determined courses in specifically chosen vehicles for each. In the end, Tim Dempsey and Nicholas Rasmussen from Washington were the victors and took home custom-wrapped Xbox One X consoles. 🎮





# THE EVENTS



# LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FINAL LEG

PRESENTED BY



TOYOTA

**Before competition began at the 2018 USA Games, an elite group of 72 law enforcement officers from 46 states and three countries along with six Special Olympics athletes escorted the Special Olympics “Flame of Hope” on a journey across Washington State. The LETR team conducted over 30 runs and ceremonies in cities, town and communities to raise awareness for Special Olympics and generate excitement for the Games.**

Dignitaries including Surgeon General Jerome Adams, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, U.S. Coast Guard District 13 Commander RDML David Throop, and law enforcement chiefs from throughout the state helped to welcome the LETR delegation. The 2018 LETR Final Leg culminated on July 1 as the LETR team escorted the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony at Husky Stadium. 🙏



# WELCOME DAYS

PRESENTED BY



WITH SUPPORT FROM



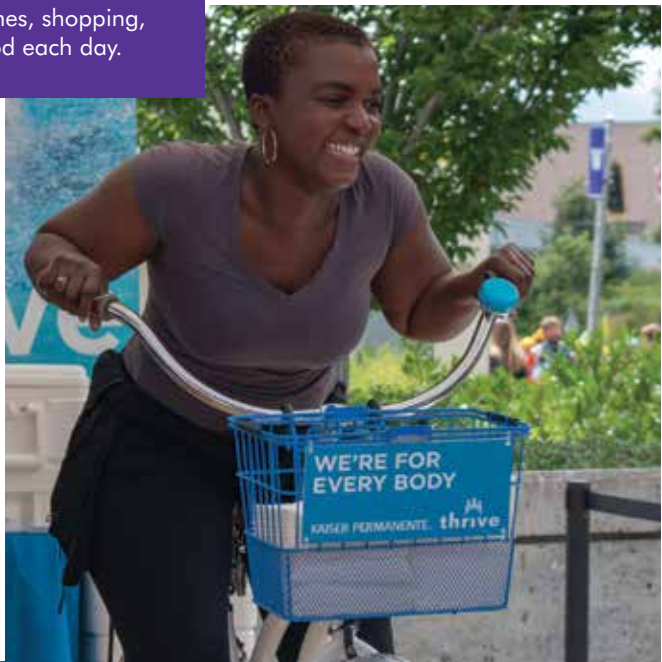
**The energy from Welcome Days on June 29 and 30 was contagious and spread throughout the week!**

Countless volunteers, cheerleaders, drum lines, and musicians met our 4,000 athletes and coaches as they arrived for an unforgettable week of competition. There was no more exciting place to be in the Pacific Northwest than Sea-Tac Airport or the University of Washington as these athletes arrived for the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games. 🇺🇸

# FAN ZONE



16 partners and 4 food trucks took part in the Fan Zone. Crowds filled with athletes, families and fans enjoyed the games, shopping, music and food each day.





## FOUNDER'S RECEPTION



A gathering for Special Olympics USA Games Honored Guests, the Special Olympics Founder's Reception brought together partners, community leaders, government officials, celebrity ambassadors and Special Olympics leadership from around the world. Held in Club Husky at University of Washington's Husky Stadium, guests enjoyed brunch, live music, and conversation before the excitement of the Opening Ceremony.





# OPENING CEREMONY

PRESENTED BY



**Celebrating inclusion, acceptance, and athletic abilities, more than 39,000 spectators welcomed 4,000 athletes and coaches representing 51 delegations from across the United States to Husky Stadium. Traditional ceremony elements combined with celebrity performances and appearances were the perfect way to kick off the week of competition ahead.**

Co-Grand Marshals, Seattle Seahawks' Shaquem Griffin and Special Olympics athlete Tim Corrigan, kicked off the Ceremony in style. Choir director Rafe Wadleigh led the community-based USA Games Choir of nearly 2,000 singers providing an extraordinary living backdrop to the show. Energizing performances were given by world-renowned DJ Marshmello; "American Idol" winner Maddie Poppe; singer and finalist on "The Voice" Kyla Jade; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame legend Ann Wilson; singer-songwriter Allen Stone; and the world-famous Charlie Puth.



Messages welcoming the athletes and promoting inclusion were delivered by ESPN's Kevin Negandhi; actor and emcee Taye Diggs; Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella; WWE superstars Mark Henry and Charlotte Flair; WWE Chief Brand Officer Stephanie McMahon; Special Olympics International's Chief Inspiration Officer Loretta Claiborne; Special Olympics International Chairman Tim Shriver; and Microsoft President and 2018 USA Games Honorary Chairman Brad Smith.

Sprinkled amongst these heartfelt performances and speeches were the lighting of the Special Olympics Cauldron, a traditional Native American blessing, and a perfect dose of Seattle's beautiful sunny weather. An entertaining and powerful event, the Opening Ceremony of the 2018 USA Games was just the beginning of the lifechanging week that was the 2018 USA Games. 🇺🇸

*Co-Hosted by Bank of America, Coca-Cola, ESPN and Kaiser Permanente  
Production Company XPL  
Broadcast Live by ESPN on ABC*

# HUSKY STADIUM



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**USA GAMES**  
SEATTLE 2018



SPECIAL OLYMPICS



1968 - 2018

# ALASKA AIRLINES FIELD







# HEALTHY ATHLETES

PRESENTED BY  KAISER  
PERMANENTE®

**With 7,125 screenings performed on over 1,760 individual athletes and Unified partners, Healthy Athletes was a huge success!**

Throughout the week, medical providers donated more than 5,700 hours of their time to provide these critical health screenings, which helped to address various health issues that our athletes are currently facing. Thanks to our partners, we provided 94 athletes with follow up dental care ranging from cleanings to root canals, 371 athletes with glasses, as well as provide roughly 1,500 athletes with a new pair of running shoes! 🙌



## UNIFIED SPORTS EXPERIENCES



Volunteers, partner employees, families, and friends came together to break down barriers, promote inclusion, and have fun by trying their hand at Special Olympics Unified Sports. Participants competed in basketball, soccer, volleyball, and flag football. Current and former players from the Seattle Seahawks, Seattle Sounders FC, Seattle Reign FC, and the University of Washington came out in full force to compete and cheer on all of the participants.





## CHAIRMAN'S DINNER



Presented by Microsoft, the USA Games Chairman's Dinner was an invite-only opportunity to thank partners, public officials, and community leaders for their support in making the USA Games successful and impactful. Hosted by Seahawks Legend and Games Ambassador Jordan Babineaux as emcee, in the beauty of Seattle's iconic Chihuly Garden & Glass, guests were treated to a sit-down dinner and thank-you program. Special Olympics International Chairman Tim Shriver, Honorary Chairman and Microsoft President Brad Smith, Special Olympics USA Games President and CEO Beth Knox, and King County Executive Dow Constantine spoke and expressed their gratitude for the shared effort in making the USA Games a success.





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS TOWN

PRESENTED BY *Ginger & Barry*  
**ACKERLEY**  
foundation

**Special Olympics Town gave athletes a chance to relax, meet new friends, and even prepare for their next day of competition.**

From massages, crafts, and board games, to bowling and so much more, Special Olympics Town was a hit among the athletes! With a variety of entertainment options each night including singer/songwriter Kerry Fenster, and the Seattle Women's Steel Pan Project, it was Special Olympics Washington's own DJ Shane who stole the show with his impromptu dance parties in the bowling alley! 🎉



# YOUNG ATHLETES FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY NORDSTROM

**The Special Olympics Young Athletes Festival celebrates the joy of sports, inclusion and play with fun activities for the next generation of Special Olympics athletes. For all children 2 to 7 years old—with and without intellectual disabilities—the program teaches basic sport skills such as running, kicking and throwing, while also showing children first-hand the value that people of all abilities bring to our communities.**

At the 2018 USA Games, more than 250 children enjoyed a customized Young Athletes obstacle and bike course. Strider Bikes allowed kids to balance and ride without pedals or training wheels, and a special obstacle course built and donated by Hodge Construction Co featured unique and accessible climbing and play equipment to encourage active motor skills. 🌟



# FAMILY PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY



**The Family Program provided the families of the athletes with an exciting week of activities, competition and Seattle sunshine.**

From the Opening Ceremony and Special Olympics Night at the Pacific Science Center, to USA Games Night at the Mariners, the families experienced the best of Seattle and the competitions of their athletes in a week full of memories that will last a lifetime. 🌟

## HONORED GUEST PROGRAM



Bringing together Special Olympics partners, community leaders, state program CEOs, government officials, celebrity ambassadors, and Special Olympics International leadership, the Honored Guest Program provided an opportunity to experience the USA Games in style. Honored Guests were invited to the Special Olympics Founder's Reception, Parade of Athletes, the Opening Ceremony, the Future of Inclusion Forum, and the Honored Guest Reception at the Closing Ceremony. While in Seattle for the week, Honored Guests enjoyed accommodations at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel, complete with a lounge specifically for their use, a shuttle for easy transportation to events, and Honored Guest credentials and gift bags. Finally, Honored Guests could connect with athletes and fellow Honored Guests through access to Honored Guest and Family lounges at competition venues and the opportunity to present medals to winning athletes.





# YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



**The Youth Leadership Experience brought together 37 Unified pairs of high school students from across the country for a week of volunteering and training on how to be agents of change within their schools and communities.**

Students volunteered by supporting the interscholastic sports program, managing the Young Athletes Festival and interviewing athletes for social media stories. "Through these activities we learned that inclusion is not only about giving everyone equal opportunities, but also about making lasting friendships, being true to yourself and making small efforts to make others feel included. Inclusion is a matter of persistence and taking a stand for what you believe in," said Katie Hut of Utah. 🙌



# ★ FAMILY ★ FOURTH

PRESENTED BY *Coca-Cola*

USA Games Family 4th, presented by Coca-Cola was the place to be and be seen. Delegations enjoyed an all-American BBQ picnic followed by fun and games on the field of Husky Stadium. 8,000 people danced the night away to DJ Shane, and the world-renowned DJ White Shadow.





# AWARDS







7,409 medals and ribbons were awarded during the week of the Games.





# CLOSING CEREMONY

PRESENTED BY



**In a place known for iconic citywide events that seamlessly marry music, art, and sport, the Closing Ceremony presented by Amazon boasted a jubilant, festival atmosphere in which the audience was invited to participate. The Closing Ceremony invited the general public and athletes to interact with each other, showing the world the future of inclusion starts here in Seattle.**

As Seattle began to descend upon Lake Union Park, guests were welcomed to Closing Ceremony by Amazon employees presenting everyone in attendance with strands of colorful party beads. Roaming performing artists enchanted the crowd. Among the entertainers were jugglers, stilts dancers, an acro-duo, and the Ten Man Brass Band.

USA Games Ambassador and ESPN's Kenny Mayne welcomed the crowd from the floating stage, lead the crowd through inspiring highlight videos accompanied by the Amazon Symphony Orchestra. We met athletes that had exceptional weeks of competition and officially closed the 2018 USA Games with the handing over of the USA Games flag to Orlando 2022.

Seattle's own Hey Marseilles wowed the crowd with an electrifying performance. Athletes exchanged pins—a highlight of the Special Olympics experience—high-fived the locals, and said goodbye to new friends. 🌍







# PARTNERS & CREDITS

## PARTNERS

### PREMIER PARTNER



### PLATINUM PARTNERS



### GOLD MEDAL PARTNERS



### SILVER MEDAL PARTNERS



### BRONZE MEDAL PARTNERS



PUBLIC PARTNERS



FOUNDATION SUPPORT



SPORTS PARTNERS



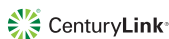
PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS



HOSPITALITY PARTNER



FRIENDS OF THE GAMES



## CREDITS

### AMBASSADORS

Devon Adelman,  
Special Olympics  
Washington Athlete

Molly Anderson,  
Special Olympics  
Washington Athlete

Luke Aikins,  
Professional Skydiver  
and Red Bull Athlete

Jordan Babineaux,  
Seattle Seahawks Legend

Lauren Barnes,  
Seattle Reign FC

Stephanie Cox,  
Seattle Reign FC

Kate Deines,  
Seattle Reign FC (retired)

George Fant,  
Seattle Seahawks

Peter Fewing, Head Coach,  
Seattle University Men's Soccer

Ryan Fielding,  
Special Olympics  
Washington Athlete

Mike Garrity,  
Seattle Seawolves

Taylor Graham,  
Seattle Sounders FC (retired)

Jacob Green,  
Seattle Seahawks Legend

Chip Hanauer,  
Hydrodriver and Broadcaster

Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle  
Seahawks Legend and  
ESPN Broadcaster

Mike Holmgren, Former Head  
Coach, Seattle Seahawks

Brock Huard,  
Seattle Seahawks Legend

Damon Huard,  
University of Washington

Walter Jones, Seattle Seahawks  
Legend and NFL Hall of Famer

Kasey Keller,  
Seattle Sounders FC (retired)  
and ESPN Broadcaster

Dave Krieg, Seattle Seahawks  
Legend

Ariana Kukors, Former  
Olympic Swimmer

Bill Krueger, ROOT Sports

Steve Largent, Seattle Seahawks  
Legend and NFL Hall of Famer

Roger Levesque, Seattle  
Sounders FC (retired)

Sean Locklear, Seattle Seahawks  
Legend

Marshawn Lynch,  
Seattle Seahawks

Katie Mackey,  
Brooks Beasts Track Club

Edgar Martinez,  
Seattle Mariners

Kenny Mayne, ESPN

Duff McKagan,  
Guns n' Roses

Susan Holmes McKagan,  
Model, Fashion Designer,  
TV Personality

Jordan Morris,  
Seattle Sounders FC

Karen Moyer,  
The Moyer Foundation

Jen Mueller,  
ROOT Sports and Seahawks  
Radio Network

Rob Munn,  
Former Olympic Rower

Chuck Nelson, Former  
All American Placekicker,  
University of Washington

Apolo Ohno, 8x Olympic  
Medal Speedskater

Keelin Patillo, Seattle Reign FC  
(retired)

Gary Payton, Hall of Fame  
Point Guard,  
Seattle SuperSonics

Elli Reed,  
Seattle Reign FC (retired)

Cristian Roldan,  
Seattle Sounders FC

Ray Roberts, Seattle Seahawks  
Legend

Kyle Seager,  
Seattle Mariners

Colton Schmidt,  
Special Olympics  
Washington Athlete

Emily Silver,  
Former Olympic Swimmer

Ron Sims, Former  
Deputy Secretary of the  
Dept. of Housing and  
Urban Development

Kristine Sommer,  
Seattle Saracens

Breanna Stewart,  
Power Forward, Seattle Storm

Mack Strong, Seattle Seahawks  
Legend

Shalom Suniula,  
Seattle Seawolves

Courtney Thompson,  
2x Olympic Medal  
Volleyball Player

Marcus Trufant,  
Seattle Seahawks Legend

Slick Watts, Seattle SuperSonics  
(retired)

Dan Wilson, Seattle Mariners  
(retired)

Rainn Wilson, Actor

Julie Woodward, Head Coach,  
Seattle University  
Women's Soccer

Beverly Yanez, Seattle Reign FC

Izaic Yorks,  
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Jim Zorn,  
Seattle Seahawks Legend



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Yvonne Grimes / **TD**

**BOCCE**

Evan Luckey / **SC**  
Jill Simmons / **Assistant SC**  
Debra Pontenberg / **TD**

**FLAG FOOTBALL**

Scott Friberg / **SC**  
Chris Delaune / **Assistant SC**  
Dave Breen / **TD**

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Charlie Zelinsky / **TD**  
Jacky Loube / **Assistant TD**

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Accounting Manager

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Kate Okiomah,  
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Becka Magnenat,  
Project Coordinator

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