

# Special Olympics Kansas

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**Special  
Olympics**  
Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

DATE: June 8, 2016  
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## Special Olympics Kansas Receives \$25,000 Donation from Amerigroup

Mission KS ~ Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS) announced that it received a \$25,000 donation from Amerigroup to promote Health and Wellness programs and provide health screenings to all athletes of the 2016 Summer Games. The presentation was made June 3 at Opening Ceremony of the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Games. SOKS will recognize Amerigroup as a Mission Partner.

“We’re proud to support Special Olympics Kansas to raise awareness for this wonderful organization, while also working to help Kansans live healthier lives,” said Laura Hopkins, Amerigroup Kansas President.

Health and Wellness has a substantial impact on the quality of life and affects SOKS athlete’s ability to train and compete in sports effectively. Special Olympics Kansas has offered health screenings to athletes since 2009. These screenings include vision screenings, hearing screenings, dental screenings, and general health screenings. Athletes receive health education at screening events as well as an opportunity to receive hygiene items, protective eye wear, and glasses.

These screenings are offered in a welcoming, family friendly and fun environment, educate athletes on healthy life style choice and identify problems that may need additional professional follow-up. Amerigroup will be the presenting sponsor and at all SOKS Healthy Athletes Screenings in 2016.

Although not considered a “medically underserved” group by the federal government, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have limited access to healthcare, and the quality of the care they do receive is often poor. Additionally, they have a 40 percent greater risk of preventable secondary health conditions, such as obesity, poor fitness, nutritional deficits, untreated or poorly treated vision, dental, hearing and podiatric problems.

Energized by the pride and power of teamwork, Special Olympics Kansas provides individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to be an athlete...and more...through acceptance, inclusion, physical fitness, health and nutrition programs and leadership development.

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