

# Special Olympics Kansas

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## **THREE ATHLETES INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME Special Olympics Kansas Recognizes Outstanding Athletes**

Mission, Ks- At the 43rd annual Summer Games, three outstanding athletes were introduced into the Special Olympics Kansas Hall of Fame.

Larry Williams is a member of the New Hope Bulldogs of Pittsburg. Larry used to be a wall flower and could never meet new friends, but now is a social butterfly. He is always encouraging, tries his best and trains 8-10 hours per week. He was voted team captain this year. Along with his many accomplishments he attended the World Winter Games in Boise Idaho as a member of TEAM USA and won 3 bronze medals. He participates year round with this Bulldogs team in bowling, bocce, track and field, powerlifting, softball, basketball and flag football.

Patty Stephenson has developed close friendships during her years on the Dodge City Dodgers team. She supports her teammates and always has encouraging words, a smile or hug for them. She has an excellent attitude and gives 100% at every practice, even when things are difficult for her physically. She participates in bowling, basketball and track. Patty is a role model and wonderful supporter for the other athletes, and always wants to represent the Dodge City Dodgers with pride.

David Anderson always has a grin on his face. He loves to compete with his Topeka Shawnee team and always tries his hardest. His nickname is "happy feet" because his feet are always on the move even when his body has stopped. David loves to compete and has compassion for his fellow athletes. He is willing to help others and congratulate them on a job well done. Besides the thrill of the competition, staying in shape and friendships made throughout the years, David's teammates have great respect for him. He has competed for 21 years and was chosen to participate in the National Games in 2010 in Lincoln Nebraska.

An induction into Special Olympics Hall of Fame takes more than just a gold medal. The criteria for selection focuses on the number of years an athlete has competed, the athletes overall performance, sportsmanship, the number of hours spent training, and the benefit of athlete's participation to him or her. These very important athletes deserve to be recognized for their personal and athletic accomplishments.

Special Olympics is the world's largest program of quality sports training, education and competition for children and athletes with intellectual disabilities. In Kansas athletes train year round and compete in 21 different sports. Special Olympics provides athletes with the opportunity to improve their physical fitness, acquire new skills, develop lifelong friendships and encourage widespread community understanding and acceptance. For more information, please visit [www.kssso.org](http://www.kssso.org).

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