

Special Olympics Kansas

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**Special
Olympics**
Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Donna Zimmerman
PHONE: 913.236.9290 ext. 112
E-MAIL: pr@kssso.org

CPS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS HEALTHY ATHLETES PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS

Mission – KS Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS) has received a grant from CPS Foundation to promote Health and Wellness programs and provide health screenings to SOKS athletes.

“Having a family member with special needs, we realize the importance of health screenings,” said Claire Buchanan, Foundation Co-Director. “We’re delighted to support Special Olympics Kansas and be a part of the Health and Wellness directive.”

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 choices and identify problems that may need additional professional follow-up. Screenings are conducted by trained health care professionals who are SOKS volunteers.

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.

For more information about Healthy Athletes contact Terri Price pricet@kssso.org or 913.236.9290 x 109.

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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