



Dear Friends of Special Olympics Illinois,

On Behalf of the Athletes participating with Special Olympics Illinois, we would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of a very special request for support.

On January 12-14, 2018 Special Olympics Illinois Southern Area 15 and Indoor Softball Inc. will host our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Girls Indoor Winter Fast Pitch Softball Tournament at the Southern Illinois Center in Du Quoin. All money raised from this tournament will benefit the over 900 Special Olympics Athletes competing in Southern Illinois. Sponsors are crucial to the success of this event and we hope that your business will strongly consider supporting our 2018 tournament. Since this unique event began in 2010, we have raised over \$410,000 for Special Olympic Illinois Athletes competing in Southern Illinois. It is our hope to build upon the previous eight years of success so that we can continue to transform the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities right here in Southern Illinois.

In Illinois alone, more than 22,500 athletes compete in 19 Olympic-style sports at 290 competitions each year. Special Olympics Illinois provides our athletes with the opportunity to develop their own pride and self-esteem, build new friendships, and have the thrill of participating in their sport. Special Olympics is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit, charitable organization (ID# 36-2922811) that relies on donations from individuals, organizations, corporate sponsors, grants and special events for program funding. Special Olympics is proud of the fact that we have never charged an athlete, or their family, to participate in any event. We can only do this with your support. All money raised stays in the area providing funding for area competitions and recruitment of athletes.

Enclosed you will find this year's sponsorship package outlining all the great benefits your business will receive by partnering with Special Olympics Illinois. Our programs succeed in changing lives, building advocacy networks, and creating a lasting positive impact. Consumers recognize us as a brand deserving respect, loyalty, and good will with 95% positive brand recognition in the United States.

By sponsoring this unique event, your brand will be on display for 28 traveling girls softball teams (12U/14U/16U) from across Illinois and the Tri-State Area, their families, their friends, numerous vendors and sponsors, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of spectators throughout the weekend. If you would like to become involved as a sponsor we will need to receive your commitment form by December 22, 2017.

Please know that we are grateful for your consideration of this request as we work to create a more inclusive society that warmly welcomes all individuals to participate fully. If you have any questions or would like to meet in person to discuss this opportunity further please feel free to contact us. Thanks again for your time and we look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Respectfully,

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