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SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY PRESENTS

# 2023 NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

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Hyatt Regency Princeton, NJ  
Friday, November 17



To our Special Olympics New Jersey friends and families,

Welcome to the 2023 Night of Champions, our annual awards dinner. Tonight, we gather to celebrate the organization's amazing accomplishments and successes of this past year.

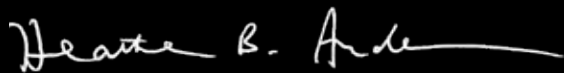
Our Special Olympics New Jersey athletes continued to shine throughout 2023. Many medals won, personal bests accomplished, friendships made, and memories created that will last a lifetime!

Thank you to our loyal coaches, volunteers, sponsors, law enforcement, and supporters for your ongoing dedication and passion to support our athletes and Unified partners. You truly are the magic behind every practice, event, competition, and initiative we had this year!

Tonight, we will honor and recognize many dedicated individuals for their commitment and devotion to our athletes and program in New Jersey. Congratulations to all the award winners. You are true champions!

Thank you again for attending this memorable evening with us!

In the spirit of Special Olympics,



Heather Andersen  
President & CEO



Lori Acker  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks

Recognition of Board of Trustees

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics  
New Jersey Recognition

Law Enforcement Torch Run Hall of Fame

Bessie Perlman Achievement Award

S. Michael Higgins Scholarship

2023 World Games Athlete Recognition

Area Directors Recognition

Outstanding Athlete Awards

Dinner

Guest Speaker: Eric LeGrand

Spirit Award

Outstanding Local Training Program

Outstanding Volunteer Family

Outstanding Volunteer Coach

Outstanding Volunteer Officials

Spirit Award

Outstanding Volunteer - State Level

Outstanding Volunteer - Area Level

Outstanding Volunteer Group

Outstanding Unified School Award

Spirit Award

Hall of Fame Inductees

Marc S. Edenzon Lifetime Achievement Award

Closing Remarks

# 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# 2023 AREA DIRECTORS

Area 1 - Hudson County  
Ruben Concepcion

Area 2 - Passaic County  
Rich Deska

Area 3 - Morris & Sussex Counties  
Betty Lunn

Area 4 - Hunterdon & Warren Counties  
Kathy Creveling

Area 5 - Middlesex & Union Counties  
Karen Lewicki

Area 6 - Monmouth & Ocean Counties  
Jeri Hickey

Area 7 - Camden, Gloucester & Salem Counties  
Marianne Aponte

Area 8 - Atlantic, Cape May & Cumberland Counties  
Linda Cobb

Area 9 - Essex County  
Terry Nevins & Bill Copeck

Area 10 - Somerset County  
Stephanie Johnson

Area 11 - Mercer County  
Patrick Jackson

Area 12 - Bergen County  
Garth D. Brown & Tami Moses

Area 13 - Burlington County  
Kate Maloney

The Board of Trustees and staff of Special Olympics New Jersey would like to recognize the Area Directors for their ongoing commitment to our movement, and for the lifetime of dedication they have given to the athletes, their families and to the organization. Thank you!

# AWARD CATEGORIES & RECIPIENTS

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## Outstanding Athlete

For Special Olympics New Jersey athletes - one from each of the 13 Areas, who have shown determination and dedication to training and an increased proficiency in any sport at any competition level.

### Award Recipients:

- Area 1 - Louis Otero
- Area 2 - Hannah Bermeo
- Area 3 - Thomas Schoch
- Area 4 - Erica Schaefer
- Area 5 - Linsey Armus
- Area 6 - Jacob Coupe
- Area 7 - Patrick McGuire
- Area 8 - Laird Williams
- Area 9 - Isaiah Vega
- Area 10 - Jodi Hadam
- Area 11 - Steven Alicea
- Area 12 - Christine Cush
- Area 13 - Ciylen Bowman

## Individual

### Special Olympics New Jersey Hall of Fame

For an individual with at least 10 years of involvement with Special Olympics New Jersey who has advanced the Special Olympics movement in one of the categories of sports and training, fundraising, or public awareness.

- Award Recipients: Dave "The Rave" Robbins & Roberto Hernandez Sr.

### Marc S. Edenzon Lifetime Achievement Award

For an individual with at least 15 years of involvement with the Special Olympics movement who has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment and compassion to the athletes of Special Olympics New Jersey.

- Award Recipient: Lillian Narvaez

## Support

### Outstanding Local Training Program

For the program that has shown the best example of high-quality sports training for Special Olympics New Jersey athletes.

- Award Recipient: David Gregory

### Outstanding Volunteer Family

For the family of a Special Olympics athlete that has demonstrated unique and outstanding support of the Special Olympics movement and athletes.

- Award Recipient: Freed Family

### Outstanding Volunteer Coach

For an individual coach in any Special Olympics sport who has demonstrated a high degree of technical skill and personal commitment to preparing athletes for participation in Special Olympics New Jersey events.

- Award Recipient: Michele Cornell

### Outstanding Volunteer Official

For exemplary voluntary service by an individual sports official at Special Olympics New Jersey state competitions and events.

- Award Recipient: Fall Games Cycling Team

### Outstanding Volunteer - State Level

For exemplary voluntary service by an individual to Special Olympics New Jersey at state competitions and events.

- Award Recipient: Dave Larkin

### Outstanding Volunteer - Area Level

For exemplary voluntary service by an individual to Special Olympics New Jersey at area competitions and events.

- Award Recipient: Sandra Hanzok

### Outstanding Volunteer Group

For exemplary voluntary service by a group to Special Olympics New Jersey.

- Award Recipient: Johnson & Johnson

# AWARD CATEGORIES & RECIPIENTS

## Support

### Outstanding Unified School Award

For a school that has demonstrated a superior commitment to inclusion, acceptance, respect and dignity for all by integrating Special Olympics Initiatives into their school programs and culture, and embracing the motto, "Play Unified. Live Unified."

- **Award Recipient: B. Bernice Young Elementary School, Burlington Twp., NJ**

## Special Recognition

### Spirit Award

For individuals who have advanced the mission of Special Olympics New Jersey through year-round support and innovation.

#### **Award Recipients:**

#### **Snow Bowl Games Management Team**

- Chris Malkin
- Eric Nellessen
- Ken Sobek

#### **Award Recipient:**

- Seth Boyarsky

#### **Award Recipient:**

- Lisa Wilhelm

### Law Enforcement Torch Run Hall of Fame Award

For an individual who has demonstrated a superior contribution to the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey.

- **Award Recipient: Robert Belfiore**

### Bessie Perlman Achievement Award

For a Special Olympics New Jersey athlete who has demonstrated a dedication to sportsmanship and success in the community.

- **Award Recipient: Michele Asher-Coddington**

### S. Michael Higgins Special Olympics Scholarship

For a Special Olympics New Jersey athlete who has demonstrated dedication to sport through a commitment to training.

- **Award Recipient: Daisy DeSimone**



# YEAR-ROUND CORPORATE PARTNERS

## CHAMPION PARTNER



## LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS



## DIAMOND PARTNERS



## PREMIER PARTNERS



## PLATINUM PARTNERS



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Healthcare Quality Strategies Foundation



TOMMY HILFIGER ADAPTIVE



# YEAR-ROUND CORPORATE PARTNERS

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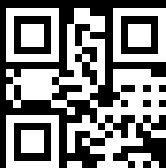
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