Area 12 – Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties

**OUR MISSION**
To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families, other Special Olympic athletes, and the community.

**OUR GOAL**
To help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition, and by increasing the public’s awareness of their capabilities and needs.

**THE BENEFITS**
Athletes who participate in Special Olympics improve physical fitness and motor skills, develop self-esteem and confidence, make friends and increase family support. Special Olympic athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom and on the job. Families become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athlete’s abilities and community volunteers find out what a good friend the athletes can be.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with intellectual disabilities who registers to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics General Rules.

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA**
Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 12 encompasses all of Allegan, Ottawa & Muskegon Counties. Area 12 currently has an average of 550+ athletes involved in the program.

**VOLUNTEERS**
Area 12 relies on the dedicated support of volunteers who offer their time and talents in a number of ways, including coaching, chaperoning athletes at events, assisting with fund raising and helping run local events and games.

**FUNDING**
Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding. Generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals, and statewide businesses enable the program to continue. Area 12 has an annual budget that funds year-round programs for the athletes in Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. Donations to Special Olympics Michigan-Area 12 can be made by mail to the Special Olympics MI Area 12 address below.

**AREA 12 MANAGEMENT TEAM**
- Mark Dalman – Area Director
- Sandy Marlink – Asst. Area Dir. / Local Coordinator/Ottawa County East
- Jeff Grabber – Local Coordinator/Allegan County
- Sharon DeWit – Local Coordinator/ Ottawa County (Lakeshore)
- Tim Hichue – Local Coordinator/ Muskegon County
- Jeremiah Carr - Athlete Rep / Ottawa County
- Jason Muhamet - Athlete Rep / Muskegon County
- Dan Goodwin - Athlete Rep/Allegan County
- Dan Burkhed - Athlete Rep/Allegan County
- Jerry Zeerip - Equipment Rep
- Linda Boerman - Outreach Rep
- Brian Marlink - Competition Rep
- Mike and Mishel Fryman - Parent Rep
- Dee Kramer - Parent Rep
- Todd Dunham - LETR Rep
- Kathy Holkeboer - Grants & Foundations Rep
- Sally Snyder - Muskegon At Large Rep
- Shawn Phillips - Muskegon At Large Rep

Special Olympics MI
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