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 friendship with their families, other Special Olympics 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 Olympics 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 good friends athletes can be.

FUNDING
Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding. Generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue, which was a $7.7 million effort in 2016. Area 8 has an annual budget of $229,101.83 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 8 encompasses all of Ingham and Eaton Counties. Area 8 currently has an average of 3,789 athletes involved in the program.

VOLUNTEERS
Thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 8 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.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Special Olympics Michigan 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.

AREA 8 MANAGEMENT TEAM
Anne Goudie – Area Director
Meredith Moran – Assistant Area Director, Coordinator, Volunteer Rep., YAP Coordinator
Elizabeth Viele – Athlete Rep.
Don Perry – Coordinator
Stacey Cassell – Coordinator
Paul Frank – Coordinator
Jordan Johnson – Coordinator
Cindy Hyaduck – Coordinator, Public Relations Rep.
Val Suszko – Coordinator, Fundraising Rep.
Ken Boyd – Member at Large

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