

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**Special
Olympics**
Missouri



Central Area/HQ 305 Special Olympics Dr. Jefferson City, MO 65101

Kansas City Metro Area 9237 Ward Parkway, Suite 306 Kansas City, MO 64114

North Area 3725 Gene Field Rd., Ste. B, St Joseph, MO 64506

Southeast Area 1625 N. Kingshighway Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Southwest Area 3524 S. National Ave. Springfield, MO 65807

St. Louis Metro Area 2945 S. Brentwood St. Louis, MO 63144

LET ME WIN. BUT IF I CANNOT WIN, LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT.

– ATHLETE OATH

LETTER FROM LARRY



SOMO President & CEO Larry Linthacum with SOMO Athlete of the Year, Namande Campbell.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am thrilled to share the incredible progress Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) achieved throughout 2025. This past year demonstrated our unwavering commitment to building confidence in individuals with intellectual disabilities through the transformative power of sports.

At the heart of our work is the SOMOJO spirit—the warm, unifying energy that shines at every event we host. Through the continued success of our SOMOJO4ALL campaign, we are reminded daily that SOMO is truly for everyone—athletes, coaches, volunteers and our generous supporters.

Our statewide competitions reached new heights this year, showcasing the determination and resilience of our athletes. From Area Competitions to our State Games, each event celebrated sportsmanship, personal achievement and the inclusive spirit that defines SOMO.

SOMO is making a meaningful impact. Today, 88% of Special Olympics athletes report increased self-confidence through participation. Special Olympics athletes are 49% less likely to be diagnosed with depression, and 52% are employed—compared to just 19% of the overall population with intellectual disabilities. These outcomes inspire us as we continue expanding opportunities for athletes across Missouri.

The growth we experienced in 2025 was remarkable. Athlete participation increased by 17.7%, health screenings grew by 53.8%, athlete leadership participation rose by 32.4%, and our Unified Champion Schools program expanded by nearly 40%. In a significant milestone for inclusion, the MSHSAA Board of Directors approved SOMO in 2025, allowing students with intellectual disabilities to participate in activities through Missouri's state activities association.

Our fundraising efforts were equally inspiring. The support shown at Polar Plunges and other community events provides vital resources for our programs while demonstrating the strength of communities united behind our athletes.

Meanwhile, our Training for Life Campus remained a hub of activity, offering programs like Healthy Hustle, workshops and community engagement opportunities that help athletes grow, connect and thrive.

Thank you for your continued passion and support. Together, we are building a lasting legacy of empowerment, inclusion and achievement for athletes across Missouri.

Thank you for being an essential part of the SOMO story.

Sincerely,

Larry Linthacum
President
& CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Linthacum".

STATEWIDE SPONSORS



INDEPENDENT STAVE COMPANY



University of Missouri

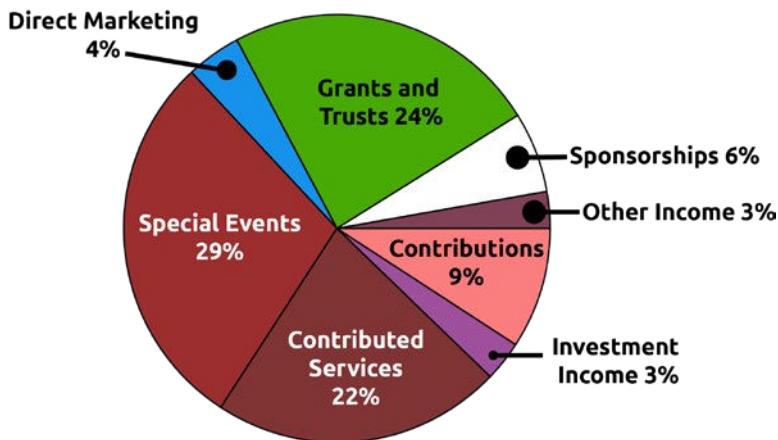


University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

2025 Financials

Funding Sources — \$7,695,657

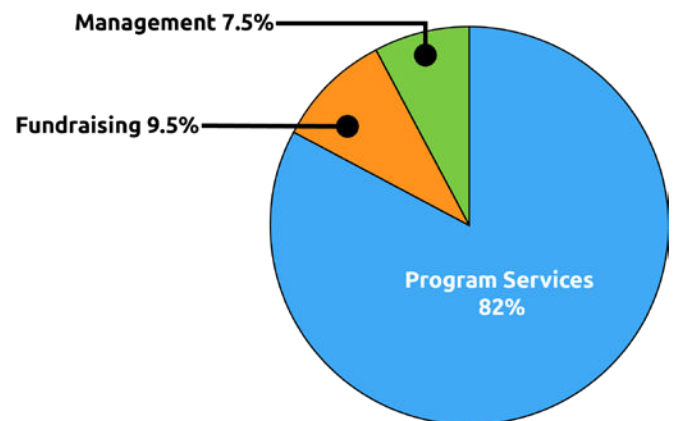
Transfer from Affiliate: \$1,000	Sponsorships: \$477,208
Contributed Services: \$1,690,439	Investment Income: \$217,812
Special Events: \$2,210,788	Other Income: \$192,464
Contributions: \$712,317	
Grants & Trusts: \$1,850,384	
Direct Marketing: \$343,245	



Funding Uses — \$6,098,580

Program Services: \$5,059,814
Fundraising: \$575,718
Management: \$463,048

**Pending upcoming audit in spring 2026*



Assets — \$22,857,030

Cash/Cash Equivalents: \$1,774,694	Fixed Assets: \$14,886,617
Investments: \$5,464,310	
Receivables: \$551,268	
Prepaid Expenses: \$61,491	
Inventory: \$16,751	
Total Current Assets: \$7,970,414	

Liabilities & Net Assets — \$22,857,030

Accounts Payable: \$55,224	Long-Term Liabilities: \$308,463
Current Debt: \$0	Total Liabilities: \$308,463
Accrued Vacation: \$0	
Accrued Expenses: \$75	
Agency Liabilities: \$244,505	Without Donor Restriction Assets: \$20,667,861
Due to SEF: \$0	With Donor Restriction Assets: \$1,581,072
Total Current Liabilities: \$299,634	Total Net Assets: \$22,248,933

2026 GOALS

**Special
Olympics**
Missouri



Vision



PREMIER

Goals

**Increase
Participation**

**Charity
of
Choice**

**Tell
Our
Story**

Self-Confidence

Life Expectancy

#SOMOJO

Employment

Mental Health

Values

**Unity
&
Teamwork**

Excellence

Accountability

Optimism

Integrity



SOMO "IGNITES" the Champion in all of us!

2025 AWARDS BANQUET

SOMO celebrated its 2025 Hall of Fame class and annual award winners at the Awards Banquet at the Training for Life Campus. Jared Niemeyer, Dianna Neihouse and Linda Tyler were inducted into the SOMO Hall of Fame. Award winners included Namande Campbell (Outstanding Athlete), Emma Bastarche (Outstanding Coach), Jamie McKinnon (Outstanding Volunteer), the Smith Family (Outstanding Family) and Casey Davison & UMKC (Community Champion of the Year).

2025 ALPS GRADUATION

SOMO celebrated the graduation of six athletes from the Athlete Leadership Program, who completed their coursework and earned their degrees: Abby Bax, Joseph Collins, Kayla Dannemueller, Kenlee Lewis, Eric Schmidt and Lynn Shuffit.

EVENING WITH ANDY REID

The 5th Annual Evening with Andy Reid, June 4, was a resounding success, celebrating Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) athletes. The sold-out event featured strong representation by SOMO athletes, highlighting their achievements and the organization's impact. Attendees enjoyed an engaging program, including interactions with Coach Reid and inspiring stories from the athletes.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

SOMO's commitment to health and wellness in 2025 was demonstrated through the Healthy Athletes program, which provided 2,159 free health screenings to athletes. Additionally, 171 athletes participated in Train 4 Life, a 12-week functional fitness program designed to promote healthy lifestyles and improved physical fitness.

TEAM MISSOURI

Special Olympics Missouri hosted the 2025 Team Missouri Selection Camp June 22-27 at the Missouri Military Academy. Athletes, Unified partners and coaches trained and competed for a spot on Team MO Magic for the 2026 USA Games in Minneapolis, marking the official start of the road to the USA Games.

BEYOND THE FIELD

Kansas City Chiefs defensive end George Karlaftis partnered with Special Olympics Missouri for the Beyond the Field event, which featured a mini camp for athletes and an evening celebration supporting SOMO's mission. Karlaftis spent time connecting with athletes and helping raise funds to expand opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

2025 DRIVE IT HOME RAFFLE

The 2025 Drive it Home Raffle, powered by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for SOMO, raised more than \$103,000 for SOMO. Alex Vu, from our Southwest Area, won the 2025 Chevy Equinox ACTIV!

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all our incredible volunteers, dedicated coaches, and Unified partners! Your time, energy, and passion make a world of difference. We couldn't have achieved all that we did in 2025 without your unwavering support. You are the heart of our community, and we're so grateful for everything you do to empower our athletes!

2025 STATE COMPETITIONS

SOMO hosted four statewide competitions in 2025: State Indoor Games (St. Charles), State Summer Games (Kirksville), State Pickleball (Jefferson City), and State Outdoor Games (Springfield). The events celebrated athleticism while highlighting the inclusive and empowering atmosphere that defines SOMO.

2025 POLAR PLUNGE

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for SOMO hosted 10 Polar Plunges across the state in 2025, raising an incredible \$950,056 for our organization. A huge thank you to all 2,400 participants for braving the cold and taking the Plunge!



2026 FACT SHEET

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI



Special Olympics transforms lives through sports, serving as the largest sports organization and a global social movement. It promotes athleticism, engages individuals with intellectual disabilities, strengthens community ties, and improves the well-being of athletes, ultimately changing the game for everyone.

- 7** National Banner School; Festus High School, Ste. Genevieve High School, Poplar Bluff High School, Odessa High School, Marquette High School, Webb City Junior High School & Lindbergh High School
- 9** Statewide Partners; Missouri Association of Student Councils, Knights of Columbus, Law Enforcement TorchRun®, Diamond Pet Foods, University of Missouri System, MU HealthCare, University of Missouri, Rusty Drawing Automotive, Andy Reid, Independent Stave & Hagale Family Arabians
- 12** Sports Offered ([SOMO.org/sports](https://www.somo.org/sports))
- 32** Athlete Leadership (ALPs) Graduates ([SOMO.org/ALPs](https://www.somo.org/ALPs))
- 40** Years of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® in Missouri ([SOMO.org/LETR](https://www.somo.org/LETR))
- 55** Years Special Olympics Missouri has been incorporated
- 114** Sport Competitions
- 120** Participating Law Enforcement Agencies
- 171** Train 4 Life Athletes (12 week Functional Fitness Program)
- 186** Unified Champion Schools & Colleges ([SOMO.org/UCS](https://www.somo.org/UCS))

- 135** Athlete Leadership participants for 2025 ([SOMO.org/ALPs](https://www.somo.org/ALPs))
- 410** Active Training for Life Campus athlete participants
- 753** Registered Coaches ([SOMO.org/coach](https://www.somo.org/coach))
- 2,159** Health screenings performed for our athletes to educate and maintain their health ([SOMO.org/health](https://www.somo.org/health))
- 2,400** Participants in the Polar Plunge ([plungemo.org](https://www.plungemo.org))
- 4,085** Participants in State events
- 5,626** Active volunteers statewide ([SOMO.org/volunteer](https://www.somo.org/volunteer))
- 14,847** Training for Life Campus visitors ([SOMO.org/campus](https://www.somo.org/campus))
- 42,574** Social media followers
- 1.5 M** Total Law Enforcement Torch Run® funds raised ([SOMO.org/LETR](https://www.somo.org/LETR))
- 6.12 M** Annual budget[^]

[^]Based on 2026 budget
*Annual information based on 2025 numbers & 2026 projections

21,151

ATHLETES STATEWIDE

Including athletes, unified partners, young athletes, UCS athletes and UCS unified partners

