



**Senior Foundation Relations Officer
Special Olympics International
Washington, DC**

Changing lives and attitudes for more than 40 years, Special Olympics (SO) has grown from a backyard summer camp to a global movement. Providing year round sports training and competitions for nearly 3.5 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) in over 170 countries, SO gives 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. Much more than a sports movement, Special Olympics is also an effective catalyst for personal and social change. Special Olympics as a movement is an equalizing force pushing past superficial differences in all people, those with and without ID, to champion the kind of collective action that drives individuals and society.

With over 200 staff worldwide and a \$100M operating budget, Special Olympics International (SOI) serves as the central governing organization of the Special Olympics Movement, coordinating and overseeing its 230 accredited Special Olympics programs, each of which is an independent entity with its own governing body and professional staff. SOI partners closely with the political, business, sports, health, education, entertainment and media leadership in each country and each state where Special Olympics Programs exist.

The Special Olympics Movement is fueled by a growing base of athletes, their families, hundreds of thousands of coaches, volunteers, fans and philanthropic supporters, and dedicated staff. The transformative power of SO comes from building powerful communities of change around its athletes, not only through training and competitions but also through healthcare services, athlete leadership and empowerment, family programs, educational outreach, school and youth initiatives, and global human rights advocacy.

Project UNIFY is an SO youth initiative designed to empower and activate young people around the country in an effort to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities and helping to create school communities where every student is included in all aspects of school life: academic, extracurricular and social. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Project UNIFY is currently a U.S. national project with the opportunity to expand across SO's global reach. Project UNIFY is youth driven, with a Youth Activation Committee (YAC) made up of young people representing middle schools, high schools and colleges nationwide. YAC members provide leadership to SO and Project UNIFY by participating in SO global events, providing advice and counsel on strategies to reach other youths, engaging in and promoting SO activities in their home environments, communicating and networking via Web connectivity with other youth around the country, and reviewing Project UNIFY materials for innovation and viability.



SOI seeks a Senior Foundation Relations Officer (SFRO) who will devise and implement strategies to increase Special Olympics' funding support from foundations, and other non-corporate private and public partnerships, with a specific focus on (but not limited to) areas of youth engagement, education, school climate and service-learning. Working in hand-in-hand with the Senior Director of Project UNIFY and serving as a member of SO's strategic gifts team, the SFRO will be responsible for identifying, cultivating and maintaining relationships with potential and current foundation partners in order to meet specific revenue targets and will serve as a resource for local Special Olympics Programs, sharing materials, referrals, proposals and best practices that will allow them to more effectively target and solicit funds from foundations that focus exclusively on their state or geographic area.

SOI is seeking a highly-motivated, entrepreneurial and seasoned development professional with 5+ years of experience in private fund development and a proven track record of closing and stewarding multi-year foundation grants in the six- and seven-figure range. Knowledge of the funding priorities and strategies of national and international foundations and grant-making institutions, ideally those focused on issues around intellectual disability, education, youth development, school climate urban your and service learning is highly desired. The role requires a keen intellect and curiosity as well as the ability to communicate effectively SO's organizational mission in ways that excite and entice donors and potential champions. The SFRO should demonstrate an exceptional talent for building and sustaining relationships both externally and internally, and for driving results collaboratively across regions, chapters and programs. S/he should have exceptional writing and communication skills necessary for tailoring messages to various audiences effectively representing SO to its diverse constituents. The SFRO will demonstrate an ability to translate long-term goals into practical action steps. Collaborative, collegial and committed to the highest standards, the Director will bring out the best in staff and will inspire others to leadership. An undergraduate degree is required, and an advanced degree is preferred. Occasional travel as well as evening and weekend activity is expected, consistent with working in a global affiliate non-profit structure.

To Apply: More information about Special Olympics International may be found at: <http://www.specialolympics.org>.

SOI has retained Nonprofit Professionals Advisory Group to assist in this recruitment. Vice President Tracy Welsh and Managing Associate Allison Kupfer are leading the search.

Due to the pace of this search, candidates are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications including a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications, your resume (in Word format), salary history and where you learned of the position should be sent to: soi-sfro@nonprofitprofessionals.com. In order to expedite the internal sorting and reviewing process, please type your name (Last, First) as the only contents in the subject line of your e-mail.

Special Olympics is an Equal Opportunity Employer, EOE M/F.