

RECORD-BREAKING PLUNGE SEASON The 2020 Polar Plunge was one for the books. More than 15,000 people participated in over 25 different events in support of Special Olympics Minnesota.

WINTER



UNIFIED GROWTH IN HIGH SCHOOLS
In February, eleven high schools in Minnesota's first-ever Unified Basketball State Tournament, laying the foundation for the future of Unified sports in Minnesota high schools.

COVID-19 IMPACT
When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Minnesota in March, all practices, competitions and fundraising events were suspended immediately. All staff transitioned to working remotely, and conversations on how to engage athletes and the larger SOMN community at home began.



NEW SPORT: SNOWSHOEING
Snowshoeing became an official Special Olympics Minnesota sport in 2020. Our first snowshoeing competitions were held in Hennepin and Itasca counties.



SPRING

SO TOGETHER VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES
With the cancellation of our events due to COVID-19, our staff innovated new, virtual ways for our athletes to stay connected. From karaoke to yoga to cooking classes, there is a SO Together activity to fit anyone's interests.

LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY EXTENDS REACH
Leadership University—a leadership training for athletes that takes place in the Twin Cities every year—went virtual. Participants from across the state were able to fine-tune their leadership skills from the safety of their own home. New in 2020 was a fall session that took place online October-November.



VIRTUAL SUMMER GAMES
Instead of throwing in the towel, our athletes rose to the occasion. Athletes from all over the state participated in basketball, gymnastics and track and field in the 2020 Virtual Summer Games. Over 300 volunteers showed their support virtually!

SUMMER



REDUCTION OF WORKFORCE
COVID-19 has caused unprecedented hardship and heartbreak for so many organizations, including Special Olympics Minnesota. In September, we made the difficult decision to reduce staff by 18% and management salaries by 20%.

PUNT, PASS & KICK DRIVE-THRU EVENT
Social distancing guidelines led to the development of our first-ever drive-thru competition. Athletes were able to compete in-person again at four safe and socially-distanced events across the state.



PARTNERSHIP WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS AFRICA
Fall Games was forced to go virtual as well, but this allowed for us to reach far beyond Minnesota's borders. Athletes from across the African region joined us in competing in softball, bocce and fitness events.

FALL



CHAMPIONS TOGETHER
Champions Together was our first-ever virtual fundraiser, hosted by Unified pair, Patrick and Megan Moffatt. The event raised over \$30,000 and was a shining display of what SOMN is all about: inclusion.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021
As we approach 2021, Special Olympics Minnesota staff continues to innovate and plan for a successful and engaging year. Here's to hoping for a triumphant return to play in 2021!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!