

**Administration Office**

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Michael P. Kelly

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April 23, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

As we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary year of Special Olympics, I want to share a few updates and encourage you to save the date for upcoming celebrations.

As you know, Special Olympics was born in Chicago at Soldier Field in July 1968 and since has grown into a worldwide movement engaging millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In April, we released a video called "[Special Olympics - Born in Chicago](#)." It has reached more than 2 million people, has been viewed more than 52,000 times and continues to be shared across Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. It features an athlete who competed in the first Special Olympics games in 1968 and continues to compete today, and Justice Anne Burke, who was the visionary for Special Olympics 50 years ago. To view the video, please visit the Park District's [Facebook page](#).

Additionally, I hope you save the below dates for a weeklong celebration, which will include:

- July 17 – 19: Unified Football Cup at Toyota Park
- July 20: Law Enforcement Torch Run and lighting of the Eternal Flame of Hope outside Soldier Field at noon
- July 21: Global Day of Inclusion at Soldier Field from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. This free, family friendly event will feature sports, games, food and entertainment for all to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics.
- July 21: Celebration concert at Huntington Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at specialolympics50.org this summer.

There are many other ways to get involved as well, including:

- Sign up to volunteer at the 50th Celebration at specialolympics50.org
- Attend a Special Olympics event this spring – and bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors! A calendar of events can be found at chicagoparkdistrict.com
- Follow and engage with the Chicago Park District on Facebook (facebook.com/ChicagoParkDistrict) and Twitter (twitter.com/chicagoparks).

If you have any questions, please contact Gerry Henaghan at 312-745-1298 or gerry.henaghan@chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Kelly".

Michael P. Kelly
General Superintendent & CEO
Chicago Park District



2014 National
Gold Medal Winner
for Excellence in Park and
Recreation Management