

Dear Plungers,

We are so very THANKFUL for each of you!

Because of your brave generosity, over 8,000 Special Olympics Minnesota athletes have opportunities to be involved in sports, healthy living, leadership and social activities they otherwise would not have.

We as a family have benefited from your generosity. Our oldest son Kellen was born with Down's Syndrome. Through the years, he watched his brother and sister get to be involved in sports activities in school, always being their biggest fan, and getting to be the water boy, or in the dug out of his brothers baseball teams. We got him involved in our local Special Olympics team 24 years ago now, and his sister, Taryn and brother, Devin cheer him on.

Through the development of the Unified Sports programs, Kellen and his brother have gotten to now compete together in sports!! They have had many wonderful opportunities through Special Olympics as a golf team. They participated in the National Invitational in California together, Kellen got to golf in the National Games in 2006 and Devin was able to be his caddie. Last fall, they again went to the National Invitational in New Jersey, bringing home the Gold!

Special Olympics has provided us with the opportunity to enjoy watching our children practice and play together, something many families take for granted. Kellen and Devin have also gotten to do several speeches promoting Unified Sports, and had the opportunity to meet many of you wonderful donors.

Kellen also enjoys the athlete leadership programs that have given him the confidence he needs to succeed as an employee and in his daily life.



Kellen knows first hand how brave you each are to participate in the Polar Plunges! He has plunged over 15 times in the past 8 years. His team has grown from 2 to 15 plus. Each year he welcomes and encourages more people to experience the thrill of the chill! He will be participating in at least 2 (if not more!) Plunges this year.

If you would like to participate or donate, go to www.plungemn.org and create your own team, join an existing team or donate to your favorite Plunger. You can search for them by name.

Without each of you, Special Olympics would not be able to offer all the wonderful opportunities to the many athletes, and Kellen is just one of them who appreciates your generous and continued support.

From our family to yours, Thank you, we have been truly blessed.

Happy Holidays to you all.....See you at the Plunges!

Sincerely,

Dawn Kaasa (Kel's Mom)