

August 26, 2019

To whom it may concern:

The athletes, their families, and supporters of the Mountain Home High Hopes Special Olympic team would like to show the impact of pool access on our athletes. We have approximately 30 athletes, ranging in age from 8 to 50+ years of age who participate regularly. We generally meet bi-weekly to train for Special Olympic sports competitions, exercise, socialize, and do community service.

Swimming is offered as a competitive sport in Special Olympics, but without an indoor pool our team has not been able to participate. With pool access our athletes could practice year-round; this would give them beneficial exercise while also encouraging self-esteem building and socialization skills. We would include adaptive water aerobics and swimming parties as additional recreational opportunities to increase their activity levels with benefits similar to competitive swimming practices.

Many of our athletes struggle with weight-management, some due to coordination and mobility issues and others because of difficulties with self-motivation/initiative; inclusive swimming is fun so would be a very positive and effective way to help our athletes with varying abilities get more physical activity which could potentially help with those issues.

We, the Mountain Home High Hopes Special Olympic team and supporters, believe that an indoor inclusive swimming pool would have significant impact upon our participants and the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

nhtc kiel Jacob Helge
 Jordan Pritchett
 Jenna Pritchett
 Blender Espinoza
 Kaydon Love
 Sherry Love
 Robert Pearson
 Jenny Stevens
 Kari Pearson
 Ethan Hanna
 Tina mesper
 Jessica mesper
 TINA Churchman
 Amy & Bawa
 Joann Grummett
 Eric Grummett
 Jenna
 Kiel