

40 YEARS

**Golisano**  
FOUNDATION

Imagine the possibilities!



Special Olympics

**Health**

MADE POSSIBLE BY **Golisano** FOUNDATION

*FEATURING*

**Global Golisano Health  
Leadership Awards**

OCTOBER 2, 2025



# Golisano

FOUNDATION  
Imagine the possibilities!

The Golisano Foundation's mission is devoted to opening doors to opportunity, changing negative perceptions and stereotypes, and forging unprecedented partnerships to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have pathways to personal dignity, independence, and the best possible expression of their abilities and talents throughout their lifetimes.

**Founded in 1985**, by Tom Golisano — entrepreneur, philanthropist, civic leader, and founder of Paychex, Inc. — Tom “imagines the possibilities.” When Tom was fortunate to have resources, he felt an obligation to put them to good use and share them to help others. In 1985, with an initial gift of \$90,000, he launched his first philanthropic endeavor by establishing the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation. Now with gross assets of more than \$120 million, **the Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in the U.S. dedicated to making the world a better place for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**



“In my entire career, I have never seen someone who applies the same degree of competitive rigor to the work they want to do on behalf of others as they apply to the work they do on behalf of themselves.”

- Tim Shriver  
*Special Olympics*

## A Special Message from Tom Golisano, Founder of the Golisano Foundation

Tim Shriver's quote accurately reflects my philosophy and beliefs on charitable giving which have deep roots for my family and me. We believe in providing support for efforts that encourage and value the entrepreneurial spirit by promoting meaningful social change, igniting passion, and encouraging risk-taking and innovation. This spirit worked well for me at Paychex; and I believe it can have a similar, positive effect on philanthropy. Without Paychex and all the people who have worked for the company over the years and who have made it so successful, I couldn't possibly have been able to help the hundreds of organizations who have received donations from the company, the Golisano Foundation or from me personally. My thanks go out to them on behalf of all the people we have assisted over the past forty years.

Promoting projects that enhance the dignity and independence of individuals and that build inclusive communities is a

cause that is close to my heart. Over the years, we've created remarkable facilities, communitywide initiatives, supported cutting-edge work and lifesaving care. We've helped train medical professionals to increase access to quality care, provided transition information and navigation services, partnered with multimedia programs, and changed societal perspectives.

One of my favorite sayings is **“the only wealth you get to keep is that which you give away,”** and I'm so lucky to be able to live that out. The work of my personal philanthropy and the Golisano Foundation over the past 40 years is the result of our unyielding commitment to our mission and the many genuine partnerships formed where together, we, imagined the possibilities.

*Tom Golisano*

# 40 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY

Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation – Champions who amplify the voices of those advocating for their dignity and rights, helping people to realize their full potential and talents.

**\$900,000,000**

Total of Tom Golisano's personal philanthropy from 1985-2025

**\$43,586,897**

Golisano Foundation's total grantmaking from 1985-2025

**\$762,600**

Bailey and Friends' total grantmaking from 2019-2025

**\$944,349,497**

Grand total of Tom Golisano's personal philanthropy and the Golisano Foundation's grantmaking, including Bailey and Friends

Tom Golisano's philanthropic interests are health and wellness (including children's hospitals), intellectual and developmental disabilities, education, community, and animal welfare.

Since 1985, the Golisano Foundation and Bailey and Friends has provided grant support to a total of

**448**

unique nonprofit organizations

Tom Golisano's personal philanthropy since 2015 has tripled in the last 10 years going from

**\$257,696,000**

to

**\$900,000,000**

There are currently four Golisano Children's Hospitals on the east coast that bear Tom's name:



**3**

**New York**  
Rochester  
Syracuse  
Buffalo

**1**

**Florida**  
Fort Myers

For more information on Tom Golisano's philanthropy and the Golisano Foundation's giving, please visit [golisanofoundation.org](http://golisanofoundation.org) or scan the QR code



# Golisano Foundation Leadership

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

B. Thomas Golisano  
*Chairman*

David Still

Philip J. DiPasquale

Mary Walsh Boatfield

Cenette Burdine

William W. Destler, PhD

Charles Graham

Steve Salluzzo

Tom Hammond

Tom Clark  
*Trustee Emeritus*

## FOUNDATION AND FISHERS ASSET MANAGEMENT STAFF

Erica Dayton  
*Executive Director*

Kaitlin McNamara  
*Managing Director of  
Bailey and Friends*

Hilary Argentieri  
*IDD Grant Specialist*

Matt Ray  
*Fishers Asset Managemet*

David Bovenzi  
*Fishers Asset Management*

Christine Bouchard  
*Fishers Asset Management*

Susan Pecor  
*Administration*

# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS' GLOBAL GOLISANO HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

*Golisano Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship*

**5:00pm** Cocktail Reception

**6:15pm** Golisano Foundation's 40th Anniversary Dinner Program and Global Golisano Health Leadership Award Ceremony

## WELCOME

Ian Mortimer

*President of the Golisano Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship*

## GOLISANO FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Tom Golisano

*Founder of the Golisano Foundation*

## GOLISANO FOUNDATION'S VIDEO UNVEILING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WXXI

Erica Dayton

*Golisano Foundation's Executive Director*

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS PARTNERSHIP AND GLOBAL GOLISANO HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD HISTORY

Ann Costello

*Golisano Foundation's Former Executive Director*

## GLOBAL GOLISANO HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

Yeruult Batbayar and Margaret Turley, Sargent Shriver Global Messengers and Timothy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics

*Special Olympics*

**8:30pm** Desserts by Special Touch Bakery



Move to Include™ is a multimedia initiative founded in 2014 as a partnership between WXXI Public Media in Rochester, NY (a PBS member) and the Golisano Foundation. Move to Include™ was designed to promote inclusion in all facets of life for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Through programming and special events, WXXI and the Golisano Foundation are building a more inclusive community by inspiring and motivating people to embrace different abilities and include all people in every aspect of community life.

A special thank you to WXXI for creating the Golisano Foundation's video capturing Tom Golisano's pioneering spirit and the Golisano Foundation's positive impact touching millions of lives.



**Special Touch**  
BAKERY®

Special Touch Bakery's mission is believing that everyone deserves an opportunity to pursue their passion, build a meaningful career, and earn a competitive wage for a job well done. Every day the bakery provides bakers opportunities that may not have existed otherwise providing meaningful employment and producing high-quality baked goods. Bakers are given opportunities to learn new skills, try new things, and find greater purpose in life.

With heartfelt gratitude, thank you Special Touch Bakery for making the delicious pies for tonight's celebration for all to enjoy!

# The Golisano Foundation and Special Olympics Partnership



Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation have provided more than **\$145 million** to improve the health of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by expanding access to inclusive health in their communities year-round.

This includes the global partnership with Special Olympics which strives to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people. Through the power of sports, people with intellectual disabilities discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. Athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment—on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.

**The Global Golisano Health Leadership Awards recognize health champions — leaders and organizations — that are making a significant contribution to equal access to health, fitness or wellness for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The award also promotes awareness for the progress and extraordinary efforts toward fulfilling the goals, values, and mission of Special Olympics Health work. This is the highest Special Olympics honor for health partners.**



Special Olympics  
**Health**

MADE  
POSSIBLE BY **Golisano** FOUNDATION

# 2025 GLOBAL GOLISANO HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



**DR. SIMEON AFOLABI**

*Clinical Director, Healthy Hearing – Special Olympics Nigeria*

**Dr. Simeon Afolabi** is an audiologist with over 25 years of experience in public and private sectors across Nigeria. As the Founder and CEO of BSA Speech and Language Centre and a Healthy Hearing Clinical Director for Special Olympics Nigeria, he has significantly improved access to inclusive audiology services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through his work with Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®, he has organized over 30 Healthy Hearing screenings across rural and urban communities in five of Nigeria's six geopolitical regions. Dr.

Afolabi is also passionate about expanding inclusive health training for healthcare workers across the country. He has trained an estimated 700 healthcare professionals and 1,000 medical students on how to provide audiological care for people with IDD. **Through Dr. Afolabi's leadership, medical professionals develop better communication skills and deeper understandings of the unique healthcare needs of Special Olympics athletes and all people with IDD, fostering more inclusive healthcare experiences and outcomes.**



**DR. YOUSEF ALAWADHI**

*Regional Clinical Director - Special Olympics Kuwait*

**Dr. Yousef Alawadhi** is a dentist and a Regional Clinical Advisor for Special Olympics Kuwait. He has been involved in the Special Olympics movement since 2019 after first attending the World Games in Abu Dhabi. Following the Games, he established Special Olympics Kuwait's first Special Olympics Healthy Athletes discipline, Special Olympics Special Smiles®. In the 6 years since, Dr. Alawadhi helped expand the scope of healthcare available to athletes, leading to the establishment of seven health disciplines within Special Olympics Kuwait. He has been a driving force for greater inclusive health programming for Special Olympics Kuwait by recruiting dentists to participate in Special Smiles and offering athletes tailored follow up care in his private clinic. He's also been a vital force in donating and

securing medical equipment donations for Special Olympics Kuwait, including by forging a partnership with Philips Sonicare to provide electric toothbrushes to athletes free of charge.

Beyond his work with Special Olympics, Dr. Alawadhi is engaged in a range of oral health humanitarian initiatives in underserved regions and refugee camps around the world.

**Dr. Alawadhi is driven by service and community, in less than a decade, Dr. Alawadhi has helped transform the health programming available to athletes through Special Olympics Kuwait.**





## **DR. KELLYE KNUEPPEL**

*Clinical Director, Opening Eyes – Special Olympics Wisconsin*

*Regional Clinical Advisor – Special Olympics North America/Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Foundation Opening Eyes® Program*

**Dr. Kellye Knueppel** has been an integral part of growing the Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Foundation Opening Eyes® discipline of Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® for over 24 years in her home state of Wisconsin, across North America, and around the world.

Since the start of the Opening Eyes screening program at Special Olympics Wisconsin in 2001, Dr. Knueppel has overseen 6,579 Opening Eyes screenings and trained hundreds of healthcare students and professionals in Wisconsin in addition to training Clinical Directors in other states and countries. Because of Dr. Knueppel's expertise, dedication, and investment in Opening Eyes, Special Olympics athletes have, and continue to, receive world-class care and education.

This work has improved the quality of life for athletes in big ways and small – from athletes seeing better due to new glasses, increasing their bowling averages, and improving their overall health and joy. Beyond Wisconsin, Dr. Knueppel has participated in the Opening Eyes Program at nine Special Olympics World Games over the past several years.

**Dr. Knueppel's passion for vision care coupled with her belief in the transformative power of sport have fueled the immeasurable impact and joy she's brought athletes and healthcare professionals for several decades.**



## **DR. SHAMSIYA MURAT**

*Clinical Director – Special Olympics Mongolia*

**Dr. Shamsiya Murat** has been involved with Special Olympics since 2015, and in that time, she's played a variety of important roles in initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access and care for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

For over 25 years, Dr. Murat has been working as a pediatric ophthalmologist in Mongolia's only public children's hospital. Here, Dr. Murat independently translated and distributed the eye screening guidelines published by Special Olympics, which are now widely used by medical professionals in Mongolia. In addition to expanding adoption of inclusive materials among medical professionals, Dr. Murat has organized various training sessions for healthcare professionals on how to

deliver inclusive services to people with IDD. These trainings have helped raise awareness of the health needs of people with IDD among medical practitioners, effectively reducing stigma, and fostering empathy and understanding in healthcare settings. Through compassionate and early diagnosis, Dr. Murat's efforts have helped prevent vision loss and address other significant health concerns, often faced by individuals with IDD.

**Dr. Murat's involvement with Special Olympics has not only been life-changing for her, but also for her children as her son and both of her daughters have volunteered with Special Olympics.**

Her youngest daughter served on the Special Olympics East Asia Youth Leadership Council.



## DR. MARÍA TERESA BARÁN WASILCHUK

Minister of Health - Paraguay

**Dr. María Teresa Barán Wasilchuk** serves as the Minister of Health in Paraguay. Since taking office, she has made inclusive health a national priority, driving significant progress in transforming both practices and policies to better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Among her early initiatives, Dr. Barán formally recognized the health needs of people with disabilities at the national level by launching two key resources: A Guideline for the Appropriate Treatment of People with Intellectual Disabilities for Health Professionals and The Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder. She also led the reactivation of the National Council for Public Policies on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Furthermore, under Dr. Barán's leadership, the Ministry of Health initiated a three-year strategic collaboration with Special Olympics Paraguay to address health disparities faced by individuals with IDD.

This mission is deeply personal for Dr. Barán, who is a surgeon and family medicine specialist by training and has volunteered with Special Olympics, organizing Family Health Forums and participating in Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® events.

**Dr. Barán's leadership has positioned Paraguay as a model for how health systems can become more inclusive when they prioritize the needs of individuals with IDD.**



## PROF. DR. TOH TECK HOCK

Regional Clinical Advisor, Health Promotion – Special Olympics Asia Pacific

Clinical Director, Health Promotion and MedFest, Special Olympics Malaysia



**Dr Toh Teck Hock**, is a seasoned pediatrician committed to ensuring that all children – regardless of disability status – receive the access and support they need to live a healthy life and thrive in school and beyond. In 2006, he founded the Agape Center, a one-stop children's developmental clinic in Sarawak, Malaysia aimed at early diagnosis detection and early childhood intervention (ECI). In 2023, Agape guided more than 200 preschoolers with IDD through the ECI program, successfully integrating over 80% of children into various preschool programs. This same year, nearly 50% of ECI graduates with autism transitioned to mainstream primary school classes.

Beyond Sarawak, Dr. Toh is a champion for inclusive health in the wider Malaysia and

Asia Pacific region. He is a Clinical Director for the Health Promotion discipline of Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® for Special Olympics Malaysia and a Regional Clinical Advisory for Health Promotion for Special Olympics Asia Pacific. He's also helped shape policies related to IDD inclusion through serving on various committees in the Malaysian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

**Dr. Toh's approach to his work emphasizes the power of both community-level engagement and country-level partnerships to create lasting, inclusive health systems.**





## ULSTER UNIVERSITY – NORTHERN IRELAND

**Ulster University** in Northern Ireland has supported and strengthened numerous aspects of Special Olympics Ireland health programming since 2013, focusing on prevention, fitness, and family education. Through this work, Ulster has been an advocate for improving healthcare access for Special Olympics athletes and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through educating and training students and forging community-based partnerships.

Ulster University equips its students with the necessary skills for addressing the needs of individuals with IDD through incorporating modules on IDD in multiple degree programs including medical, nursing, and allied health professional degrees. In addition, Ulster University has also collaborated with regional health authorities, such as the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland to develop community-based health initiatives that prioritize individuals with IDD.

Ulster University has been a long-term supporter of comprehensive prevention and fitness initiatives for people with IDD, which is reflected in the University's research and advocacy interests. For example, Ulster facilitated a series of workshops aimed at exploring the adoption of whole school approaches to physical activity in special education schools. This included incorporating movement into classroom activities, promoting active play during breaks, encouraging active travel to and from school, and engaging the entire school community in physical activity initiatives.

**Through its leadership in partnerships, policy advocacy, and self-advocacy promotion, Ulster University exemplifies a commitment to creating a world where individuals with IDD receive the equitable care they deserve.**



# A Special Thank You from Erica Dayton, the Golisano Foundation's Executive Director

Over the past 40 years, Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation have become beacons of hope for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through remarkable philanthropy and unprecedented partnership, blueprints for change and systemic shifts towards a more inclusive world have ignited a movement of profound impact.

**Together, with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities leading the way, we are breaking down barriers and silos, imagining all possibilities. We thank you for being an instrumental part of this transformative and collective effort as well as sharing in tonight's special celebrations.**

Please visit the website to view photos and videos from the 40th Anniversary event, as well as information about Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation's impact over the last 40 years.



To visit the Foundation's Website, **please scan the QR code.**



