



## Maintaining Partners for Data Collection

*Maintaining partners for data collection is vital to your program. Just like any other relationship, efforts should be made on both ends to maintain a meaningful relationship between a partner and the Special Olympics program.*

- **Saying thank you:** Partners want to know that their time is appreciated and also like being recognized in the community. Some ways of handling this can be sending a simple thank you card, placing the site's name on a banner, or putting a list of partners on your website.
- **Respecting their time:** Partners are dedicating their time to Special Olympics because they believe in the organization and its mission. Being aware and sensitive to the time that they are giving will lead to a positive experience for both the partners and your Special Olympics program.
- **Asking for feedback:** Getting partners' perspectives on events that you have held will help you to understand what's working and not working for volunteers. Suggestions can potentially help with the efficiency of your events and can also help you generate ideas for better ways to collect the data. Having partners share their experiences will help your program improve future events.
- **Sharing their impact:** People enjoy seeing the fruits of their work. Sharing how a partners experience positively impacts your Special Olympics program will keep volunteers engaged and connected to the program.
- **Inviting them to other area events:** Relationships are important when volunteering! Inviting partners to other special events, such as dances or fundraisers, will allow them to feel connected to the program. This will also give them a sense of connection to their community.