Special Olympics International, 50th Anniversary Practicum

VISION

In 2018, the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics movement will celebrate the revolutionary accomplishments that have transformed the lives and hopes of people with intellectual disabilities around the globe. Through a sustained campaign, Special Olympics is looking to highlight the great work of the past 50 years and create a visionary program to gain momentum and progress for a world of inclusion and justice. The campaign will consist of a programmatic series of events and activations that will raise awareness and create an environment where individuals with and without disabilities can live in harmony. The goals of the campaign are

GOALS

1: Generate new supporters and funds for Special Olympics
2: Raise global awareness of Special Olympics and its historic and cultural role in the fight for awareness and rights for people with intellectual disabilities
3: Recognize Special Olympics contributors over the past 50 years
4: Inspire and engage the next generation

Culmination: Drive the Strategic Plan and create a legacy for the 50th Anniversary

PRACTICUM PROGRAM TITLE

Special Olympics International, 50th Anniversary: Historical Archiving and Preservation

BRIEF DESCRIPTION / PROPOSED APPROACH

Special Olympics is not only one of the largest sports movements in the world but also a human rights movement; using sports as the catalyst, we are fighting injustice, intolerance and inactivity to create a more inclusive world for all. As part of our efforts, we are working to archive the many years of documents, photos, and videos, and are in discussions with the Smithsonian, Chicago Museum of History and others to help us highlight the life changing story of Special Olympics.

PRACTICUM GOALS & TASKS

• Evaluate, organize and catalogue assets in the DC HQ office and Iron Mountain storage facility
• Maintain relationships and realistic working pipelines with the Smithsonian, Chicago Museum of History, etc. for physical exhibition initiatives and assist in creation of exhibit
• Reach out to supporters / primary sources for exhibits
• Support the creation of a virtual exhibit to be shared and used by Special Olympics Programs in 170 nations
• Create and support a digital library roll out for worldwide participation online
• Resource preparation for a sustainable archive, adaptable for the next 50 years

SKILLS REQUIRED

• Attention to detail
• Knowledge of metadata and issues related to information organization
• Strong research skills
• Deep interest in establishing a cataloging system for a global NGO

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE PROVIDED BY PRACTICUM

• Inventory, analysis and processing of archival materials for a digital archive
• Online exhibit creation
• Digital library creation
• Creation of a digital archive
• Finding aids creation
• Cataloging and metadata creation and management

Number of students requested for this practicum: Two (2) per semester

Anticipated time commitment needed per student: Students will work for a total of 120 hours per practicum. Students can expect to work for 8 hours or more each week. Work schedules will be worked out with supervisors.

Location: Special Olympics International HQ (1133 19th St NW, Washington, D.C. 20036) and Iron Mountain storage facility (Virginia)

Practicum Supervisors: Special Olympics official and a faculty member of the LIS Dept. at Catholic University of America

Expected START DATE for practicum: Fall Semester and Spring Semester

Expected END DATE for practicum: After students have completed 120 hours of field experience on site

Organization URL: www.specialolympics.org

Application Procedure: Interested students will submit a resume and cover letter to Peter Wheeler, Chief and Executive Producer, 50th Anniversary (pwheeler@specialolympics.org) by
July 31, 2016 for Fall 2016 Practicum. Application results will be shared with applicants by August 8, 2016.

Applications for Spring Practicum should be received no later than November 1, 2016 and applicants will be notified by November 11, 2016.

Please direct questions to Peter Wheeler, Chief and Executive Producer, 50th Anniversary (pwheeler@specialolympics.org).