



Brightfield Shadi, Botswana

Brightfield is from Botswana, where he was raised by his aunt. She helped him through school and then, in 2008, they found a Special Olympics program which, he says, changed his life. At age 18, he began in athletics - the 100-meter and 200-meter - and won silver at the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens. Then it was on to football (soccer) and volleyball. He is now coaching a unified volleyball team that trained for the 2015 World Summer Games in Los Angeles. Brightfield loves being a coach because he can bring the power of Special Olympics sports to more people with intellectual disabilities.

Currently, he coaches athletes in football at two primary schools. He is also a volleyball coach in his home village of Serowe. He has also gone through athlete leadership training and enjoys public speaking. When he is not involved in sports or working with the athlete leadership council, Brightfield was accepted to the National Service Program where he is employed full time as an assistant teacher at a primary school. He also has a certificate in carpentry and screen prints T-shirts to sell in his community. Brightfield says he's a different person than he was before getting involved in Special Olympics. "Now, I am a person who believes in myself and also that everything happens for a reason."



Jasmine Sharif, Pakistan

Jasmine Sharif is from Karachi, Pakistan and works in the Special Olympics Pakistan head office. She started as a swimmer and participated at World Summer Games held in China and at SOAP games in Australia. Jasmine is a Board Member of SO Pakistan and Co-Chairperson of Special Olympics Asia Pacific Athlete Input Council. She trains fellow Athlete Leaders in improving their leadership skills. She volunteers at Young Athletes and Healthy Athletes events. She loves to listen to music, and surf on the resources page of the Special Olympics website. She also enjoys listening to motivational speeches on YouTube, and changing the lives of people with Special Olympics.

Jasmine is so excited to be a member of GIAC and promises to do her best in making a difference in the lives of her fellow athletes.



Julio Barrera, Panama

Julio's first experience in leadership was in 2005 when he represented the athletes in a conference in Japan. He started working in 2013 at an airline company in Panama, COPA AIRLINES in the service on board department, which he really enjoys.

He started to get to know Special Olympics when he attended the states special education school and then a vocational state center for people with disability. He was 13 years old when these institutions allied with Special Olympics. It was there that he participated for the first time in a swimming competition, and won a gold and silver medal. He then moved on to play football. In his free time he likes running, going to the movies, listening to music, and dancing.

"I feel honored to be named part of GAIC. I will represent the best I can and provide ideas to improve the athletic quality of all athletes. I will teach how important sport is and how it changes attitudes and life."



Ken Melvin, Vice President, Indiana

Ken Melvin, from Russellville, Indiana, works as operator at Badger Daylighting. He was also a member of the Indiana National Guard from 2007-2013. A Special Olympics athlete for 24 years, Ken has served a variety of committees throughout his Athlete Leadership career. A graduate of Indiana's ALPs University, he now teaches the Leadership Capstone class in Indiana as well as Missouri. He has chaired his county Input Council and serves on the Indiana ALPs Management Team; he is a past member of the SO Indiana Board of Directors. Beyond his work for Indiana, he served on the Global Athlete Task Force at the 2010 Global Congress in Morocco; made a presentation at the Special Olympics North America Conference in 2013; and was a member of Vice President Biden's delegation to the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens as well as presenting the colors during Opening Ceremonies of the 2015 World Summer Games in Los Angeles. He is

currently serving on the North America Athlete Input Council.

Ken is a certified coach and accomplished Global Messenger, having keynoted the 2012 International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference and the 2009 Special Olympics Arizona Breakfast of Champions. Ken's experience, skills and knowledge have enabled him to become a mentor and role model for many athlete leaders and volunteers around the world. Beyond Special Olympics, Ken enjoys spending time with his friends and family and vacationing with his wonderful wife. Ken believes the Global Athlete Input Council will play a significant role in determining the future for Special Olympics and furthering goals and programs that athletes believe are important.



Micheline Van Hees, Belgium

Micheline Van Hees is from Hoeilaart, a small town in Belgium. She joined Special Olympics Belgium more than 10 years ago. Although a former swimmer, she is now into bocce. In her sport club she is also a respected assistant coach in swimming and athletics. Micheline is an active member of the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Belgium. On an international level she takes part into the European Eurasia Leadership Council, European Athlete Input Council and now also the Global Athlete Input Council. She loves to speak to other athletes so she can represent them on a higher level. That is also her aim for the GAIC, to represent the European athletes in the best possible way. In 2014, Micheline was chosen to be one of the 14 athlete ambassadors of the Special Olympics European Summer Games that were organized in 2014 in Antwerp, Belgium. Even now she has remained a strong ambassador for the Belgian organization. In her spare time she volunteers in a local senior home close to where she lives.



Nada Al Rachid, Tunisia

Nada Al Rachid is from Tunisia. She works as a sport coach in “AL Walid Sports Center” for people with Intellectual Disabilities, in Ariana, Tunisia. Prior to her experience with Special Olympics, Nada has been a trainee in “AL Walid Sports Center” for people with Intellectual Disabilities which offered her the opportunity to join Special Olympics and make a wide variety of sports achievements both at the National and International levels. Thanks to her experience, Nada is now inspiring other people to follow her lead through her work as a trainer and her close relationship with the children in whom she sees hope.

In her free time, Nada is a keen singer and has participated in different music events notably two live concerts at the National Tunisian Theatre. Nada is eager to participate in the GAIC in order to emphasize on human capacity to vanquish any kind of obstacles with hard work and determination.



Wilson (Wai Shing) Man, Hong Kong

Wilson Man is from Hong Kong, China and works as a steward in Grand Hyatt, Hong Kong. Wilson has participated in Special Olympics since 2003 and he has participated in bocce, bowling, basketball and athletics with his good sports talents. He has participated in 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games as a bocce athlete and 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games as a bowling athlete.

With his good leadership skills and pleasant personality, he assists coaches in different sports teams by taking care of younger teammates and boosting the morale of the team. Apart from his achievements in sport, he actively participates in non-sports events. He usually serves as emcee in SO events and his performance always receives high recognition from others. He was nominated as 2012-2013 SOEA Regional Messenger to help spread the SO spirit in the region and has been to representing the athletes view on the governing board Special Olympics Hong Kong Executive Committee member (Convenor of ALPs) since 2015.

In his free time, Wilson enjoys singing karaoke, playing bowling, and watching movies with friends. Wilson is looking forward to joining GAIC to help change the lives of other SO athletes, change the attitude of people without ID, and to build an inclusive community.