

Inspiring the first unified generation.

Special  
Olympics  
Virginia



Global Messenger

# Allison Van Doren

**Years Involved with Special Olympics:** 1

**Hometown:** Roanoke, Virginia

**Sports:** Swimming, Bowling

**Educational/Work History:** ECPI University (Roanoke), No Bounds Program, Graduated from Hidden Valley HS

**Career Goals:** Wants to become an administrative assistant with No Bounds

**People Admired:** Maureen Van Doren (Mom), Jeffrey Van Doren (Dad), Erica Van Doren (Sister), Dr. Bhandari, Mr. Newby

**Why is it important to build a more unified generation?** "It is important to build a unified generation because it gives people with disabilities a chance to hang out with others with disabilities. That helps people develop their strengths and improve on their weaknesses."

**Why is Special Olympics important to you?** "Special Olympics is fun, exciting, and it makes me feel I am good at something. Special Olympics gives me a place to be in my own community, not judged, where I can be myself and feel comfort and appreciation."



*"I have gotten up over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed"*

*Allison Van Doren*



*Tina Bhandari,  
Mentor*



*Jessica Tichenor,  
Mentor*

*Global Messengers are Special Olympics Virginia athletes who help spread the message and vision of the movement as well as the benefits gained by participation in Special Olympics. Global Messengers deliver a powerful message of respect, inclusion, unity and attitudinal change. For more information regarding the Special Olympics Virginia Global Messenger program please contact David Pawlowski at 804-726-3034 or dpawlowski@specialolympicsva.org.*