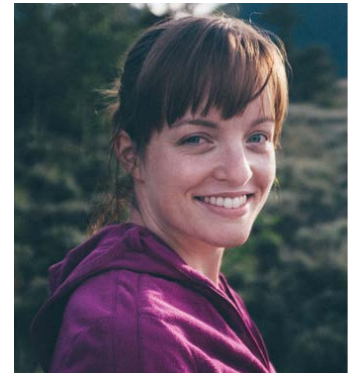




TEAM DECC presents: Mollie Horne, Office of the Auditor
Featured Nonprofit: Special Olympics Colorado

My 24-year-old sister, Chelsea, has Down Syndrome and has been a competitive swimmer with Special Olympics for the past 16 years in Washington and Arizona. During middle school and high school, I volunteered weekly for her team as a coach. Chelsea has obviously benefited from her involvement over the years, but I have, too. Nothing puts things into perspective quite like working with these funny, determined, joyful, and inspiring individuals. I have learned much compassion, sensitivity, and gratitude from my time with Special Olympics, and the zeal for life those athletes have continues to inform how I strive to live my life.



This week's featured agency: **Special Olympics Colorado**



Mission Statement

The mission of Special Olympics Colorado is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Special Olympics Colorado provides year-round training and competition in 22 sports for 17,000+ athletes living in the state of Colorado. With the support of more than 9,000 volunteers and the generosity of Colorado citizens, corporations and local businesses, Special Olympics Colorado is able to offer more than 100 events annually to individuals with intellectual disabilities age 2½ and up. Participation with other athletes, Unified partners (typically developing peers), coaches, sponsors and volunteers build confidence and creates opportunities to participate as productive and respected members of society by increasing public awareness of the athletes' capabilities.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Special Olympics.