

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 29, 2017**

## **Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation Helps Form Local Special Olympics Program**

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL** (December 29, 2017) –The **Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation** announced today its support of a new **Special Olympics** program in Northern Palm Beach County.

Through the efforts of local citizens and several Palm Beach Gardens police officers, a new **Special Olympics Unified Sports** program has been formed under the overall umbrella of the Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association (PBGYAA.) **Unified Sports**



joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In **Unified Sports**, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. About 1.4 million people worldwide take part in **Unified Sports**, breaking down stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities in a really fun way.

The **Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation** helped form the project in northern Palm Beach County and has provided the initial funding for the program.

Unified play began with soccer and in partnership with the PBGYAA's TopSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) program. It will evolve over time to other team and individual sports. The Unified Sports soccer program will begin again shortly after the holiday season. Play is at the Klock Sports Fields off Burns Road in Palm Beach Gardens.

Parents interested in enrolling their special needs children in the program are urged to contact Kathy Edenzon at (609) 577-8108 or [kedenzon@comcast.net](mailto:kedenzon@comcast.net). The program is also in need of typically developed young adults who would like to participate and gain community service hours in support of the program. Adults who are interested in coaching the soccer teams are also urged to contact Ms. Edenzon.

### **About the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation:**

The Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation is a non-profit entity holding IRS 501(c)(3) status. Its mission is to secure private funding to enhance the safety of the community and the effectiveness of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. For more information visit [www.pbgpolicefoundation.org](http://www.pbgpolicefoundation.org)