Did you know that Special Olympics is the largest health care organization for people with intellectual disabilities? It’s true—and our work to promote and provide inclusive and equitable health care for all has never been more essential. Here’s the sad truth right now: Special Olympics athletes and people with intellectual disabilities are at greater risk for COVID-19.

In order to ensure that our athletes are not forgotten, we would like to send a #SpecialOlympicsStrong pack to all Special Olympics Idaho athletes to encourage them to "Stay Strong" during this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

In this time of uncertainty, we had to make the tough decision to cancel all of our activities including sports practices, regional competitions, and team celebrations through April 15, 2020, at which time we will reassess. We have had to postpone many fundraising events through May as well. We are committed to remaining vigilant and we are taking all necessary and proactive steps to protect athletes, staff, coaches, volunteers and communities.

While the safety of our athletes, and the world as a whole, is our top priority, we understand that not being able to provide Special Olympics programming right now increases the anxiety and sense of isolation that many of our athletes are already feeling. For many children and adults with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics is often the only place where they have an opportunity to participate in their communities, build confidence, gain acceptance and form life-long friendships.

To help combat this sense of isolation, we are hoping to raise a minimum of $30,000, which will allow us to mail a #SpecialOlympicsStrong pack to at least 1000 Idaho athletes. The cost for each #SpecialOlympicsStrong pack is $29.76 and will contain a fitness training guide, a t-shirt, a fillable water bottle and a note of encouragement from you! The FirstGiving donation site contains a comment section for you to include your message(s) to our athletes.

Thank you in advance for your support. It will truly make a difference in the lives of our athletes!

To make a secure online donation, go to idso.org and click on #SpecialOlympicsStrong or go to FirstGiving link https://www.firstgiving.com/event/idso/SpecialOlympicsStrong

https://vimeo.com/403875438