

Highlights from Italy

Williams Word | March 2025

It's hard to capture all we experienced while serving at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy. The Lord kept us safe and healthy, thanks to your prayers! Our team comprised five students, myself (Matt), and a friend named Rebekah; she has a personal connection to the Special Olympics through her daughter Rachel.

The four guys volunteered at Floorball, which is like hockey but without the ice. Matt became an unofficial manager for Team Switzerland and made friends with the whole team. The other guys served in roles like media and crowd management.



Matt & Jenny Williams

Serving as campus missionaries with Athletes in Action

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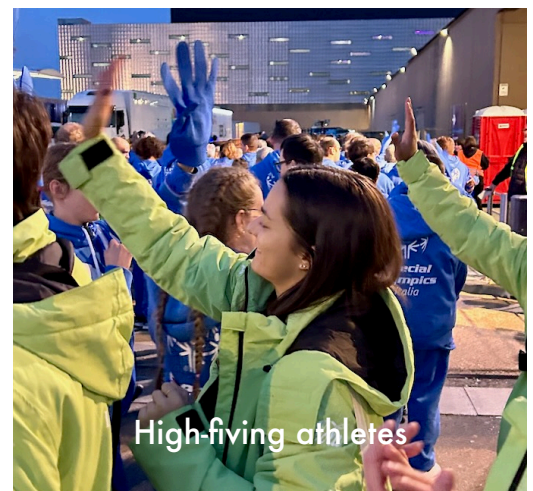
Giving info

give.cru.org/0593312

The guys enjoyed playing basketball and meeting people outside the Floorball arena. The girls served at the ice rink in hospitality and sports information roles. They enjoyed meeting people and greeting them with a warm smile. Another highlight was getting to high-five and cheer on athletes from 98 countries during the opening ceremonies. It was gripping to pray for athletes from closed countries like Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and China. On Sunday evening we attended an Italian church. It was beautiful to fellowship with the body of Christ in another culture!

An unexpected result of this trip is the Special Olympics International board desires to begin a formal partnership with Athletes in Action. They were so impressed with our whole group of 100 volunteers that they want to grow the connection going forward. We're not sure what it means exactly, but it's encouraging to see the impact we made!

We sowed many gospel seeds along the way with people from around the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit creates good soil for the seeds to grow, and for other believers to water them. **Thank you for partnering with us in our missionary work here in the U.S. and across the globe!**



High-fiving athletes