



Photo courtesy of *motionball* for Special Olympics

Assante Hydrostone branch works to create positive change and raise funding for Special Olympics

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David Jones and Chris Rafuse, Senior Financial Advisors at Assante Wealth Management's Hydrostone branch, have been involved with motionball since 2002. Sixteen years later, they are co-event directors for the Halifax Marathon of Sport, held in July, and the Halifax Gala held in November. These are two of motionball's 33 annual events hosted in 20 cities across Canada. Through these integrated social and sporting events, this national not-for-profit organization seeks to familiarize people with the Special Olympics and continue to generate new donors, sponsors and volunteers.

More than 600 young professionals attended the motionball Halifax Gala held at Casino Nova Scotia in support of the Special Olympics Canada Foundation. They had an opportunity to meet some of the Special Olympics athletes whom motionball supports, while enjoying top rate entertainment, great music and fabulous food. The event raised \$60,000 toward the national motionball cause that is now contributing in excess of \$1.5M yearly to Special Olympics. The gala built on the momentum from the 10th annual Marathon of Sport held July 21, 2018, in which corporate co-ed teams played a variety of games and sports alongside Special Olympics athletes raising an additional \$89,000 this past summer.

With David on the board, and Chris and David being co-event directors of the gala, they feel a deep sense of satisfaction helping the community and effecting positive change for more than 45,000 people in Canada living with intellectual disabilities. These campaigns discourage derogatory terms toward people with disabilities, increasing understanding of these issues, which then spreads to the greater population.

They are proud that over \$600,000 in net contributions have been raised by the Halifax chapter for Special Olympics since inception.

When asked what it means to be involved in this event David replies, "It is personally gratifying to be involved in a charity that focuses on appealing to and engaging young professionals and the next generation of philanthropic leaders in their communities to support something where they see the benefits of inclusion and breaking down barriers."

"Nothing can surpass the sense of fulfillment and accomplishment that helping improve the lives of others brings," Chris adds.