OCTOBER 2018 REC PLAYMAKER: JORDAN WRIGHT

The City of Tempe's Adapted Recreation program fosters an environment of peer support as well as personal development for youth and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. It includes Tempe Special Olympics, Buddy Bowling, Zumba, an afterschool program, summer camp and monthly social activities.

Jordan Wright, an active participant, personifies this hallmark and has taken advantage of the many opportunities offered to him by Tempe.

Wright accepting the 2018 Mayor's Disability Award in April 2018.

Jordan has been participating in the program for

five years and Special Olympics for eight. He is involved in every sport imaginable -bowling, swimming, golf, soccer, cheer, basketball, powerlifting, volleyball, track and field, and baseball. Jordan's mother, Amanda, recalls that he was hesitant to start playing sports. Despite being in a completely new environment, it wasn't long before Jordan jumped right in.

"Basketball was something new and uncomfortable (for him)," Amanda said. "He had never been in a similar situation before. Now, he begs to go and try new things. He likes having things to look forward to."



"His world has grown, and this has brought him more growth and development than I have ever anticipated."

Jordan participated in the Special Olympics USA Games in July 2018 held in Seattle, WA. He was one of seven participants on Team AZ for Track and Field.

"Participating in the USA Games really helped him understand what his body needed," Amanda said. "He was in his element -he just wanted to be with his friends and doing his event. It was his happy place."

In addition to playing sports, Jordan keeps busy with many other hobbies, including Zumba, rock climbing, volunteering, bingo, and traveling. It's clear that a strong and supportive community contributed to his personal growth.

"He's met people and mentors, and we've met a community of people that is helping him in ways that one family can't," Amanda said. "His world has grown, and this has brought him more personal growth and development than I have ever anticipated."