



The CoAct Project

Hosted by The Marbridge Foundation

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Marbridge's CoAct Project announces key-note speaker Timothy Shriver for 6th Annual Symposium

As a social leader, educator, activist, business entrepreneur, and CEO of Special Olympics, Shriver offers a new look into a movement that focuses on acceptance and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

AUSTIN, TEXAS: April 18, 2018, The Marbridge Foundation will host the 6th annual CoAct Project™, a national executive symposium to discuss best care practices, industry challenges, and build relationships to better care for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Chairman and CEO Timothy Shriver, will serve as key-note speaker, sharing his discovery of a radically different and inspiring way of life that focuses on inclusion and respect for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"Tim's influence in empowering abilities at every level through Special Olympics is imbedded in Marbridge's mission," commented Scott McAvoy, Vice President of Operations at Marbridge. "We're proud to celebrate 23 years of participation in the program and honored to have Tim here to personally share his experience and history with everyone attending the symposium."

- In the early 1960s, Eunice Kennedy Shriver invited young people with intellectual disabilities to explore their skills and abilities in a variety of sports and physical activities. This revolutionary idea would spark a global movement.¹
- In 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois. One-thousand people with intellectual disabilities from 26 U.S. states and Canada competed in track and field, swimming, and floor hockey.
- Today, Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities: with more than 4.9 million athletes in 172 countries -- and over a million volunteers.

This year will serve as the 6th annual CoAct Project at Marbridge, bringing together leadership, organizations and professionals in the field of intellectual disability, including Autism, Down Syndrome, Williams Syndrome,

¹ https://www.specialolympics.org/tim_shriver.aspx

Cerebral Palsy, seizure disorder, and traumatic brain injury. “In our conversations with Industry partners, it is apparent that there are a host of topics and concerns we share,” said James Stacey, President of Marbridge. “In 2013, we decided it was time to establish a forum where we could discuss our commonalities and share best practices. We are committed to this collaboration moving forward, and to enhancing the lives of individuals with special needs.”

ABOUT MARBRIDGE

Founded in 1953, Marbridge is a non-profit residential community for adults with intellectual disabilities ([Marbridge Press Information](#)). Located on 200-acres in south Austin, Texas, the campus consists of three interconnected communities providing varying levels of care—from semi-independent care, to assisted living, to skilled nursing and physical rehabilitation services. With over 250 residents representing 31 states, the population includes a diversity of diagnoses, including Autism, Down Syndrome, Williams Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, seizure disorder and traumatic brain injury. With the unique Life Options Program, Marbridge provides a distinctly different lifestyle that ensures that each individual has the opportunity to learn, experience and achieve a whole new life at Marbridge.



ABOUT TIM SHRIVER

Shriver earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University, a Master's degree from Catholic University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Connecticut. He has produced 4 films, is the author of the New York Times Best Selling book Fully Alive – Discovering What Matters Most, has written for dozens of newspapers and magazines and has been rewarded with degrees and honors which he happily accepted on behalf of others. Shriver joined Special Olympics in 1996. He is a leading educator who focuses on the social and emotional factors in learning. ([Tim Shriver Press Info](#))



ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time. ([Special Olympics Press Info](#))



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