

Great Hearts

Heroes of Special Olympics

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Introduction

Around the world, there are more than 170 million people who have intellectual **disabilities** – 170 million! Sadly, while the world seems to be able to count the numbers, many people aren't sure what to do when they meet up with a person who lives with a mental disability.

For many years, whenever a child was born with a physical or developmental disability, doctors were likely to recommend that the child go and live in a home, and not be raised by the family.

There, children would be “warehoused,” often drugged to maintain their good behavior, and without any sort of mental or physical outlet.

Luckily, over the past forty years, people have started to realize that locking away these children and adults – full of life and talent – helps nobody.