

SUMMER 2010

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council



Lighting of the 2010 USA
National Games Cauldron by
Special Olympics athlete
& Final Leg Runner
Evan Davis

Photo Courtesy of
Andrea Kramer

Story Page 5

The Guardian

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September 10, 2010

Torch Run Friends:

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer! This has been a great year for the Torch Run so far with Latin America being recognized as a new Torch Run Region, incredible growth taking place in the Oceania Region, and successful Final Leg Runs occurring in the USA, Latin America, Australia, Canada, and Europe! However, most important to our mission is what you have done within your programs at the grassroots level to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics athletes. Thank you!

This has also been a time of change and transition for me. Following my retirement from the Raleigh PD on May 1st, Special Olympics Inc. (SOI) in Washington DC approached me and asked me about taking a position with SOI as the Executive Director for the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics. After much thought and evaluation of the position, I realized that this was a unique opportunity to increase my service to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics and to help continue to grow the cause of Special Olympics.

Accepting this position does change a few things. While I will remain a member of the LETR Executive Council, I can no longer serve as Chair of Council based on accepting this new role with SOI. A new Chair will be determined at our upcoming International Conference and the good news is that we have several people on Council who are most capable and ready to assume that role. I very much enjoyed my service as Council Chair for the past 6 years, glad for what we accomplished together during that time, and am now very eager to work with and for you to help us reach new heights.

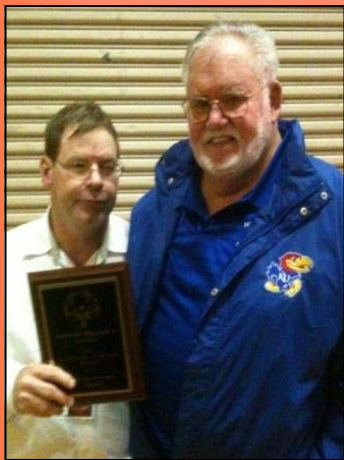
I look forward to seeing you at the Torch Run Conference and working with you in the weeks and months ahead! Enjoy this wonderful addition of The Guardian!

All the Best,

Michael Teem

Executive Director of the LETR for Special Olympics

Athlete *Profile*



*Todd Williams (L)
with Danny Samuels*

Special Olympics Kansas

Todd Williams

Most universities across the nation have a living legend. A person who is a constant, who everyone knows, and who everyone counts on. And the University of Kansas (KU) is no exception. Their legend is Special Olympics Athlete, Todd Williams, or as everyone at KU knows him, "Leaper."

During basketball season, while in high school, Todd bragged about his great leaping ability and his unblockable shots. He was the most enthusiastic of those in his gym class. When teams were picked, he was always picked first because of his great jumps – and he became known as "Leaper". That nickname has stuck since 1972.

Todd's father asked friends at the KU athletic department if they might have something for him to do. He was put to work in the equipment room of the football office collecting towels from players and doing laundry. One day, his boss noted Todd putting player bags away without any reference. "Who's #87, Todd?" he asked. "Who's #35?". Todd recalled all players' numbers perfectly. He has become famous for knowing the numbers of athletes, from the super stars to bench riders.

Todd is known for his work ethic. He would arrive at Allen Field House so regularly that supervisors finally gave him the keys, and he was the designated opener. When the athletic department had to change the methods of access to Allen Field house in accordance with Homeland Security, his supervisor said Todd's time clock was punched virtually the same time each day...despite walking up to 3 miles to work from his home. But, gradually the time was creeping earlier and earlier, minute by minute, until he was arriving at 3 a.m. He came to open for one of the secretaries trying to get work to get prepared for the coaches' arrival at 6 a.m. He had accommodated the staff and workout schedules for so long that he thought nothing of the early morning hours. **Todd is the second longest continuously employed member of the KU athlete department.**

As a sports fan, Todd's loyalty is unparalleled. His love of KU and its players has been years in the making. To this day he can still name every player and their number dating back some 20 years. He's an enthusiastic athlete of the Douglas County Jayhawks, his local Special Olympics team. Todd competes each year in aquatics, track and field, and of course, his favorite: basketball. A few years ago Todd was named to the Special Olympics Kansas Hall of Fame. He was recently recognized as the Gary Samuels Most Inspirational Athlete at the State Basketball Tournament.



2010 USA NATIONAL GAMES - NEBRASKA FINAL LEG TORCH RUN

On July 9th, nine Special Olympics athletes and 55 law enforcement officers from across America traveled to Ames, Iowa and joined up with 35 support team members to embark on a 10-day journey together. The results of this journey touched the lives of thousands of people in Iowa and Nebraska and made a lasting impact on the members of the Final Leg Team.

In 2006 the first USA National Games was held in Ames, Iowa, and we started the 2010 edition in Ames on July 10th just steps from the site of the 2006 Opening Ceremonies. Following a run in Ames the night before as a part of Midnight Madness, a traditional community running event, the Final Leg Team assembled on the campus of Iowa State University for the 2010 Flame Lighting Ceremony. We were joined by well over a hundred Special Olympics Iowa athletes as well as many people from the Ames community to launch the 2010 USA Final Leg. Following a wonderful ceremony and lighting of the torch, the Final Leg Team split into three groups and quickly headed west. After covering several sponsor stops and events, the Team joined back together on the western edge of Iowa and prepared to run our way into Nebraska.

The Final Leg Team crossed the pedestrian footbridge high above the Missouri River and was greeted by scores of fans at the Nebraska state line located at the mid-way point on the bridge. After welcoming comments by the Mayor of Omaha, the Team entered Nebraska and ran to the location of the arrival ceremony on the Con Agra campus. All of this took place on July 10th, and by the end of the day everyone was ready for dinner and some rest!





2010 USA NATIONAL GAMES - NEBRASKA FINAL LEG TORCH RUN

Over the course of the next week, the Team was split into three daily running groups each with a separate route to cover. We relocated our base of operations several times and traversed the entire length and width of Nebraska, running and putting on ceremonies in over 60 communities. There were ceremonies and crowds of all sizes as we traversed the beautiful and diverse terrain of Nebraska. The heartfelt speeches by the officers and athletes along the way were motivational and inspiring! Great awareness for Special Olympics and the National Games was achieved; community participation at Torch Run ceremonies and strong media attention helped to ensure that our message was delivered with success. The people of Nebraska were very welcoming and receptive to our mission and message. Oh yes, and one more thing—it was HOT—sometimes to the extreme—but everyone on the Team hung in there and got the job done!



At the end of our week of running and delivering our message of inclusion, acceptance, and ability that is what Special Olympics is all about, it was time to complete our mission as Guardians of the Flame™. On July 18th at the Devaney Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Final Leg Team played a significant part of Opening Ceremonies. All of the Special Olympics athletes and law enforcement officers on the Team had the honor and privilege of serving as sign carriers for their home states and marching into the arena with their athlete delegations! Everyone was moved by this experience and really enjoyed the time with athletes from their home states. Toward the end of the Opening Ceremonies, officers in their police uniforms marched in and took up prominent positions on the center stage and around the cauldron.



2010 USA NATIONAL GAMES - NEBRASKA FINAL LEG TORCH RUN



All nine of our SO athlete team members and a dozen officers from the Team then entered the arena as a unified running team to deliver the Flame of Hope. Every athlete on the Team carried the torch during the relay around the floor of the arena before the torch was handed to Evan Davis, our athlete representative from Nebraska. Evan proudly climbed the steps leading up to the cauldron, faced the crowd with a huge smile on his face, and then lit the cauldron to open the 2010 USA Special Olympics National Games! It was an amazing moment that we will never forget! I want to thank all of the members of the Final Leg Team, including a tireless support team and outstanding documentation team, for their passion, determination, dedication and perseverance over the course of a



demanding Final Leg. Thanks also to the SO and LETR programs in Nebraska and Iowa and the Final Leg Planning Committees of the LETR Executive Council and of Nebraska for their hard work and a job well done. Special thanks and gratitude goes to Jeri Roeder of the Nebraska Torch Run for her herculean and incredible efforts to lead the planning process in Nebraska. And finally, a very special thanks and appreciation for the athletes on the 2010 USA Final Leg Team—they were truly our leaders, inspiration, and friends throughout our journey. I hope you enjoy reading the following information about this special group of people we will call friends for the rest of our lives!

Michael Teem, 2010 USA Final Leg Team Captain



Special Olympics Athletes - Final Leg Team

ARIZONA



Roxanne Johnson

Roxanne works in the Paradise Valley Unified School District as a crossing guard. She has been working in the school district since 2002 and loves her job, making sure the kids are safe when they cross the street. Roxanne has been a Special Olympic athlete for 22 years. She participates in athletics, aquatics, figure skating, cycling, unified bowling, kayaking and down hill skiing. When she first started Special Olympics she was really shy and because of Special Olympics, her life has changed. Roxanne is a Global Messenger for Special Olympics Arizona. Roxanne is proud of her family, her mom, dad, brother, dog, turtle and a lot of family members who love her. Roxanne has run the Final Leg at her State Games the past two years. She knows how important the Torch Run is to Special Olympics and is honored to have been chosen to be a part of this Final Leg team.

IDAHO



David Ritchie

David Ritchie has been involved with Special Olympics for several years and has had the opportunity to be on the Rigby Wranglers team. David plays basketball, floor hockey and soccer. While on the Rigby Wranglers team he has seen it grow from eight athletes to thirty. Because of Special Olympics, David has had the opportunity to do things that he hadn't been able to do before. In November of 2009 David had the opportunity to go to China and participate in the Sunshine Games. His team won 3rd place in the world and came back with a bronze medal and a lot of stories to share. He will never forget that opportunity. David enjoys the support of his family and friends at competitions and is thankful for all the help that his coach gives him.



Special Olympics Athletes - Final Leg Team

IOWA



Michael Warren

Michael Warren has been a Special Olympics athlete for 12 years. He competes in track and field; his favorite event is the 1500M and also participates in 5K and 10K runs. His most memorable Special Olympics memory was attending the 2003 World Games in Ireland and receiving a bronze medal in the 5K and a gold medal in the 3K. Michael enjoys spending time with family and friends. He looks forward to running with all the law enforcement officers.

MINNESOTA



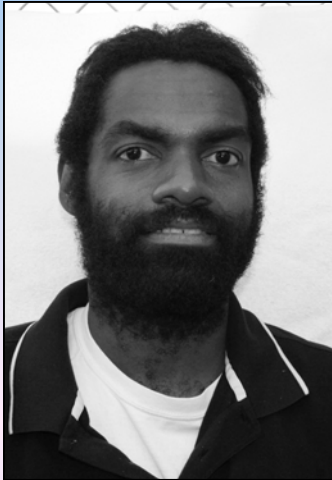
James Chalmers

James Chalmers has been involved with Special Olympics for over 25 years, as a participant, coach, and Global Messenger. He has participated in cross-country and alpine skiing. He has been a volunteer coach since 1992, coaching swimming, bowling, and track & field. As a Global Messenger, he speaks to businesses, schools, and community groups. James is an active fundraiser for Special Olympics. Using his running skills to participate in four marathons, James raised nearly five thousand dollars for Special Olympics. His best time in a marathon was 3 hrs. 19 minutes. He achieved this time twice. One of his marathons was as a member of a Torch Run Team. James gives Special Olympics much of the credit for his success as a volunteer, runner, and co-worker for the Red Wing Shoe Company.



Special Olympics Athletes - Final Leg Team

MISSOURI



Ronnie Lowe

Ronnie Lowe has participated in Special Olympics for 24 years. He lives independently in Columbia, MO, which part of the Central Area. Ronnie enjoys participating in softball, basketball and track. His favorite is track. Ronnie has met a number of people from all across the state at his competitions. He enjoys the opportunities for socialization and challenging himself during competitions. Ronnie is most proud of the gold medal won at the 2009 State Basketball Championships. This medal was won because of hard work and dedication. In Columbia, Ronnie has had the opportunity to meet many of the police officers through a variety of events. He is most fond of Zim Schwartz, of the Columbia PD, whom he sees around town and has very friendly conversation with her. He appreciates her dedication to Special Olympics and the athletes.

NEBRASKA



Evan Davis

Evan has been involved in Special Olympics since he was 12 years old. He has participated in basketball, as well as, track and field. Evan's favorite events are the running long jump and long distance running. His favorite place to run is on the "Cowboy Trail," through northern Nebraska because "tracks are bo-o-o-ring." Over 14 years of running, Evan's most memorable event in track and field was at State Games 2009 when he lost his shoe soon after the race started. He didn't miss a step—just kept running to the finish and a silver medal! Evan is the youngest in his family and the proud uncle of three, one nephew and two nieces. His favorite pastimes are watching NASCAR, especially Jimmie Johnson!



Special Olympics Athletes - Final Leg Team

NEW HAMPSHIRE



Nate Webb

Nate Webb has been a Special Olympics New Hampshire athlete for 13 years. He is involved in a variety of sports, and his favorites are basketball, alpine skiing and cycling. Through Special Olympics, Nate has made many new friends and feels he has gained independence. Nate loves being able to run the final leg in the torch run in New Hampshire for our Summer Games. He feels proud to stand and run with Law Enforcement Officers as they are very encouraging. Nate hopes to one day run a marathon. When Nate isn't competing, he loves reading, photography and watching movies.

NEW YORK



Ben Beavers

Ben has been involved in Special Olympics for 16 years. He participates in athletics, basketball, and floor hockey. In 2006, Ben participated in the first ever Special Olympics USA National Games and was also selected to participate in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. "Special Olympics has been family to me. I met my girlfriend and best friend through Special Olympics", said Ben. Ben is excited to be a part of the Final Leg team and helping to spread the word about Special Olympics.



Special Olympics Athletes - Final Leg Team

RHODE ISLAND



Robbie Strickland

Robbie began his Special Olympics involvement on the Bristol, Rhode Island team. He competes in basketball, bowling and track & field. In 2003, Robbie was chosen to participate in the World Games in Dublin, Ireland competing in track & field events. Robbie also participated in the first ever, USA National Games in Ames, Iowa in 2006 as a member of the basketball team. In 2007, Robbie was honored by being inducted into the Warren Athletic Hall of Fame in Rhode Island. Robbie enjoys the camaraderie of Special Olympics and meeting and talking with new people. Robbie states, "Special Olympics has made a huge difference in my life and I am very grateful for the opportunities that come my way. I intend on doing my best no matter what obstacles I come in contact with. I look forward to meeting all of the members of the Torch Run."



Special Olympics

Be a fan™

SPIRIT AWARD

By: Roy Forrest, Final Leg, Team #9 Leader

Everyone who has ever participated in a Final Leg knows that it's an experience of a lifetime. In whatever capacity you serve, you know that you are part of bringing the message of Special Olympics to everyone in the state or country where the Final Leg is held. You have the pleasure of working with an amazing group of athletes, and watching them grow in confidence as they spread their own personal message about what Special Olympics means to them. You meet and get to know other officers and share with them the bond of being part of a Final Leg team.

The mission of raising awareness for the games is a focal point of the time you spend on a Final Leg. Despite all the hard work, traveling, and sometimes lack of sleep, you know that you are part of something very unique.

This year the men and women of the 2010 Nebraska National Games Final Leg Team found a way to make this experience even more special?

The members of the 2010 Nebraska Final Leg started what they hope will become a new Final Leg tradition. They established a legacy that will live on until the next Final Leg is held. This legacy does not serve the runners, team leaders, or support staff. This legacy serves the athletes of the host Special Olympics program by insuring that at least one of them will have the opportunity to participate in the next national or international games.

This July the members of the Nebraska Final Leg team established the Michael R. Teem Spirit Award. This award is given in honor of Mike Teem the long-time team captain of the many Final Legs. The award consists of money donated by all the members of the Final Leg Team for the express purpose of providing funds to send at least one athlete to the next national or international games.

All the members of the Nebraska Final Leg Team passed the hat and donated \$1720 to Special Olympics Nebraska. But that was not all. For the first time in recent memory at least three towns in Nebraska raised an additional \$1500 which was presented to the different running teams as they ran through with the Flame of Hope.

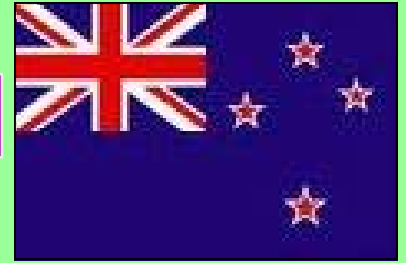
At the team party on the last night of the Final Leg, cash and checks totaling \$3220 was presented to Carolyn Chamberlin, Executive Director of Special Olympics Nebraska, with a request that the money be used to send one or more Nebraska athletes to the 2011 World Summer Games in Greece.

By establishing this award, the spirit and kinship that bound us together as teammates will live on past the last day of running with the torch. Our best wishes and support will be with those athletes as they travel to Athens to represent their home state of Nebraska.

We as the members of the 2010 National Games Final Leg Team hope that the Final Leg teams in the future will make this gift a tradition as a way to honor Mike Teem for all his many years of unwavering service to the athletes and to the Final Leg.



LETR New Zealand



Baby Steps

In December 2009, Special Olympics New Zealand held its National Summer Games in Palmerston North, on the North Island of New Zealand. Over 1,400 athletes and coaches attended the five-day event and competed in 10 sports.

In the build up to the Games, Don Stuart, the Regional Director of LETR Oceania, approached Special Olympics New Zealand, and together they met with New Zealand Police Commissioner Howard Broad to discuss the staging of a Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics in the days preceding the Games. Inspector Mark Harrison, a Police Area Commander, was Sports Director for the Games and was asked to assist in coordinating the Torch Run.

The Torch Run commenced the week prior to the Games and involved two Flames of Hope™ starting their journey at different ends of New Zealand. The Flame of Hope™ visited 10 towns and cities throughout the country and converged on Palmerston North for the Opening Ceremony of the National Summer Games.



The Flame of Hope™ was brought into the Opening Ceremony venue by an athlete accompanied by a police member. The Flame of Hope™ made one final lap of the arena, being passed to athletes representing each Special Olympics region. Each athlete was accompanied by a member of the New Zealand Police.

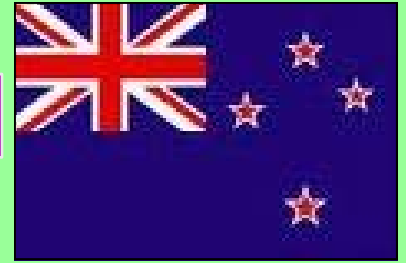
Hamish Taverner, the National Summer Games Athlete Spokesperson and Police Commissioner Broad, used the Flame of Hope™ to light the cauldron.

One of the highlights of the Opening Ceremony was a police dog display. A "robber" entered the stadium looking for gold medals and despite heckling from the crowd of athletes he remained behind in search of

medals. A police dog handler challenged him but he refused to leave and the dogs were unleashed.....a police dog pup was first sent in and after attempts to lick the offender into submission, the pup's big brother was sent in to finish the job!



LETR New Zealand



Baby Steps

-- Continued --

The feed back around the first Torch Run from all concerned has been tremendous. Athletes, their families and New Zealand Police staff were all overwhelmed by the reaction to the Torch Run with many Police staff saying this was one of the most humbling experiences of their career.

The success of the event was such that New Zealand is now the 116th LETR program in the world. Arrangements are currently underway to establish a committee and to set a program of LETR activities in support of Special Olympics in New Zealand.

"Law Enforcement officers have long been good friends to Special Olympics and have emerged as champions of Special Olympics athletes everywhere," says Kathy Gibson, Special Olympics New Zealand Chief Executive Officer. "The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is a visible reminder around the world of the long-standing friendship between our organizations. It's wonderful to have that association and formal relationship in New Zealand. We look forward to a long, successful – and fun – relationship."

Commissioner Howard Broad acknowledged that New Zealand Police have been a recent addition to the family of police organizations supporting the international Law Enforcement Torch Run®.

"Last December I had the privilege of attending the opening ceremony of the National Summer Games. It was one of the highlights of my summer to participate in such a special event and witness the commitment of the athletes and the joy of their supporters.



"Through the energy and enthusiasm of Inspector Mark Harrison and other colleagues, New Zealand is now formally part of the LETR movement and I look forward to further development of this unique form of community engagement," said Commissioner Broad.



二〇一〇特殊奧運執法人員火炬慈善跑

Law Enforcement Torch Run® - Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics 2010 was held at the Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza on the 16th May, 2010. It was the 21st time for Special Olympics Hong Kong to launch this program. Over 2300 participants joined this meaningful event and our donation has hit a new record reaching 2.1 million dollars, which is the highest ever in 21 years. The donation fund will be used to support athletes taking part in the Special Olympics East Asia Games held in different regions, especially



the the 5th Special Olympics Games of the People's Republic of China held in Fuzhou in September 2010.

It was our honor to have Mr. Ambrose Lee, GBS, IDSM, JP Secretary for Security to officiate at the Opening Ceremony. He was accompanied by our officiating party that consists of the seven disciplinary forces - Correctional Services Department (CSD), Customs & Excise Department (C&E), Fire Services Department (FSD), Government Flying

Service (GFS), Hong Kong Police (HKP), Immigration Department (ID), Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) as well as a representative from Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

The admirable performance of Cape Collinson Marching Band highlighted the climax of the Opening Ceremony which greatly impressed the audience. Over 2000 runners started running from Shatin Town Hall Plaza at 11:30 a.m. passing through Lek Yuen Bridge, Tai Chung Kiu Road, Regal Riverside Hotel and Banyan Bridge and returned back to the finish



point at Shatin Town Hall Plaza. Runners finished the 3.5 km route in half an hour. Many runners also participated this fundraising campaign with their children, creating a warm and fragrant scene.

Special Olympics Names Michael Teem as Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics



*Major Michael Teem (right) assisting with a Torch
presentation at the White House in 2007*

Special Olympics has announced Michael Teem as Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics (LETR), a new position for the movement. Michael will bring his wealth of law enforcement experience and long-time volunteer experience with the LETR to further the impact of the largest grassroots fundraiser for Special Olympics. In the position as Executive Director, Teem will serve as the architect for shaping the next generation of the LETR globally. He will work closely with the LETR Executive Council, LETR members, and senior leadership at Special Olympics to develop a strategic plan for the LETR worldwide.

Teem recently retired at the rank of Major from the Raleigh, North Carolina Police Department, and has had more than 20 years history in volunteer leadership positions with the LETR and Special Olympics. In addition to being in charge of the Final Leg for Special Olympics World Games since 1996, Michael served as the North Carolina LETR Director for 10 years and has been on the International LETR Executive Council since 1996, serving as Chairman of the Council for the last 6 years.

“We are thrilled to have Michael on-board her at Special Olympics,” said Brady Lum, President & COO of Special Olympics. “The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics has been an amazing endeavor for our movement as the largest grassroots fundraiser and awareness builder for our movement. Having a dedicated law enforcement officer join us is a testament to our vision for this initiative.”

Teem joins the Special Olympics global Strategic Properties department which reports to Peter Wheeler, Chief of Strategic Properties, and will work closely with the LETR Executive Council, LETR members, and Special Olympics global leadership to enhance the LETR. He will continue to serve on the LETR Executive Council made up of volunteer law enforcement officers and Special Olympics representatives from throughout the world.



**2010 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN® INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
“Catch the Wave”
October 19-22, 2010**

The swells are passing, the energy is building, and it is almost time to “Catch the Wave” in Long Beach, California! Get ready for an exciting program prepared just for you. Many of your fellow Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics supporters have spent countless hours preparing to show you an amazing time. Entertainment, heartfelt stories, activities and events have been planned that will motivate, inspire and educate you on how to excel in raising funds and awareness in support of our Special Olympic athletes. The Southern California team is poised to launch this huge event and we want you to be part of it!



The Concurrent Sessions theme is, “Expect More!” and that is exactly what you’ll get. You will hear from world-class speakers such as Jeff Hansler, President and CEO of the Oxford Company, who will share his knowledge on how to use the power of words for effective fundraising. Also, Ken Lodi, a leading authority on communication and organizational productivity, will draw from his book, “The Bamboo Principle” and teach a systematic process for leveraging talents. There will also be several options for you to choose from when attending workshops, from beginner level to advanced, so you can customize your conference experience and hone your skills where you want to most.

And don’t forget, events have also been planned for you! Each day, several activities are in store for you while in Long Beach. The conference will begin with Hospitality Night where you can wear surf shirts, board shorts and flip-flops. Relax and meet others at this “before conference” party while you listen to surf tunes. During our Opening Ceremony, you can stay in your beach attire as this year’s conference kicks off. Each day will build on the previous day’s theme, moving from beach attire to a black-and-white theme night aboard the Queen Mary, and culminating in a formal black-tie Academy Awards style finale, paparazzi and all!

Use your imagination as you choose black-and-white apparel while enjoying the evening at the Host Night event aboard the Queen Mary. Any era, theme, or creative combination will prove to be fun and interesting as you spend your evening mixing with friends. Three types of cuisine will be provided indoors and a live band will be playing outdoors aboard the ship. We’ll be dancing the night away as the band “Pocket Change” plays R&B and classic rock music!



Some of the fundraising activities you can participate in include an amazing scavenger hunt adventure, Special Olympics Style! For \$20 each, you can compete individually or as part of a four-person team scavenger hunt transpiring over the duration of the conference. You’ll explore the local Long Beach area and Special Olympics history and compete to be one of the top three teams. All participants will be entered into a drawing for prizes *and* you get extra points for choosing apparel that follows the daily themes!



Of course, we can't be this close to the beach and keep the entire conference indoors! Be sure not to miss the Misty May Beach Volleyball Challenge where you can watch or play beach volleyball. For a \$20 entry fee, you can play in a Round Robin format and be part of a Southern California beach tradition as you play volleyball right on the sand.



Alongside the volleyball challenge will be the Wii Gaming-Unified Sports event. In this free event, Wii is providing several gaming stations in their "Gaming Truck" right on the beach. You'll have fun playing Wii games alongside our Special Olympics athletes. It'll be great participating in virtual activities with technology that only Wii can deliver!



And the conference wouldn't be complete without a Torch Run! So for those runners, we'll carry the torch, "sound-off" and run in unison along the Southern California coast for our Special Olympics athletes. For a \$20 entry fee, you can enjoy a scenic run along the beach and harbor. And for those who want to participate by walking, you will not be left out! There will be a walking course that gives you an opportunity to take in the sights too!

If you're planning to arrive in Southern California early, you have an option to participate in the Long Beach International City Bank Marathon and ½ Marathon. Join TEAM SOSOC, set a goal to raise \$500 for Special Olympic Athletes and your entry fee will be paid! To find more information on the marathon and to register, visit <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/ccp.asp?ievent=424691&ccp=101377>

If you're arriving early and are interested in golfing during your visit, you can play an informal game at the El Dorado Park Golf Club on Tuesday, October 19th, with tee times beginning at 7:30 am. The \$100 fee will include a barbecued mesquite tri-tip and chicken meal. To reserve a spot, send your check to the below address by September 30, 2010, **payable to SOSOC**.

Lieutenant Rod Kusch
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Leadership and Training Division
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, CA 91754-2169

In addition to all that's already been mentioned, the conference will feature vendor shows, live and silent auctions, and much more. So, make sure you "Catch the Wave" and don't miss out on a great time with a great purpose!

Also before the conference starts, a comedy night at the Laugh Factory will be put on by Cops 4 Causes to benefit Special Olympics Southern California. For \$25-\$35, you can laugh the night away on Monday, October 18th, while supporting Special Olympic athletes. The Laugh Factory is conveniently located across the street from the Hyatt and attendees will be able to walk to the event. Tickets will be available on-line very soon!

In addition to all that's already been mentioned, the conference will feature vendor shows, live and silent auctions, and much more. So, make sure you "Catch the Wave" and don't miss out on a great time with a great purpose!

A Gift That Keeps On Giving - Volunteerism

From Soldier to Police Officer - Deputy Chief Antonio Williams



Whenever you speak with Antonio Williams, inevitably he will talk about Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR). An impassioned advocate, Williams, Deputy Chief of Police, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, became a full-time volunteer in 2004 after attending his first softball practice and spending time with a Special Olympics athlete. "Wanda just drew me in," he says. "She made a lasting impression. I finally got it." Since then, Williams has been involved with Special Olympics Hawaii (SOHI) on a regular basis.

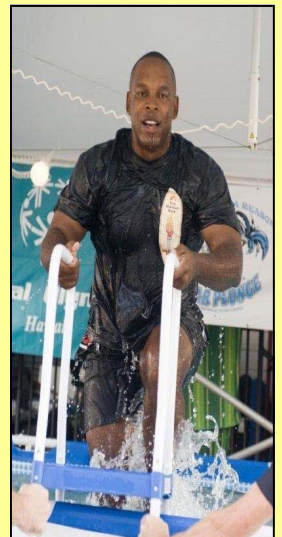
Williams had been involved with LETR for many years prior to 2004. Starting as a young military police officer with the U.S. Army, Williams had participated in Torch Runs and Tip-A-Cop® events throughout his twenty plus years as an active duty soldier. During his last overseas deployment to Afghanistan, Williams was awarded the Bronze Star, a distinguished combat service medal, and it prompted him to consider his service to the community outside of the military. As a sign of respect and reverence to one of his fallen comrades, Williams was determined to continue his volunteerism after his retirement from active military service.

Now, as federal law enforcement officer, Williams is a softball, bocce coach and unified player, an avid fundraiser through annual Cop on Top®, Tip a Cop®, Fueling Dreams, Polar Plunge®, and Super Plunge events, and currently is a member of the Special Olympics Hawaii Executive Committee. He was selected as a participant in the 2009 DHL Global Torch Run (Los Angeles Leg) as a part of the Region 7 runners, Guardians of the Flame™. Additionally, Williams helps to Plan and coordinate the First Hawaiian Bank, Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Run events on Oahu.

This year, Williams was selected as Hawaii's Final Leg Runner for the 2010 USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska. His interaction with other Final Leg Runners, and the enthusiasm from the local communities, further fueled Williams' conviction in the LETR purpose and the greater objective of promoting and supporting the athletes and families of Special Olympics. Even more poignant, Williams was reunited with a former soldier during the Wymore, NE leg, whom he had last served with in 1999, proof positive that the involvement of law enforcement officers in LETR is a true and lasting fellowship.



Chief Richard LaMunyon & Antonio Williams



Part of the Special Olympics philosophy is the belief that the larger community benefits from participating in and observing an environment of equality, respect, and acceptance. Williams agrees. "I know that I've grown as an individual because of my involvement with the LETR and Special Olympics. I'm a broader thinker and I appreciate, even more, the diversity among us. We each have something valuable to contribute."

Williams, himself, contributes not just by raising funds but, more importantly, by raising awareness. His advocacy is infectious as he recruits volunteers with every interaction. "I know that once they get involve," Williams says, "they'll get it too."

UNIQUE LETR FUNDRAISING EVENT

By: Debbie Farrell, New Brunswick LETR

On August 23rd, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® members hosted a breakfast in support of Special Olympics New Brunswick at the North Lake Recreation Centre. The LETR is a recognized dedicated team of law enforcement volunteers who organize events and raise money for over 900 Athletes in New Brunswick to compete in sports.



It was a glorious summer morning with the sun is brightly shining, warm breezes blowing and the air was filled with laughter and the smell of bacon, sausage, home-made beans, eggs, pancakes, and hash browns. Law Enforcement Torch Run members served up a feast to 300 plus hungry people at a Special Olympics Breakfast held at the North Lake Recreation Centre the morning of August 23rd. In a span of a couple hours, generous donations totaling \$3,600.00 was raised in support of Special Olympics New Brunswick., amazing!

As people arrived they were entertained by the sounds of the pipes of Scottish Bagpiper, Angus Smith from North Lake and were warmly greeted by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Officer, Debbie Farrell and RCMP, Constable Jenny Melanson. People came in hungry and everyone left fully satisfied, many with a door prizes awarded throughout the morning. Special Olympics athletes of the Woodstock Western Valley Region, Melissa Whyte, Patty Connors, Julie Doherty, Isabel Knowlton, Wendy Nichols, Morris Collicott, Calvin Grant, Herbie Clark as well as Special Olympics athlete Rob York of Mars Hill, Maine attended as Special Guests. Not only did everyone enjoy a hearty breakfast but they also received a necklace/bracelet, gift coupons and treats from the Law Enforcement Torch Run®.

Special Olympics Officials Joseph Trevors, Executive Director, Anne Foster, Office Manager and Gary Brenton, Marketing Manager and Law Enforcement Torch Run Liaison for Special Olympics, travelled from Fredericton to help out and share in the success of the event. On behalf of the Special Olympics organization, Joseph Trevors expressed his gratitude and recognition to the LETR and community volunteers for a job very well done in supporting over 900 Athletes in New Brunswick.



Torch Runner Profile



Chief Paul Ciesielski

Indianapolis Police Department

Indiana

Chief Ciesielski was not “Chief” when he first got involved with the Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run®, but he always commands attention when he is involved in community events. This is partly due to his long tenure as the Public Information Officer for the police department where he was a household name and face on the local news circuit. It is also due to his photogenic genes – some think he looks like Tom Selleck. But the more valid reason for him being remembered is his commitment and long standing support and personal involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics.

He started out as a runner at Indiana’s Final Leg. It quickly led to participating in and coordinating numerous Torch Run events over the past ten plus years. These include the Polar Plunge®, Tip-a-Cops®, Plane Pulls, selling Raffle Tickets, and the motorcycle Torch Ride. He is consistently ready to pitch in and utilize his department and community contacts to make every Torch Run event a success. Some of you may remember him as “Magnum P I” at the San Francisco International Conference.

Just four years ago, he represented Indiana in the first ever USA National Games Final Leg – running thorough the “not so flat” countryside of Iowa. He returned even more energized and has continued to always be someone you can count on. Paul says “ I have great memories from all the events I have participated in with the Law Enforcement Torch Run®. The best part is meeting the great athletes that represent Indiana Special Olympics. I am extremely proud to say I’m a Torch runner!” On February 25, 2010, he was appointed Police Chief of the 12th largest city in the United States. One of the first things he did was to guarantee his support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference when it is held in Indianapolis, the Crossroads of America, in 2012. Indiana is very proud and fortunate to have such an officer truly committed to serving our Special Olympics athletes.

"Dad, Will You Be My Basketball Coach?"

Katie & John Cosgrove

Katie Cosgrove's initial involvement with Special Olympics started with one simple question: "Dad, will you be my basketball coach?" Although it surprised him, Katie's dad immediately took action and contacted a local team. Unfortunately, their basketball roster was full. Not to be discouraged, they looked a little further and contacted Douglas County. Katie joined the Douglas County basketball team in 2005. Upon her first practice, Katie was met with cheers and embraces from her teammates. From that moment on, her days became filled with competitions, medals and good friends.

Since 2005, Katie has been active in several sports: basketball, cheerleading, bowling, track & field, bocce and, most recently, swimming. Although track & field and bocce are her favorites, Katie is especially proud of her achievements in and willingness to try swimming. This past June at the Summer Games, Katie won several medals in track & field events, including the 50 yard dash, the softball throw and the standing long jump. But - her ambitions go beyond the state level! This July, Katie will be a proud member of the Kansas Storm as they compete for gold at the National Games in Lincoln, NE. She will be competing in bocce.

Off the field, Katie is an active student at St. James High School in Olathe where she will be entering her sophomore year. She is an avid reader who goes through 2 - 3 books a week and can be found



Katie & John Cosgrove at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 USA National Games

carrying 2 books at any given time (1 she is reading and 1 as a back up). Currently, her favorite books include the Twilight series. She has plans to attend the midnight opening showing of Twilight: Eclipse. In addition to reading, Katie loves animals. She lives with her family, her cats, her dog (Bear), some peacocks, turkeys and other animals on land in Wyandotte County.

As with many athletes, Special Olympics is a family-affair in Katie's household. Her dad, John Cosgrove, has been an active member of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® [LETR] for over 24 years. He carried the torch in the Final Leg of the Torch Run for the National Games. In addition to his involvement with LETR, he has coached many sports including basketball and bocce. Katie's mom, Kerry, and her 14-year old sister, Kelly, help coach cheerleading events. The entire family participated in the Polar Plunge, this year - both in the 5K and the plunge! John and Kelly took the plunge while Katie was a judge. Katie also helps with fundraising for SOKS and has even helped with the local Tip-A-Cop© events.

Katie always talks about her involvement with Special Olympics. When giving speeches for the LETR, she always mentions how Special Olympics gives her an opportunity to compete with her peers and feel more included in activities. While Special Olympics provides her with many great opportunities, Katie gives back by being an extraordinary athlete, friend, sister, daughter and champion!



On the morning of October 23, hundreds of Best Buddies and Special Olympics supporters will cycle, run and walk the streets of Washington DC at the National Mall to honor the legacy of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. The inaugural *Eunice Kennedy Shriver Challenge* presented by Audi features a 20-mile bike ride on closed roads through DC, the Carl Lewis Challenge 5K run/3K walk, a youth fun run, and a series of Criterium Races.

Following the athletic events there will be a victory celebration and private luncheon. The entire day will be focused around inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and the global movement that Eunice Kennedy Shriver made her life's work. The awareness and funds raised through the Challenge will further support the programs of Best Buddies and Special Olympics International.

The 20-mile cycling route starts by heading up Constitution Avenue before moving to Independence Avenue as it passes Robert F. Kennedy Stadium and crosses into Anacostia Park along the Anacostia River. The route then goes over the Frederick Douglass Bridge and past Nationals Park before looping by East Potomac Park and past the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, and finally culminating at the Washington Monument. The other events will all start and conclude at the Washington Monument as well, and entire families are encouraged to join in the spirit of athletics and inclusion.

Best Buddies is dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with IDD.

Special Olympics is a global organization that uses sports as a catalyst to change society's perceptions and treatment of people with intellectual disabilities.

Best Buddies participants and Special Olympics athletes have reached millions of milestones over the last decades. However, there are many areas of the country and regions of the world that still lack programs to help people with IDD become a part of mainstream society. Together, Best Buddies and Special Olympics have taken the torch from Eunice Kennedy Shriver to become the driving force behind the nation's disabilities movement.

Washington Capitals and Wizards owner Ted Leonsis and his Buddy Ken Holden – a former Special Olympics Athlete – are the honorary co-chairs of the event. Join Ted, Ken, Mayor Adrian Fenty, members of the Shriver Family, politicians, celebrities, Best Buddies and Special Olympics in this amazing event by registering here: www.ekschallenge.org. For more information please visit that website or E-mail Ted McCartan at tedmccartan@bestbuddies.org.



Let's Be Friends!

For all the latest Law Enforcement Torch Run® information from around the world, check us out on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and search Law Enforcement Torch Run® or click on the link below:

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The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle,...

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Information

Founded: 1981

Insights

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20 Daily New Likes

0 Daily Post Views

76 Daily Post Feedback

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