

Summer 2012

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council

Countdown to Indiana



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Mike Peretti, LETR Executive Council

Fellow Torch Runners,

Welcome to this edition of the Guardian Newsletter. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) continues to lead the way to opportunity and inclusion for those with intellectual disabilities, all stemming from your hard work. The LETR Executive Council shares in the pursuit of this vision and has spent much of this summer developing initiatives to further our goals. Recently, the Executive Council, in collaboration with local programs, adopted a standardized reporting system. This initiative addressed two very important issues; first, a common fiscal year with Special Olympics programs and second, a clear definition of what is and what is not a Torch Run event. In addition, the Executive Council continues to work on the branding initiative. This one is no easy task, but one that is vital to our continued success. You will hear more about this progress at the conference.

Most exciting this year is the international expansion initiative. The Executive Council invested approximately \$65,000 in development and awareness campaigns throughout the European, Oceania, Latin America and Asian Pacific regions. These efforts included attendance at International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conferences, training meetings, outreach efforts to new territories, Torch Runs, and a host of other efforts to expand our mission throughout these regions. Coupled with this initiative are efforts to grow military involvement throughout the world. We are already seeing the fruits of our labor with a new Torch Run Program in Latvia, and increased participation in the Oceania Region.

Far too many things to cover in one letter, but know that our collective efforts are making a difference. If you want to hear more about these initiatives and others, like the great new partnership with the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, ask your regional coordinators or better yet, come to the conference in Indy, it will "Raise the Game."



Special Olympics Athletes and Policemen Meet in Friendly Match

By Joelle McGurrin, Special Olympics Quebec

Members of Les Dragons de la Rive-Sud floor-hockey team faced-off against a team of policemen from Longueuil, Québec, on September 7, 2012. This friendly match was held in Greenfield Park, in the parking lot of the Krispy Kreme store, and was preceded by a symbolic Torch Run by participating Law Enforcement officers.



Before the beginning of the game, the captain of Les Dragons, Annie Labelle, challenged her opponents, letting them know that they had better be “on their game” because nothing was going to get by her defense. The members of Les Dragons, as pumped and prepared as their Captain, won the match and sent the team from the Longueuil Police Department packing.

“Normally, we try to mix up the teams to generate more of a recreational atmosphere and minimize competitiveness,” explained policeman Benoit Robert. “But not with Les Dragons. This team considers this to be a competition between Les Dragons and the policemen’s team.”

In its second year, this year’s challenge between Les Dragons and the Longueuil Police Department raised approximately \$1,300 for the benefit of the 5,000 courageous and determined Quebec athletes who participate in sport programs in 17 disciplines sanctioned by Special Olympics Quebec.

Rumour has it that the team from the Longueuil Police Department has already started training for the return match in 2013!

Cops-On-Top

By Tela Mange, VP of Communications, Special Olympics Texas

The San Antonio Cops-On-Top event at the Krispy Kreme on DeZavala in April 2012 raised \$1,550 in just six hours for Special Olympics Texas. LETR volunteers included representatives of the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, the US Marshals Service, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Dominguez Unit, the San Antonio Police Department and the San Antonio Fire Department. McGruff the Crime Dog also participated, but he stayed on the ground.



LETR participants and McGruff the Crime Dog were pleased to work with the manager of the Krispy Kreme store that generously hosted the Cops-On-Top event.



The San Antonio Fire Department provided a ladder truck to deliver participants to the roof of the Krispy Kreme at the beginning of the event, and then brought them down at the end.

Three SOTX athletes were on hand to help encourage donut customers to toss in some spare change or to dig deep in their wallets and to encourage the folks on the roof.



SOTX athletes (in red shirts) worked with LETR officers to raise more than \$1,550 in just six hours during the Cops-On-Top event in San Antonio in April.

Law Enforcement Torch Run Canada — National Final Leg

By Paul Manuel, Region XI (Canada) National Coordinator

As the 2012 Canadian Special Olympics National Winter Games prepared to bring over 700 athletes to the city of St. Albert, Alberta, Canada for the opening ceremonies, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® once again did its duty to share the Flame of Hope with as many people as it could. A team of over 25 athletes, Law Enforcement Torch Runners and support staff spent two days and travelled over 1,200 kilometers, carrying the torch to eight towns and cities in the surrounding area, including a trip out to Jasper National Park in the scenic Rocky Mountains. The Final Leg team included participants from across the country with a range of Torch Run experience from their first involvement to 25 years. The organizers and support crew did a fantastic job of ensuring the team was on schedule throughout the entire trip.

In the weeks preceding the Final Leg, a competition was run amongst the schools in each town to determine which would get the honor of hosting the Torch Run ceremony. What a great idea by the Torch



Run committee members to raise even more awareness! The reception at each school was amazing, as it was clear that the students had done research into both Special Olympics and the Torch Run. Local media was present at many of the locations and Torch Runners used those opportunities to spread the message of inclusion and acceptance. Over 4,000 students, grades K-12, directly heard the



message which is still reverberating throughout the region.

As many of you know from your attendance at the 2011 LETR® International Conference that was held in Calgary, Alberta, the temperatures in Alberta can be a bit chilly. The Final Leg runners had the support of 5.11 Tactical who supplied all their gear to keep them comfortable, warm, and fashionable in their gear throughout the run. The Torch Runners then had to gear up in their dress uniforms, as they were put to work as flag bearers for the opening ceremonies. The torch was brought to the Servus Credit Union Place by a contingent of over 120 Law Enforcement Officers from throughout the province of Alberta.

Of course, the torch run wouldn't be complete without athlete involvement. We



were fortunate to have two wonderful athletes participate as torch runners -

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This is the final Guardian newsletter before the 2012 Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics International Conference – very exciting! The Indiana Planning Committee has been getting the wonderful city of Indianapolis ready to host you in November.

Great news! Conference registration is now open for the 2012 International Conference. Register through your Torch Run liaison at www.blueskyz.com/torchrun. The online registration system will allow you to register for the conference and book your hotel rooms in the same system.

First time to Indianapolis, or want to know more about what to expect when you come to the conference? Here are a few things you need to know:

Not only are the conference sessions going to feature a plethora of interesting topics and knowledgeable speakers, you will enjoy the various after-hours events with your fellow Special Olympics supporters. A few highlights include Indiana Hospitality Night, Host Night, the Torch Run, a comedy club outing and the Law Enforcement Torch Run® Bowling Open.

The fun and festivities will begin on Wednesday evening, November 7, at the *Explore Indianapolis* Hospitality Night on Georgia Street in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, where the renowned 2012 Super Bowl Village was located. You will get to experience what all the fuss was about during last season's Super Bowl! Various downtown establishments have come on board to collaborate with the conference and will be serving specials for conference attendees as they explore Indianapolis.

Wonder what it is like to be a professional athlete in the National Basketball Association (NBA)? All conference attendees will be "Raising the Game" at Indiana Host Night on Thursday, November 8, at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers. Come dressed in your favorite team's jersey for a party Indiana-style. From the minute you walk into the Grand Entry Pavilion, you will know that the game is on and you will see why Bankers Life Fieldhouse has been selected as one of the best NBA arenas for several years running.



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Get your running shoes ready! The 5-kilometer Torch Run will traverse the famous White River State Park, which is located directly across the street from the host hotel, the JW Marriott. On Saturday, November 10, the Torch Run will take place on the scenic downtown canal area with a stop for a group photo with the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial as the backdrop and will conclude in front of the home of the NCAA. A cookout provided by GFS Marketplace will be available for conference attendees at the conclusion of the race. Everyone is invited to stay and “Play In The Park” as they will receive a packet with discounts for Saturday attractions including the NCAA Hall of Champions, Eiteljorg Museum, IMAX Theater and the Indiana State Museum. The cost per runner is \$20 and includes a souvenir T-shirt.

The first-ever LETR® Bowling Open will be another featured event of the conference on Saturday, November 10. The fun, but competitive, event will help launch the new partnership between the Bowling Proprietors Association of America (BPAA) and LETR®. The 2012 LETR® Open will be held at Western Bowl in Indianapolis, a state-of-the-art 80-lane facility. Individuals may sign up for the event during conference registration for \$20 per person and will be placed randomly with other conference attendees in a non-competitive format.

There also will be an evening out at the comedy club and an opportunity for conference attendees to experience Indianapolis by participating in an “Active Indy” tour.

Throughout the conference, you will have the opportunity to meet hundreds of law enforcement personnel and Special Olympics supporters from around the world!

You may even run into Tim Shriver, Special Olympics International chairman and CEO, or Derek Poundstone, the world’s strongest man, or Bobby Plump, the inspiration behind the iconic film “Hoosiers,” or Carl Erskine, Dodgers great and Special Olympics champion, or Ken Melvin, Special Olympics Indiana athlete and the 2011 World Summer Games Presidential delegate, and so many others!



Each person has a unique Special Olympics story, and we know you do too. Please share your story at the “Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Indiana” Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Law-Enforcement-Torch-Run-for-Special-Olympics-Indiana/376450769082850. We also will post conference updates on this site.

As you can tell, there will be many exciting things to do while you are in Indianapolis. Hope to see you in November! Please continue to visit www.soindiana.org for all the latest conference information and details.



HALO Event Sponsor of International Law Enforcement Torch Run®

By Adrian DeWendt, Special Olympics Oklahoma



The International Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council is pleased to announce that HALO Branded Solutions has agreed to become an Event Sponsor of the movement. HALO has been a sponsor of the Law Enforcement Torch Run® over the past several years including supporting the Final Leg and hosting a CEO gathering at the annual international conference. They have had a booth at multiple international conferences as well as Special Olympics US Business meetings. In 2011, HALO became one of four preferred vendors of the Law Enforcement Torch Run®.

As an Event Sponsor, HALO will be working with the LETR® Executive Council and the Indianapolis planning committee in providing merchandise and support for the conference this November. HALO's Event Sponsor status will also give them recognition as a sponsor of the Final Leg of the Special Olympics World Winter Games in January 2013. "We are pleased and honored to have a great partner like HALO," said Mike Peretti, Chairman of the International Law Enforcement Torch Run® Executive Council. "Not only are they providing great financial support for our movement, but they will work with individual programs to assist with revenue-generation ideas for your Law Enforcement Torch Run® program."

Please be sure to stop by the HALO booth during the conference in Indianapolis to say thank you to Bob and his staff. HALO will be creating an on-line store for pre and post conference merchandise sales. Please share the following link with your Torch Run constituency so they may have the opportunity to purchase the latest and greatest Law Enforcement Torch Run® merchandise. Visit www.torchrungear.com now!



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Janelle McGinley and Jordan Deren from Special Olympics Edmonton. They did a fantastic job and made the whole experience so much more enjoyable. It was so rewarding to see Janelle's growth in her self-confidence and Jordan's pride develop over the short time we were all together. Yet again, it was a reminder why we do what we do.



FINAL LEG CLOTHING SUPPLIED BY

Editor's Note: We extend our apologies for not including this article in the last issue of The Guardian.

Special Olympics Washington — Athlete Extraordinaire!

By Sergeant Randy Maynard, Kennewick Police Department

For the past nine years now, law enforcement officers from Kennewick PD, Yakima PD, and various other SE Washington agencies have participated in the Torch Run Relay for Special Olympics. This endurance event is really like no other. Thirteen LE officers run non-stop from Clarkston at the WA/ID border to Tacoma raising awareness for SOWA, and with a bit of luck, a few dollars along the way.

The entire distance is approximately 384 miles. Each runner is responsible for roughly 30 miles, divided up into three 5-mile legs, and five 3-mile legs. We start at 0400 on Wednesday, and arrive at Joint Base Lewis McChord sometime Friday afternoon, before the Opening Ceremonies for Summer Games. We run mainly on state route highways and surface streets through all the cities along with way. [Broadmoor RV](#) in Pasco supports our team by donating two 30-foot motor homes and Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg supports us by allowing the use of a KPD marked patrol vehicle to accompany the runner the entire route, ensuring the runner's safety. The Washington Fraternal Order of Police support us with a van used to shuttle runners between their starting and finishing points so the motor homes can get completely off the roadway and not obstruct traffic.



Andy Bryant Engle, SOWA Athlete

In recent years, getting volunteers to run in this adventure has not been an issue. This year was the exception. It seemed most of the previous year's team members were required to attend some sort of training during the week of this event. Some had nagging injuries, and others just were not available. I was able to scramble around and find twelve volunteers but was still looking for one more person to round out the team of 13. I contacted Mary Do, LETR® Development director for SOWA, and asked if she knew of anyone that may be able, and willing to do this. Her first response was Andy Bryant Engle. Mary explained Andy is a SOWA athlete who is a phenomenal runner. SHE WAS NOT KIDDING!

I placed a call to Colleen Engle, Andy's mother, about the middle of May. Keep in mind, this was about two weeks prior to our departure for Clarkston for the start of our 9th annual run. Out of the blue, Mrs. Engle receives a call from a

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person who says he is police officer, asking for her son to go on some crazy idea for a “run” for a week, right before he is scheduled to compete in the annual Summer Games at Joint Base Lewis McChord. I know what my response would have been had I been on the receiving end of that phone call. However, fortunately for our team, Mrs. Engle was not opposed to the idea, and said she would talk it over with Andy. During this call, Mrs. Engle told me about Andy finishing the Boston Marathon in just over three hours. To anyone who has done any running at all, most will agree Boston is one of the top five best in the world, and to run it in three hours – that takes some hard work and a lot of natural ability.

Mrs. Engle called back the following day and said Andy was all in! Arrangements were made through SOWA to fly Andy to Pasco as he lives in Seattle. This trip also required he take a day off work from his job at QFC, a grocery store. I personally am still grateful to his boss for allowing the day off. Andy arrived on Tuesday morning ready to run. That afternoon, I introduced Andy to the rest of our team. Andy immediately fit in with everyone else, just as if he had been part of our team since the start.

The relay order has always been based on random draw as there are stretches of this entire route that some people would rather not volunteer for. And since we run 24 hours a day, some of the late night/early morning start times are difficult at best to get up and ready for. After the draw, Andy’s start times were Wednesday at 0530 and 1515; Thursday at 0100, 1009, 1600, and 2151; Friday at 0345 and 0933. Mrs. Engle was a little concerned with Andy running in the middle



2012 Relay Team—from left: Corporal Matt Newton, Kennewick PD; Detective Roman Trujillo, Kennewick PD; Motor Officer Lee Cooper, Kennewick PD; Detective Shirrell Vietenheimer, Kennewick PD; Sergeant Monty McNeary, Union Gap PD; Officer Miguel Ayala, Kennewick PD; Detective Rick Runge, Kennewick PD; Daniel Irish, Hanford Patrol; Motor Officer Stan Howard, Kennewick PD; Deputy Horacio Gonzalez, Benton County Sheriff; Sergeant Randy Maynard, Kennewick PD; Andy Bryant Engle, Special Olympics; Officer Howard Engledow, Kent PD

of the night – not for his safety, but because he was scheduled to compete in several running events at the Summer Games the day after we finished this adventure. She wanted to ensure he was properly rested to compete in those events. She decided it should ultimately be Andy’s decision if he wanted to run the nighttime legs or sleep. Andy opted to run them – every one of them. Andy was rested enough that he still won the gold medal in the 10K road race on Saturday at the Summer Games!

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of this relay run for our team. By the end of our run next year, we will have collectively run almost 4,000 miles for Special Olympics. Kennewick PD Detective Rick Runge is the only remaining original team member, having run each of the 9 years. He says he will hang it up after the 10th annual run. Anyone who knows Rick will agree there is not much chance of that happening.....

Special Olympics British Columbia “Draft an Athlete” Campaign

By Amy Pokoney, Special Olympics BC

In 2012, Special Olympics BC ran a campaign encouraging communities to draft one of the 109 members of Team BC 2012 to attend the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. Drafts were \$1,000 per athlete, which helped cover costs such as accommodations, airfares, uniforms and competition fees to give the athletes the life-changing experience of participating in the National Games. The team members were from numerous communities around the province, and all communities were invited to show their support for their local athletes by donating and raising funds to help them reach the Games.

In particular, the law enforcement community took a great deal of interest in the campaign. They didn't just send money – the participating police departments decided that as part of a community service exercise for their members, they would invite athletes on Team BC in their respective communities to attend and speak at briefings. The law enforcement members went above and beyond to support the athletes, even taking them to and from these briefings with a door-to-door service riding in patrol cars. In return they asked that the athletes report back to them with their training updates and competition results.

Over a period of a month, more than 15 police departments met with Team BC athletes within their community, becoming engaged with them and excited to cheer them on in the Special Olympics Canada Games.

In 2011, the law enforcement community impressed by raising \$35,000 for Special Olympics BC's Draft An Athlete campaign that year. In 2012, the funds raised by the BC law enforcement community more than doubled, exceeding \$70,000. The financial



contribution was astounding, as was the ownership that the officers took over the campaign and the accountability that they felt to get the athletes to the Games. Not only did financial figures double, but the campaign had a positive effect on development within the law enforcement community.

The departments that used donations of overtime hours were the most successful in their Draft An Athlete campaigns. Members gave generously of their own overtime hours, which were converted into donations that gave significant support to Team BC athletes. In Vancouver, 343 members of the Vancouver Police Department gave more than 1,220 overtime hours, totaling \$36,675 in donations. Their generosity helped give the empowering experience of competing in the Special Olympics Canada Games to more than 35 members of Team BC, including four Special Olympics BC – Vancouver athletes. The number of VPD members who donated rose by 63 between the 2011 and 2012 campaigns, and the VPD members overall donated \$15,000 more in the 2012 Draft initiative.

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Torch Run Special for Pleasant Hill Chief

Originally posted on CalChiefsNews.org on July 2, 2012 by Admin

“Hey, you’re a runner. Why don’t you do this?”

Pete Dunbar recalls being asked that question 26 years ago, when he was an officer at the Oakland Police Department. A cross-country runner in college, Dunbar was, at the time, logging 10 miles per day, and certainly was up to the task.

He also was sympathetic to the cause.

In college, at Santa Clara University, he was a referee for a Special Olympics basketball squad.

So when a colleague at the Oakland PD invited him to participate in a torch run for the Special Olympics — a journey that started at the state capital and ended up in Los Angeles — Dunbar didn’t hesitate.

And since that event in 1986, Dunbar has never looked back. The chief of police of Pleasant Hill is one of the state’s most involved law enforcement officials when it comes to the Special Olympics, the world’s largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

One of the reasons is people like Doug, a young man and Special Olympics participant in his mid-20s.

Dunbar, 52, has watched Doug grow up at the annual competition, which was held June 22-24 for the northern half of the state in the city of Davis. The Games are held in the northern and southern portions of the state each year.

Doug participates each year in the northern Games pentathlon; aquatics, bocce, tennis and track and field are among the sports athletes compete in. This year, in Davis, more than 900 athletes and volunteer coaches participated in the Games.

“To see (Doug) grow up as an athlete and as a person has been absolutely wonderful,” says Dunbar, police chief of the city in the East Bay area of San Francisco for six years. The bonds Dunbar has forged with Doug and other athletes is “nothing that money can buy,” says the police chief, a member on the executive committee of the Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games who assists in organizing torch run efforts internationally.

The Northern California torch run, under the slogan “Flame of Hope,” is held during the two weeks leading up to the Games, culminating with a law enforcement motorcade that delivers the torch into the stadium. But the torch run really is a year-round effort involving lots of fund-raising — and Dunbar is among the best in the business statewide.

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The involvement of the law enforcement community did not stop with their fundraising success. Special Olympics BC also saw an increase in volunteerism in their programs from within the police departments that participated in the Draft An Athlete campaign.

The personal generosity and support of the law enforcement members had a significant impact on the Special Olympics BC athletes. At the National Games, the members of Team BC competed with determination and passion, and experienced the empowerment and pride that comes from giving their very best effort on this national stage. They demonstrated inspiring sportsmanship and respect with all their fellow athletes and made friends from across the country. They felt the joy of walking into the Opening Ceremony as Team BC was greeted with a cheering crowd filling the stands.

Many of the Team BC athletes were impressed and pleased to hear that they were being so strongly supported by law enforcement members. “Thank you so very much. We had a great time winning GOLD,” SOBC – Nanaimo floor hockey player Bill wrote in a letter of thanks to the VPD members. He scored a hat-trick in his team’s gold-medal game to help them capture first place in their division, and he was overjoyed at the experience. “I was so thankful and tearful. Thank you again.”



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The Oakland native, who spent 24 years with that city’s police department before being named, in 2006, chief of police of Pleasant Hill, a town of about 33,000 patrolled by 44 sworn officers, is known for his department’s annual fund-raising efforts for the Special Olympics.

Through crab feeds, “Tip-A-Cop” events where police wait on tables, T-shirt sales, a polar plunge and other fundraising efforts, the Pleasant Hill PD has been the No. 1 money-raising agency for the Special Olympics for the last five years in Northern California, Dunbar says.

Over the last three years, law enforcement agencies in the region have raised more than \$1 million annually through torch runs — \$1.2 million this past year, says Dunbar. Internationally, law enforcement agencies raised more than \$40 million for the Special Olympics last year, he says.

Dunbar is married with two grown children. He has no one with special needs in his family — he’s just become deeply touched over the years by the athletes in the Special Olympics.

And even though he plans to retire at the end of September, Dunbar — like his special friend Doug — will be back for next year’s competition.

“Giving one’s best effort, in law enforcement as well as the Special Olympics, is all one can ask for,” Dunbar says. “It’s all about creating a better world.”

(Re-printed with permission.)

European Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Delegates Gather in Belfast for Conference

By Jeremy Adams, European Regional Coordinator

Belfast was the venue for the 2012 LETR® Europe/Eurasia Torch Run conference, when police officers and Special Olympics representatives came together for a three-day conference, September 14-16, 2012. Delegates gave updates on their respective programmes, discussed initiatives on introducing new LETR programmes and began planning the Torch Run for the next Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) Summer Games that are taking place in Belgium in September 2014.

Delegates travelled to Belfast for the conference from Turkey, Gibraltar, Netherlands, Portugal, Latvia, Cyprus, Belgium, Estonia and Great Britain and were joined by local representatives from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The conference organiser was Police Service of Northern Ireland officer and European Torch Run Coordinator, Jeremy Adams, who has been involved with the LETR since 1996, along with his Europe/Eurasia counterpart, Regional Coordinator Jacek Hachulski.

During their stay the delegates, along with



representatives from Special Olympics Ireland and Ulster, attended a reception at Hillsborough Castle hosted by PSNI Torch Run Director Assistant Chief Constable Will Kerr and the Police Federation for Northern Ireland and visited the iconic Titanic Visitors Centre, along with the three Special Olympics Ulster athletes, Ryan Hill, Rosalind Connolly and Lucy Best, who will represent Team Ireland at the Special Olympics World Winter games in South Korea in January 2013.

Jeremy said, "I am delighted to represent my LETR Europe/Eurasia colleagues and that we had the opportunity to have this type of conference in Northern Ireland. For many of the delegates it was their first visit here. We had a productive conference and thanks to my colleagues in Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia for their support for LETR."

Both Jeremy and Jacek were delighted with the progress made at the conference and the ability to share best practices and, importantly, work towards the European Games in 2014.

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Both Jacek and Jeremy, along with their Advisory and Legacy Council Co-Chair Claire Kennedy, will travel this November to the SOEE Directors Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, and make a Torch Run presentation to the delegates in an attempt to increase LETR involvement across Europe/Eurasia.



Special Olympics Kansas Events

By Donna Zimmerman, Senior Vice President—Public Relations

Kansas Law Enforcement Training Class learns another definition of “serve”

In March 2012, the 217th KLETC Basic Training Class, conducted a Tip-A-Cop fundraiser at Lonestar Restaurant for Special Olympics in Hutchinson, raising over \$1300 in 3 ½ hours for Special Olympics Kansas! This event was an all-time record project for a KLETC training class!



Kansas Law Enforcement Summer Games



The 3rd annual Kansas Law Enforcement Summer Games was held in August. There were 12 local agencies with 86 participants in the games. Events included the 100 Meter Run, 1 Mile Run, 4x100 Relay, Sprint Medley Relay, Softball Throw, Obstacle Course, Tug-of-War, Bench Press and Crossfit.

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Recording a three-peat, the Olathe SWAT won the Tug-of-War. In a turn of the tables,

Special Olympics athletes presented medals to the participants for their accomplishments!

Guardian of the Flame Partner – Cargotec Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run

Kansas LETR has forged a new partnership with Cargotec, located in Ottawa, Kansas. As a Guardian of the Flame sponsor, Cargotec hosted a stop during the annual Torch Run. The flame from Lawrence/Douglas County officers was handed to Ottawa/Franklin county officers at a ceremony at the plant site. The ceremony included a message from SOKS Global Messenger, Bekah Henderson and several athletes attended the event.



Allan Wilson, Director of Operations for the Ottawa facility stated, "Cargotec is an international corporation and we feel that supporting the international movement, Law Enforcement Torch Run, is a perfect fit for us. The LETR symbolizes hope and is a grassroots supporter of Special Olympics programs throughout the world. It's about community. It's about commitment. It's about doing the right thing."

Additionally Cargotec provided a van wrap for Special Olympics Kansas.



Coaching Opportunity Strengthens Relationships Between Athletes and LESO Volunteers in Delaware

By Jon Buzby, Special Olympics Delaware

Powerlifting builds muscles. It builds stamina and strength. And thanks to Delaware law enforcement officers, it also builds friendships.

Last spring more than 10 officers from several police and emergency-related agencies across the state teamed up with local Special Olympics powerlifters, providing athletes with hands-on coaching as they prepared for the annual Special Olympics Delaware Summer Games. “The powerlifting program has been a long-time source of pride for Special Olympics Delaware,” said LESO state director John Miller, “but there was a feeling that if we could recruit more coaches, we could recruit more powerlifters.”



Corporal Scott Linus of the Delaware State police (sunglasses on head) spots a powerlifter at the Special Olympics Delaware 2012 Summer Games. More than 10 police officers served as coaches for the state's powerlifting program, enabling it to more than triple in size. (photo by Bob Gilley)

Once the officers were recruited, they attended a coaches' clinic conducted by Hank Stoklosa, who was instrumental in starting the Special Olympics Delaware powerlifting program years ago and he remains involved today as a coach and meet director. "During the clinic, the officers learned proper lift techniques for powerlifting," Stoklosa said. "And just as importantly, how to communicate with athletes of different ability levels. But it wasn't until the officers saw the athletes training and competing that they learned the most valuable trait of our Special Olympics powerlifters – how hard they compete and to never underestimate a Special Olympics athlete...especially a powerlifter."

What also can't be underestimated is the impact of the new partnership. With the addition of the officers as coaches, the number of athletes participating in the sport tripled and the amount of weight each could lift also increased. But what can't be measured in objective numbers is the impact the experience had on the officers. "Having the opportunity to train with an athlete over a period of a few months was a great experience," said Delaware State Police Corporal Michael Austin, who proudly watched James Thomas surpass his personal bests and receive gold medals in all three of his events. "To gain trust, forge a friendship, and then seeing them get rewarded for all their hard work was amazing. It was a thrill to watch the progression and then the achievement."

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Thomas is a member of the AdvoServ Special Olympics team and program director Thomas Ireland couldn't say enough about the experience. "It had a major impact on James," Ireland said. "Working with the police officer helped James in so many ways, including discipline and punctuality. Aside from the sport, James realized that there are many positive sides to being a police officer, not just being people who lock people up. James knew he was looked at as an individual who was willing to be trained and wanted to maximize his full potential. He is extremely happy to have been given that opportunity and he has already inquired about next year."

Reflecting back on the experience, Austin admitted he learned much more about Special Olympics athletes than just how much weight they can lift. "What left a lasting impression on me after watching the competition was the sportsmanship amongst the athletes," Austin shared. "They cheered for each other and were genuinely excited when one of their fellow competitors succeeded."

Corporal Scott Linus (Delaware State Police) was part of a team of coaches who worked with nine different powerlifters. "You can't describe this experience in words," Linus said. "The athletes had great attitudes toward the sport and us as coaches. Just seeing how excited the athletes were every week during our workouts made my day. I had a smile on my face every session we had with the athletes."

Linus' smile was never bigger than at the Summer Games powerlifting venue, where he spotted for many of the athletes he coached and then watched with excitement as each one was awarded at least one medal and several achieved personal bests. "I was screaming and hollering with joy for each of the athletes as they performed their lifts," Linus said.

The partnership between Law Enforcement for Special Olympics Delaware and the powerlifting program is one that will continue for years to come. "The impact on our coaches and athletes has been incredible," Miller reiterated. "It's a true testament to proper training and excellent communication, both imperative in the sport of powerlifting."

Fundraising in Gibraltar

By Francis Williams, Law Enforcement Torch Run Director, Gibraltar

To be able to understand our strength and weakness in our fundraising efforts everyone must first understand what Gibraltar is, its location and population. Gibraltar is a British overseas territory located on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula at the entrance of the Mediterranean. It has an area of 2.6 square miles (6.8 square kilometres) and a northern border/frontier with Andalusia, Spain. The Rock of Gibraltar is the major landmark of the region. At its foot is the densely populated city area, home to almost 30,000 Gibraltarians and other nationalities.



The Rock of Gibraltar

An Anglo-Dutch force captured Gibraltar from Spain in 1704 during the War of the Spanish Succession. The territory was subsequently ceded to Britain “in perpetuity” under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. It was an important base for the Royal Navy; today its economy is based largely on tourism, financial services and shipping.

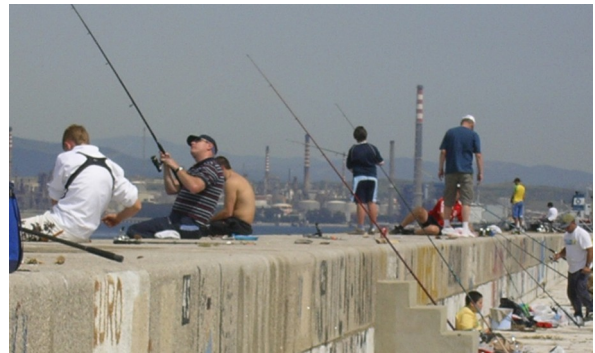
The name Gibraltar is the Spanish derivation of the Arabic name ‘*Jabal Tarik*’, meaning mountain of Tarik, named after the Berber Umayyad general *Tariq ibn-Ziyad*, who led the main Moorish force in 711 in the conquest of Spain. Gibraltar is also known as ‘*Mons Calpe*’, one of the Pillars of Hercules.



Francis Williams selling raffle tickets at a major supermarket entrance.

Gibraltar is one of the most densely populated territories in the world, with a population estimated in 2008 of 29,286, equivalent to approximately 4,290 inhabitants per square kilometre. One of the main features of Gibraltar’s population is the diversity of their ethnic origins. The demographics of Gibraltar reflect Gibraltarians’ racial and cultural fusion of the many European and other ethnic migrants who settled on the Rock over the past 300 years.

In 2011, a total of 230 charities were officially registered in Gibraltar, all of whom depend greatly on the goodwill and generosity of its population for funding. The Gibraltar Law Enforcement Torch Run competes yearly with the 229 other charities for business sponsorship and local funding.



Fishing competition

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(Continued from page 20)

In order to do so and in attempt to move away from the traditional request for funding through street collection, we continuously seek diverse ways of obtaining funding whilst at the same time, promoting awareness of the LETR® and SO, with the latter being the primary aim and objective of all our efforts.

Although we engage in the traditional fundraising events such as Lottery Raffles and Polar Bear Plunges, one of our favourite and enjoyable methods of fundraising is through fishing competitions. With easy access to our coastal areas, fishing is both a sport and a favourite past-time with many residents, both young and old.



Fishing competition participants



Polar Bear Plunge

Enlisting the assistance of local fishing clubs, fishing competitions are held yearly and are always well attended. A maximum numbers of entrants is established, normally dependant on the availability of 'Fishing Pegs' (*an area delegated to an individual within the area designated for fishing on the Mole*) available. Competition starts at approximately 0800 hours and the last whistle, which is the indication that lines are to be reeled in, is given at 1600 hours.

After that the weighing-in and categories are sorted by the attending fishing club committee members and the Torch Run Committee and trophies, donated to the LETR for the competition, are given out to different categories as recommended by the local clubs.

Each competitor is charged a minimal fee of (£10.00), for which he receives in return a free non-alcoholic beverage, a hamburger (*freshly cooked on a BBQ on the mole by LETR committee members; the burger and the drink are also donated by local suppliers*). A raffle for a fishing rod and reel, donated by a local fish and tackle shop is also done on site; raffle tickets are sold to the competitors during the event in an attempt to raise funds.



Polar Bear Plunge participants

The media is invited to attend the competition and the prize-giving ceremony to raise awareness and promote the LETR. A Press Release is then issued to the local media, giving the names of the winners and catch category and thanking all who supported the event and the sponsors of the trophies, food and raffle prizes.

(Continued on page 22)

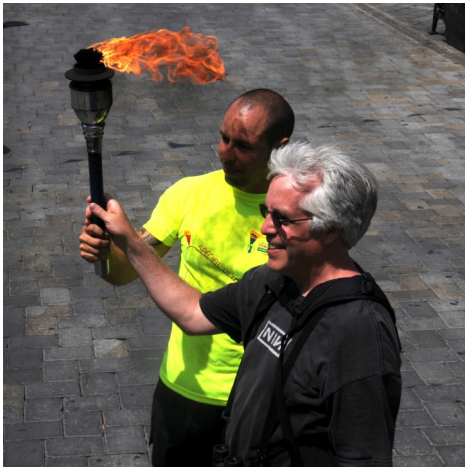
(Continued from page 21)

Another popular method of fundraising we use is in collaboration with one of our local youth music clubs that holds monthly 'Rock Music' 'gigs, show, concert' at their club. Once a year, we are offered the opportunity of retaining all the takings of the entrance fee of the night for an event that is held on behalf of the LETR®. In support of the event, committee members attend and assist as required; we are not required to provide anything else other than assistance in selling the entry tickets and keeping an eye out during the show for safety reasons. To date, because of experienced officers, we haven't had a single problem.



Running through the beaches collecting funds

Seeking other non-conventional fundraising activities, we have had our Torch Run secretary participating in two pilgrimage walks in the North of Spain covering over 100



Torch Run

Kilometres each and having monies pledged on his travelling. What shows the commitment of our members is the fact that they are willing to pay their own way and travel, and all monies raised are for LETR®, although this second time the money had been decided by the other participants with our member that it would be divided between two charities.

However, our traditional and most important method of yearly fund raising is in connection with our Torch Run, held in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the local Special Olympics National Games. Prior to the games we contact our yearly sponsors whom we are honoured to hold some of them continuously for over 10

years. Our runners are also given sponsorship forms and are requested to collect a minimum of £30.00 for which they will receive the T-shirt and some other memorabilia as the committee deems appropriate for the year. During the course of our Torch Run route, our runners visit the beaches carrying collection buckets and cans, collecting monies from beach-goers.

Our run route also takes us through the Town Centre Main Street. We use this opportunity to collect monies from residents, tourists and business premises alike, whilst at the same time promoting and raising awareness for the LETR® SO carrying out a formation run. Approximately £1,780.00 was collected through this method. This year, we raised over £5,000.00 in runner sponsorship, £7,520.00 in sponsors, £1,500.00 in in-kind donations, £936.88 from the Polar Bear Plunge and £695.00 from the Camino de Santiago.

If any program requires further information on the setting, workout or logistics of any of our events please contact either Francis Williams LETR® Director Gibraltar on francisw@gibtelecom.net or Robert Charles Peliza LETR® Secretary on rpeliza@gibtelecom.net



2013 Korea Final Leg

The 2013 Korea Final Leg is a little over two months away and the excitement is building!

The Final Leg Team consists of 133 members:

- 85** Law Enforcement Runners
- 10** Special Olympics Athletes
- 10** Running Team Leaders
- 11** Council Support Team Members
- 13** Korea GOC Support Team Members
- 3** Documentation Team Members
- 1** Team Captain

We are extremely excited to have ten amazing athletes who have been selected from around the world to be a part of the unified Final Leg Team.

Katherine St. Amand	Alberta, Canada
Johannes Grandner	Austria
Vivienne Shockley	Montana
Thomas van der Lugt	New Zealand
Phillip Brown	Nova Scotia
Bill Shaulis	Pennsylvania
Lachlan Woollett	South Australia
Andrew Bryant	Washington

The Flame Lighting will occur in Athens, Greece on January 17, 2013 and the flame will be transported to Korea by a Korean Police officer and athlete. The main team arrival will be on January 21st and the Flame Arrival Ceremony will occur on January 23rd in Seoul. After the Flame Arrival Ceremony, the Final Leg Team will divide up into different routes covering all areas of the country until the Teams converge on January 29th, delivering the Flame of Hope safely to the Opening Ceremonies of the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang.

(Continued on page 24)

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I want to announce a very exciting event that will take place during the 2013 Final Leg!

As a part of the Final Leg in Athens in 2011, many members of the Final Leg team assisted in raising funds to subsidize the cost of the 10 Special Olympics athletes from around the world who were chosen to be a part of the Final Leg team. This initiative was called "Adopt an Athlete." This fundraising initiative was very well received and was a great success.

For the 2013 Korea Final Leg we are doing the same thing with a little different twist....we will be doing a Polar Plunge during the Final Leg in Gangneung, Korea on January 30th. 50% of the money that the team members raise will go back to their local programs while 50% will be used to subsidize the expenses for the ten Special Olympics athletes who are members of the team at no cost to them or their home programs.

If you would like to sponsor one of the Final Leg Team members who are plunging, it's very easy, just go to: <http://SOI.kintera.org/2013FinalLeg>

Another new feature for the Final Leg Team this year is a website! Please visit the Final Leg website for information about the event as well as to see the members of the Team. Photographs from the Final Leg will be posted daily on this site during the event so you can follow the progress of the team as they spread awareness for Special Olympics and the Torch Run throughout Korea.

The Final Leg website is: www.lettr-finalleg.org

The Final Leg team is tremendously excited about the opportunity to help spread awareness for Special Olympics and our Torch Run efforts throughout the beautiful country of Korea and leave a lasting legacy of our efforts with the Korean National Police as a foundation for their Torch Run efforts in the future. **TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!!**

감사합니다. (With best regards,)



Captain John Newnan
Team Captain
2013 Korea Final Leg



2013 Korea Final Leg Team

PROGRAM

UNITED STATES

Alabama	Rex	Sorrow
Alaska	Karen	Och
Arizona	Douglas	Steele
Arkansas	Janice	Simonetti
N. California	Scott	Hamilton
S. California	Eric	Ledesma
Colorado	Christopher	Wright
Connecticut	Peter	Howard
Delaware	Daniel	Hall
Florida	Keith	Luce
Georgia	Billy	Grogan
Hawaii	Nicholas	Krau
Idaho	Jacob	Johnson
Illinois	Ken	Veach
Indiana	James	Reno
Iowa	Renee	Leonard
Kansas	Jeff	Bragg
Kentucky	Anthony	Teal
Louisiana	Nonoska	Guggenheim
Maine	John	Lizanecz
Maryland	Erik	Lynn
Massachusetts	John	Bassi
Michigan	John	Gates
Minnesota	Nicole	Reno
Missouri	Rita	Ketchem
Montana	Mark	Horner
Nebraska	Kevin	Wiese
Nevada	Robert	Woolsey
New Hampshire	Mike	Murray
New Jersey	James	Sepp
New Mexico	Michelle	Ugalde
New York	Steven	Negrelli
North Carolina	Thurman	Whisnant
North Dakota	Kevin	Arthaud
Ohio	Valerie	Perkins
Oklahoma	Jacob	Thompson
Oregon	Marsha	McCorkhill
Pennsylvania	Scott	Schubert

PROGRAM

Rhode Island	Elwood	Johnson
South Carolina	Marcus	Rhodes
South Dakota	Lisa	Hardison
Utah	Michael	Tueller
Virginia	Joseph	Carroll
Washington	Patricia	Finch
Wisconsin	Sara	Knapp
Wyoming	Zachary	Johnson

CANADA

Alberta	Amanda	Trenchard
British Columbia	Joanne	Wild
Manitoba	Matthew	Bassett
Newfoundland/ Labrador	Howard	Robert
Northwest Territories	Warren	Hudym
Nova Scotia	Mark	Mander
Ontario	Joanne	Pendrak
Quebec	Marc	Ratte

WORLDWIDE

Austria	Markus	Gloessl
Chinese Taipei	John	Lin
Cyprus	Panayiotis	Polyviou
Czech Republic	Petr	Matlach
El Salvador	Javier	Cabrera Chacon
Ecuador	Juan	Zapata Silva
Gibraltar	Clayton	Gomez
Greece	Alexandros	Kappis
Hong Kong	Chi Hung	Lai
Korea	Jaehoon	Choi
Korea	Seogbeom	Go
Korea	Seokjung	Jin
Korea	Sungbae	Jung
Korea	Seonho	Kim
Korea	Jeonghyun	Kwon
Korea	Hoshin	Lee
Korea	Seunghwan	
Korea	g	Lee
Korea	Wondon	Park
Korea	Jeongwan	Yim

2013 Korea Final Leg Team

WORLDWIDE

Netherlands	Jack	Adriaensen
New South Wales (Australia)	Darryal	Abeyasekera
New Zealand	Stewart	Hewett
Northern Ireland	Ewan	Ballantine
Poland	Jacek	Hachulski
Queensland (Australia)	Johan	Temmerman
Republic of Ireland	Hilda	Moloney
Samoa	Logoitino	Filipo
South Australia	Joanna	Kruk
Turkey	Orhan	Sinav
Venezuela	Julio	Vergara
Victoria (Australia)	Dean	McGowan

Council Support Team Members

Arkansas	Bill	Buford
Florida	Laura	Collins
Hong Kong	Patrick	Chan
Idaho	Jim	Kerns
Maryland	Jeff	Spaulding
Montana	Terri	Sappington
New South Wales, Australia	Scott	Whyte
Northern California	Mike	Peretti
SOI	Erika	Morant
Southern California	Roberta	Abner
Wyoming	Ron	Casalenda

Special Olympics Athletes

Alberta, Canada	Katherine	St. Armand
Austria	Johannes	Grander
Korea	Min Young	Kim
Korea	Jin Yong	An
Montana	Vivienne	Shockley
New Zealand	Thomas	van der Lugt
Nova Scotia	Phillip	Brown
Pennsylvania	Bill	Shaulis
South Australia	Lachlan	Woollett
Washington	Andrew	Bryant

GOC Support Team Members

Korea	Kwang Soo	Ahn
Korea	Hajin	Eim
Korea	Young Hee	Heo
Korea	Kim Jong	Hwa
Korea	Haesook	Jeong
Korea	Eugene	Jeong
Korea	Kwangsue	Kim
Korea	Seungkyu	Lee
Korea	Jonggue	Oh
Korea	Byonygjin	Park
Korea	Sangki	Yun
Korea	TBD	
Korea	TBD	

Running Team Leaders

Alberta, Canada	Paul	Manuel
Queensland, Australia	Brett	Price
Hawaii	Antonio	Williams
Connecticut	Joe	Carlone
Montana	Jason	Johnson
Northern Ireland	Tim	Craig
Maryland	Danielle	Bradshaw-Lee
Republic of Ireland	Gary	Gordon
Quebec, Canada	Johanne	Lesage
New South Wales, Australia	Don	Stuart

Documentation Team (3)

Southern California	Harry	Drucker
Idaho	Andrea	Kramer
Idaho	Dave	Kramer

Team Captain

Maryland	John	Newnan
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Tribute to a Fallen Torch Runner

By Mark Buerger, Communications Director, Special Olympics Kentucky

The Guardians know that the flame is never really extinguished. Oh, it may hide for a while between Games, but the “Flame of Hope” so proudly carried by Law Enforcement volunteers throughout the world continues to burn in every heart that Special Olympics touches. For 12 years, Kentucky’s Brian Bray proudly carried the Flame of Hope and did whatever else was asked of him on behalf of Special Olympics athletes. His commitment to the Torch Run and to Special Olympics burned brightly to everyone he came into contact with.

Bray joined the Law Enforcement Torch Run® in 2000 as a member of the Jefferson County (Louisville) Sheriff’s Office. He immediately began making an impact on the lives of everyone associated with Special Olympics Kentucky. He worked tirelessly on any number of fundraising events, including the Polar Plunge and UPS Plane and Truck Pulls in Louisville. He worked countless Tip-A-Cop events and sold hundreds of dollars of raffle tickets in Special Olympics Kentucky’s annual Harley-Davidson raffle.

In 2005, Bray started the year being named King of the Louisville Polar Plunge as the event’s top fundraising man. Later that year, however, he was diagnosed with Melanoma, beginning a six and a half year journey of joyful remissions and heartbreaking recurrences.

Bray never let his illness slow his work with the Torch Run. He returned as the Plunge king from 2006-2008. In 2007, he raised money to take part in Special Olympics Kentucky’s first Super Plunge, where participants jumped into the Ohio River every hour for 24 hours straight. When Brian’s doctors told him that may not be a great idea, his brother Wayne stepped in and plunged in Brian’s place, with Brian there the entire time to cheer him on. Brian’s dedication to people with intellectual disabilities went far beyond raising money. Every year he used his connections in the University of Louisville athletics department to arrange a day for Special Olympics athletes to meet the Louisville Cardinals football team. It was a



Brian Bray



‘Canadian Night’

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favorite day for many of the athletes in the Louisville area as well as for the Cardinals team. He also arranged for Special Olympics athletes to attend a Louisville football game each year.

Despite a courageous battle, Bray succumbed to cancer this past June at just 45 years old. Dedicated to the Torch Run to the very end, he had attended the semi-annual state leadership conference in January.

He left a lasting impression on those around him. Comments and condolences flooded in from Torch Run volunteers and others throughout the country when news of his passing spread. "Brian's smile was addicting and will be missed," said Brett House, a friend from Oklahoma City. "If we all strive to be like Brian, this world would be a much better place."



"Brian had a huge place in his heart for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and also for the Torch Run," said Dave Kerchner, retired Special Olympics Kentucky President and CEO, who worked extensively with Bray through the Torch Run. "The Torch Run and all its members throughout the country were a very important part of his life. He loved everyone who helped keep the 'flame burning' for athletes in Special Olympics."

Bray leaves behind his son Blake, and daughter Shelby, his father Fred, his sister Bernadine Logsdon and his brother Wayne, nieces, nephews and countless friends. He also leaves behind a tremendous legacy of support for the Torch Run, Special Olympics and people with intellectual disabilities everywhere. And like that "Flame of Hope" he so proudly protected for 12 years, while he may be gone from our presence, his light will live on the lives of everyone he has touched.

Special Olympics



STRIKES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2012



**Developed by the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for
Special Olympics and the Bowling Proprietors'
Association of America**

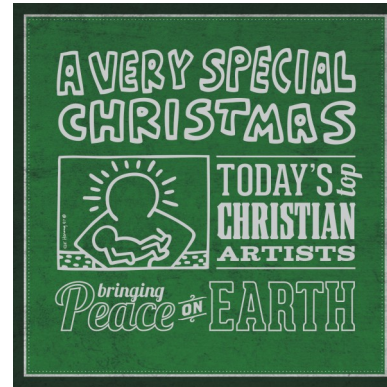
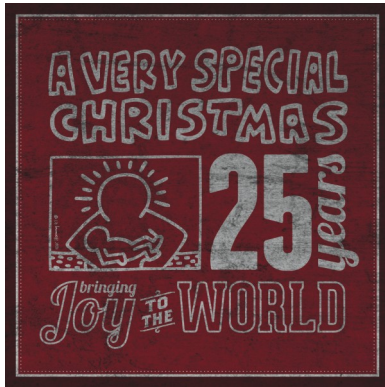


STRIKES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Law Enforcement Torch Run® Fundraiser to support US Special Olympics Programs

PARTNERSHIP

Special Olympics and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) have announced an official partnership in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the groundbreaking *A Very Special Christmas* (AVSC) music series that benefits Special Olympics (SO). There are several components to the partnership, and additional information on AVSC music, CD and icon sales, etc. will be distributed by BPAA and Special Olympics at a later date.



For more information, visit www.averyspecialchristmas.org

As a key component to the partnership, BPAA will be collaborating with the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics (LETR) to host and organize bowling fundraising events to benefit Special Olympics athletes and US Special Olympics programs. This event guide will focus on this important aspect of the relationship between BPAA and Special Olympics.

STRIKES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This nationwide fundraising effort will be called “**Strikes for Special Olympics**” with LETR® volunteers and SO staff dedicated to the LETR® collaborating with BPAA center owners and operators to put on fundraising events in support of Special Olympics. The inclusion of Special Olympics athletes in every event is highly recommended and encouraged! The funds raised through locally organized **Strikes for Special Olympics** events will benefit the state LETR® and Special Olympics programs where the funds are raised. This event guide is designed to assist both LETR® and BPAA members in the planning and implementation of successful bowling fundraising events.

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IMPORTANCE

Strikes for Special Olympics aligns the power, dedication and grassroots reach of the LETR® with the community based, fast growing sport of bowling best advocated through the BPAA, the voice of the bowling industry. Based on the fundraising success of the LETR® and the number of bowling centers in the USA, this collaborative effort has the potential to make a huge difference for Special Olympics by providing the funding needed to increase the number of participating athletes as well as enhance programming at the state level.

EVENT TIMELINE

Strikes for Special Olympics has a very flexible and extended timeline for fundraising events to be held. The event timeline is from **October 1-December 23, 2012**. Each location is able to work out the best event time for all parties involved.

EVENT LOCATIONS

There are over 3,500 bowling centers in the United States that are BPAA members. To find local bowling centers affiliated with BPAA, simply go to www.GoBowling.com, click on “Find a Center” at the top center of the home page, then type in a zip code. The site will provide locations and contact information for bowling centers within a 50-mile radius. Also, BPAA state leadership can provide information on local bowling center locations.

EVENT GUIDE, BPAA CONTACTS

The comprehensive ***Strikes for Special Olympics*** Event Guide, as well as the state contact lists for BPAA, are available at www.specialolympics.org. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and under “Resources” click on Torch Run Resources and Contacts—then click on the BPAA link to access the documents.

TYPES OF BOWLING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

BPAA members are experts at hosting bowling fundraising events and know what works best in their areas. There are a wide variety of successful bowling fundraising events that can be planned and executed. A large part of the event guide is dedicated to providing ideas and tips on what type of event to have and how to maximize your fundraising success. However, the type of event you hold is up to you and your creativity!

(Continued on page 32)

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FIRST STEP

At the state level, it is recommended that each LETR® Liaison/Director make contact with their respective BPAA State Executive Director to discuss statewide initiatives and goals, and vice versa. Local and state LETR® sponsor information can also be shared if desired so existing LETR® sponsors can participate in this event. BPAA has State Presidents who can also help and provide support (and be the main point of contact for those states where there is no BPAA State ED).

For local LETR® supporters, the first step in the process is to make contact with your local bowling center owner or manager to share ideas, decide on the type of event(s) to host, and then get started with the planning and promotion of your event.

REPORTING

LETR® Liaisons should develop a system to be able to account for the number of events and amount of funds raised within their state. This important information will be gathered at the end of the ***Strikes for Special Olympics*** campaign. More information on event reporting will be distributed at a later date.

SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

LETR® volunteers should work with their state LETR® Liaisons and Directors for any local support and assistance needed.

State LETR® Liaisons and Directors should contact Michael Teem, Executive Director of the LETR®, at mteem@specialolympics.org or by phone at 240-593-4949 for any support needs, questions, or concerns.



Hockey in Afghanistan for Special Olympics!

By Paul Manuel, Region XI Coordinator (Canada)

In October 2011, Sergeant John Langford, a police officer with the Calgary Police Service and an active member of the Alberta LETR® program, started serving a one-year assignment working in Afghanistan. Recently, John sent this letter, which I include in its entirety.

"For the past seven years or so I have been a member of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. I first got involved in the charity as a cyclist for the Law Enforcement Torch Ride, a 500km ride that took place for several years around central Alberta. I attended a couple of LETR conferences in Oklahoma and Dallas where I saw the scope of LETR and just how encompassing the organization was. When I learned that Calgary was putting in a bid to host the first conference outside the USA I ensured I was part of the planning committee. We put in thousands of hours of work leading up to the conference and, from what I hear; the event went off without a hitch. I never got to see the fruits of our labour because I deployed to Afghanistan for a year-long mission approximately three weeks before our conference in Calgary.

In Afghanistan I am a mentor/advisor to the Afghan National Police in the nation's capital city Kabul. This rugged, mountainous country is like no other place that I've been. It is a wrought with extreme violence and poverty. Everyday many people go hungry and without the necessities of life, so it goes without saying that those with special needs are completely overlooked by a population that is doing everything they can just to survive themselves.

Soon after I got here I contacted the National Director of Special Olympics Afghanistan (SOA) and I learned that the organization was seriously struggling financially. They had tried to host their Special Olympics Summer Games several times in the past but they had to be cancelled due to lack of funding. A further set back occurred recently when members of the training team were violently attacked by the Taliban when they were coaching a Special Olympics girl's team. After the attack I asked them if they still wanted to hold the Summer Games and, in true Afghan spirit, they said they would. I don't think anybody would criticize the organizers if they decided not to host the event because of the ever present threat of the Taliban returning. Amazingly, they were not intimidated and they showed true strength and resolve by not backing down.

For months I had been trying to organize a Torch Run on the camp that I live on, but the military legal advisors were extremely reluctant to let me host a fundraiser on the base. Fundraising was a road that the legal department was not comfortable going down so after weeks of negotiating I thought back to one of the most basic, fundamental Canadian concepts that we all grew up with; Hockey. On July 1st, 2012 eight teams registered for a Canada Day charity hockey tournament on a neighboring base, with all money raised going to Special Olympics Afghanistan. I was grateful for the \$582 that was raised but the reality was it would not be enough to pay for the Summer Games. I wrote a donation request to an organization called Boomer's Legacy Fund. This fund was set up in memory of a Canadian soldier, Corporal Andrew Eykelenboom, a medic who was killed in Afghanistan in 2006. Like me, Boomer was a Canadian soldier who served with the military unit 1 Field

(Continued on page 34)

(Continued from page 33)

Ambulance, so because of this connection I was particularly honored when the foundation agreed to donate the \$5,000 I had requested for Special Olympics Afghanistan.

On August 30th I was fortunate enough to attend Ghazni Stadium in Kabul to see the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Special Olympics Afghanistan Summer Games. The \$5,582 raised was enough to finance the event for more than 200 athletes, coaches and volunteers. This is the second time in eight years that they have been able to put on the games. I was led to a seat where I sat in the sweltering Afghan heat with the President of the National Olympic Committee and other dignitaries. The athletes paraded past us in the same way athletes entered the stadium at the Olympics in London earlier this summer. To my shock and surprise the last group of athletes was carrying a large sign that read "Mr. John Lang Ford Football Team 2012". I still can't express in words how that made me feel. I've always known the athletes have been appreciative of our efforts in LETR but to have that sort of recognition by such a deserving group of athletes, in a country that many people have completely given up on, was overwhelming. The fact that this was occurring in Ghazni Stadium, a former Taliban mass execution sight, made it seem even more surreal. A little more than a decade ago this stadium was literally a killing field, and now I was witnessing what those of us who have been involved with LETR have come to know and cherish – athletes who otherwise would never have had a chance, competing and cheering for each other just for the love of sport. There was no war. No Taliban. It was amazing to see that contrast in the stadium; I hope one day it spreads through the entire country. I stayed for the first race, the 100 meter sprint, and I was privileged to be able to hand out a medal to one of the finishers.

Back in Calgary the Alberta LETR team has been busy meeting members of the Afghan community in our city and explaining the plight of SOA and the athletes effected. The Alberta LETR team came up with a fantastic idea in hosting a corresponding hockey tournament, with help from Calgary's Afghan community, to raise money for Special Olympics Afghanistan. The funds raised will sustain this charity and hopefully provide enough for them to host a Special Olympics Summer Games again next year.

The Calgary LETR Team has certainly taken on a global perspective over the past couple of years. I think it opened their eyes as to how wide spread the LETR family is when the International Conference was held in Calgary. What they are now seeing is that many of these Special Olympics organizations around the world are experiencing serious hardships, both financially and from a human rights perspective. I'm proud of the Alberta team for helping out with Special Olympics Afghanistan. I can't express how badly the help is needed in this country and the Afghans have shown me that it is genuinely appreciated."

The event in Calgary that John spoke of was held on September 22nd. Members of the Alberta Law Enforcement Torch Run, led by the Calgary Police Service and Alberta Sheriff's personnel, faced off with members of the Afghanistan community in what turned out to be the inaugural ball hockey tournament to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Afghanistan.

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The tournament saw 14 teams registered with 4 teams from the Afghanistan community. Each team was to raise a minimum of \$250, which would include a BBQ that consisted of traditional Afghan food and “halal” hotdogs and team jerseys. After all the funds came in, there were donations of \$11,000.00. Once expenses were covered a check was written to the Afghan Special Olympics for \$8,800, which exceeded our goal of \$5,000. These funds will be transferred through SOI. We will also be sending 12 team jerseys for SO to use as they see fit.

The day was not only about raising funds but developing a partnership with law enforcement and the community. As a result of the success of the event the Afghanistan community has asked to make this an annual event.

Special Olympics Afghanistan



Special Olympics Afghanistan

THE GUARDIAN



THE GUARDIAN

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

**Special Olympics Appointee***Monty Castevens*

Special Olympics Florida

Special Olympics Appointee*Peter Wheeler*

Special Olympics International

Special Olympics At-Large*Mark Musso*

Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics At-Large*Adrian DeWendt (Vice-Chair)*

Special Olympics Oklahoma

Special Olympics At-Large*Rich Fernandez*

Special Olympics Southern California

SOI Executive Director of LETR*Michael Teem*

Special Olympics, Inc.

Chairman Emeritus*Richard LaMunyon (Ret.)*

Kansas, LETR

IACP Appointee*Russ Laine*

Illinois, LETR

IACP Appointee*Joe Pena*

Illinois, LETR

Council Appointee*Roy Forrest*

North Carolina, LETR

Council Appointee*Luis A Rosa*

Connecticut, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large*Antonio Williams*

Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large*Kurt Kendro*

Hawaii, LETR

Law Enforcement At-Large*Mike Peretti (chair)*

Northern California, LETR

Special Olympics Athlete Appointee*Martha Hill*

Special Olympics Wisconsin

Region I

CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

Jamie Hainsworth

Rhode Island, LETR

Region II

DC, DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, WV

John Newnan

Maryland, LETR

Region III

AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN

Joe Pellicci

South Carolina, LETR

Region IV

IL, IN, KY, MI, OH

Jim Reno

Indiana, LETR

Region V

IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Jeri Rhoder

Nebraska, LETR

Region VI

AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX

Randy Boehm

Missouri, LETR

Region VII

AZ, N. CA, S. CA, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT,

GUAM

Roberta Abner

Southern California, LETR

Region VIII

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

Jason Johnson

Montana, LETR

Region IX**Western Europe***Jeremy Adams*

Ireland, LETR

Region X**Eastern Europe/Eurasia***Jacek Hachulski*

Poland, LETR

Region XI**Canada**

(AB, BS, MB, NB, NF, NWT, NS, ON, PEI, PQ, SK, YK)

*Paul Manuel***Region XII****East Asia***Patrick Chan*

Special Olympics Hong Kong

Region XIII**Caribbean**

(St. Vincent, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Puerto Rico, Grand Cayman, Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, Guadeloupe, Martinique, US Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, Haiti, Belize, Guyana, Montserrat, Suriname)

Bill Buford (Ret.)

Arkansas, LETR

Region XIV**Oceania***Don Stuart*

Australia, LETR

Region XV**Latin America***Vladimir Caceres*

Policia Nacional Civil de El Salvador

El Salvador, LETR