FALL 2008

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council



IACP TORCH RUN PHOTO CONTEST 1ST PLACE "SPIRIT AWARD" Photo by: Stephanie Brunet

The Guardian

Inside this issue

Chairman's Corner	3
Global Torch Run	4
2009 Final Leg Torch Run	6
Special Olympics Athlete Profile	11
Cop's on Top—Hawaiian Style	12
Torch Run in Hong Kong	14
2008 International Conference Highlights	15
The Guardian's First Sponsor	23
IACP Torch Run Photo Contest	24
Sonic Rolls Out Officers for Special Olympics	28
Torch Runner Profile	29
Delaware's Torch Master	30
Bear-ing His Creativity—Detective Mark Schondelmaier	31
How I Got Involved in the Torch Run - Sergeant Sandra White	32
Torch Run Executive Council	33



December 18, 2008

Torch Run Family:

34 Million! The Law Enforcement Torch Run raised over US\$34,000,000 this year in support of Special Olympics! The exact figure is \$34,186,582.43, a \$4,000,000 increase over last year! This figure alone is a testament to the passion, love, and commitment of more than 85,000 law enforcement officials the world over. It is also a sign that Torch Run Programs have excellent Torch Run Directors and Special Olympics Liaisons who provide outstanding leadership, guidance, and vision to continue to break fundraising records during very challenging economic times. The value of the Torch Run to Special Olympics Programs has never been greater!

I would like to thank and congratulate all of the Directors and Liaisons for their hard work and devotion to making 2008 such a successful year. Also, the level of engagement and support received by SO Program Executive Directors and other Special Olympics leaders is at an all-time high as evidenced by the solid collaboration and communication we share. We have come so far in the last few years, and I know we have the potential to reach even greater heights in the years to come! We are in the right place at the right time to not only be successful now but to also build a solid foundation to allow for continuing success and have a huge impact on the lives of Special Olympics athletes for decades to come!

We have several other milestones and successes to celebrate this year. Russ Laine, Chief of the Algonquin, IL PD and Executive Council Member, was installed as the President of the IACP last month! Russ will continue his longstanding efforts to grow the cause of the LETR within IACP. Congratulations, Russ! We experienced an outstanding International Conference in Dallas that was inspirational and a big success—great job by Texas and the conference planning team! On November 12th, the Flame of Hope was lit in Athens, Greece for the SO World Winter Games to be held in Boise, Idaho in February 2009. The Flame is now on an incredible global journey with prominent stops on five continents before the Final Leg Team showcases it throughout Idaho! The recent division of the Far East Region into two separate regions, East Asia and Oceania (Australia and surrounding areas), will no doubt lead to Torch Run growth in these areas of the world.

In closing, thank YOU for all that you do to make this great cause and movement so successful! We are all about doing what we can for the wonderful athletes of Special Olympics. The LETR Executive Council wishes you great success in 2009!

All the Best,

Wichael

Michael Teem, Major, Raleigh, NC PD Chairman, LETR Executive Council

2009 GLOBAL AW EN ORGEMENT TORCH RUN

The Flame of Hope[™] for the 2009 World Winter Games is Lit in Athens And the Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Begins!



The Flame of Hope for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games was lit on November 12, 2008 in Athens, Greece, formally launching the Global Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics. In keeping with Olympic tradition, the torch was lit by the High Priestess, Special Olympics athlete Maria Kotti, using the sun's rays in a ceremonial presentation at Zappeion Palace in Athens.

Those in attendance at the Athens Ceremony, including Greek Minister of Culture Michalis Liapis, Mayor of Athens Mikitas Kaklamanis, Chairman of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games George Fisher IV and Tim Shriver, were moved as the historic significance of the Ceremony location—the birthplace of modern thought and civilization—set the backdrop for the powerful message of Special Olympics. As Idaho athlete Kirk Grogan and Greek athlete Niki Talamaga received the torch from High Priestess Maria Kotti and embarked on the Global Torch Run, followed by Greek Law Enforcement Officers and DHL volunteers, spectators celebrated the human spirit, acceptance and hope at its finest. It was truly a day to remember.

- continued -

2009 GLOBALL



On November 12, 2008, the Special Olympics Flame of Hope was lit in Athens, Greece, to begin the Global Law Enforcement Torch Run. Law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes will carry the flame Idaho and will be met by the Law Enforcement Torch Run on a three-month journey delivering the movement's messages of hope, Final Leg Team. courage and inspiration to people around the world. (Photo by Ralph Alswang)

The flame lit in Athens will travel to 10 cities across five continents, covering more than 60,000 kilometers or 37,000 miles. After being lit in Athens, the first stop for the flame will be in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It will then continue around the world, making stops in Poland, Costa Rica, South Africa, India, China and three cities in the United States - Miami, New York and Los Angeles. In each city, the flame will honor the spirit of the Special Olympics global movement and deliver a message of hope for people with intellectual disabilities who continue to fight for acceptance and a chance to excel without barriers. On January 29, 2009 the flame will reach

The team will carry the flame

through scores of cities throughout Idaho before arriving at the Opening Ceremonies for the World Winter Games on February 7, 2009 and use the flame to ignite the cauldron to begin the Games.

"The Flame of Hope's[™] historic trip around the world is symbolic of our global mission to deliver inspiration and hope to Special Olympics athletes and their families, break down barriers to equality that still exist, and create awareness for social change worldwide," said Timothy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, who participated in the official lighting ceremony in Greece. "We are fortunate to be able to deliver the Board of Directors and Special Olympics while Values Board of Directors and Special Olympics athlete. flame and everything it stands for hope, courage, opportunity, (Photo courtesy of Special Olympics Hellas and Photographer Charis Akrivitadis) inspiration and equality to our athletes because of the experience and expertise of our partner in this initiative."



Special Olympics athlete Maria Kotti, who served as high priestess in the Torch Lighting Ceremony, passes the torch to Kirk Grogan, Member of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games

This marks the second time Special Olympics and DHL have partnered to support the Global Torch Run. At each stop, the flame will be carried by teams of Special Olympics athletes and law enforcement



Special Olympics athlete Kirk Grogan leads the runners at the start of the Global Law Enforcement Torch Run in Athens, Greece. (Photo by Ralph Alswang)

personnel on a course allowing thousands of spectators to witness its important journey. Along the routes, the torch will visit schools, homes and institutions for individuals with intellectual disabilities to pay tribute to the courage, dedication and achievements of Special Olympics athletes worldwide in sport and life.

"We are honored to once again be the official sponsors of the Global Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The spirit, motivation and drive of the athletes during the 2007 Torch Run for the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai was truly awe-inspiring," said Dan McHugh, Chief Executive Officer of DHL Express Asia Pacific. "By

transporting the Flame of Hope[™], we seek to inspire communities around the world; foster acceptance, inclusion and create opportunities to celebrate the human race."

To follow the journey of the Flame of Hope[™]as it makes its way around the world and into the hearts and minds of all who experience its message, please visit www.specialolympics.org





The 2009 Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg is less than 2 months away! We have a great Final Leg Team assembled, much work is being done by many to put the finishing touches on the event, and the Idaho Torch Run Program is getting ready to host the Torch Run world in their beautiful state! Ten wonderful Special Olympics Athletes have been selected to participate in this event as listed below:

Aaron Aarseth, Oregon	Christopher Paynter, Oklahoma
Amara Coon, Hawaii	Van Pexa, New Mexico
Alan Fry, Jr., Southern California	Jason Reinhold, Michigan
Paula Morrissy, South Australia	Ben Rigby, Idaho
James Neeson, Ireland	Nathan West, Queensland

Final Leg runners arrive in Idaho on January 28th. The Flame of Hope completes its journey to Idaho from Athens, Greece when it arrives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on January 29th. Over the next nine days, the Final Leg Team will conduct scores of Torch Runs and impactful ceremonies throughout Idaho before delivering the Flame of Hope to the Opening Ceremonies of the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games on February 7th. The LETR Executive Council and the 2009 Final Leg Team look forward to sharing the images and stories of this event with you in the next edition of The Guardian!







Design of Torch Handle for Final Leg, Compliments of Midwest Trophy!



Final Leg Medallion and Pin





FINAL LEG TEAM

LEO Runners

Gerald Riggins, Jr. Carla Culbreth Michelle Hill Eric Abt John Sanchez Bill Proll Ron Leonard Ron Littell, Jr. Kenneth McLaughlin Patrick Finan Warren Dunlap Chester Kau Arnold Morgado Kajanda Love **Daniel Meadows** Jeff Franzen **Todd Martens** Carl Dabadie Scott Mercier Danielle Bradshaw-Lee Robert O'Connor Kevin Sweeney Tom Miller Patrick Hayes Grant Holle Kevin Stary TBD Christopher Cavallaro Larry Mays Robert Miller June Worden Bill Lyons Stephen Noftz Shawn Byrne **Dixon Andrews Bob Stonis** David Hebert Jerri McClain Jeff Miller **Rikicia Robinson**

Program

Alabama Alaska Arkansas Arizona California, Northern California, Southern Colorado Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Louisiana Maine Maryland **Massachusetts** Michigan Minnesota Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersev New Mexico New York North Carolina Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Texas

LEO Runners

Darin Sweeten Jack Harris John Chrisinger Bryan Keller Chris Bowman Steven Janus Michael Kavenius Karleen Schenkev **Daniel Ritchie** Mark Van Schie **Derek Pike Myles Burke** Warren Giertuga Johanne Lesage Markus Gloessl Milcho Enev George Huang Maria Salidou Petr Matlach **Douglas Attard Robert Chandler Dimitris Kokkalakis** Daniel Tam Gary Gordon Vassilenko Yuriy Toon van Osta **Benjamin McFarlane** Steve Douglas Jacek Hachulski Wendy O'Neill **Orhan Sinav** Ustenko Anatolii

Program

Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming Alberta **British Columbia** Manitoba Newfound./Labrador Nova Scotia Ontario Quebec Austria Bulgaria Chinese Taipei Cyprus **Czech Republic** Gibraltar Great Britain Greece Hong Kong Republic of Ireland Kazakhstan Netherlands **New South Wales** Northern Ireland Poland Queensland Turkey Ukraine





FINAL LEG TEAM

Special Olympics Athletes Program

Aaron Aarseth Amara Coon Alan Fry Jr. Paula Morrissy James Neeson **Christopher Paynter** Van Pexa Jason Reinhold Ben Rigby Nathan West

Running Team Leaders

Helen Burns Paul Epstein Roy Forest **Dave Kramer** Paul Manuel John Newnan Mike Peretti **Doyle Syling Terry Vrabec** Lisa Walter

Oregon Hawaii California. Sourthern South Australia, Aust. Ireland Oklahoma New Mexico Michigan Idaho Queensland, Australia

Program

Nova Scotia Hawaii North Carolina Idaho Alberta Maryland Northern California New Mexico Alaska Wisconsin

Rich Banahan Anna Berke Julie Buedding Jeff Henson Alex Kappis Jim Kerns Joe Pellicci Jeri Roeder Jeanette Steinfeldt Kris Weitzell Paul Zarnetske

Support Team Members

Program

Missouri SOI Wisconsin Illinois Greece Idaho South Carolina Nebraska Iowa lowa Connecticut

Idaho Support Team Members

Allen Ashbv Tim Beaudoin Amy Eisele Lynn Freiburghaus Jean Higgins Aaron Irish Jake Johnson Leslie Jones Junior McDonough **Tina Perkins** Tracy Perreira **Robert Sanders Chad Wigington** Michelle Wyatt

Documentation Team

Herb Gelb Andrea Kramer Chuck McClure

Team Captain Michael Teem

Program

Pennsylvania Idaho Idaho

Program North Carolina



Sun Valley, Idaho, where Special Olympics athletes will compete in snowboarding and cross country skiing during the 2009 World Winter Games.



Alyssa is 22 years old and has been involved with Special Olympics for the past ten years. During this time she has competed at the Provincial, National and International level. She had great success at the World Winter Games in Japan in 2007 coming home with two bronze medals and a silver. She is presently training in Alpine skiing for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

Alyssa was named female athlete of the year for Calgary in the Spring of 2004 and also female athlete of the year for Alberta in the fall of 2004.

Alyssa was born with a rare neurological disorder called Sturge Weber Syndrome. As a result of a radical brain surgery to control intractable seizures, she lost half her vision and has very limited use of her right side. Nevertheless, she has overcome these challenges and developed into an accomplished skier. She has also become an exceptional golfer giving her mom a run for her money.



Alyssa at the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Japan

Alyssa does not see herself as a person with a disability. She sees herself as a young lady that enjoys life and doesn't allow anything to get in her way. This is apparent in all the activities that she participates in, not only in Special Olympics, but volunteering her time with the Alberta Law Enforcement Torch Run, her hobby as a recognized artist within Calgary and the time she enjoys with her parents and her sister.

Alyssa has given back to the community. She had spent a good portion of her life at the Alberta Children's Hospital and as an adult wants to return the warmth and appreciation back to the hospital staff. Alyssa saved money, selected a piece of her art, had it framed and donated it to the hospital in celebration of the grand opening in 2006. In Alyssa's eyes this was a small tribute and gesture for the staff that cared for her for much of her young life. One of Alyssa's goals is to volunteer her time at the Alberta Children's Hospital in the surgical ward. She wants to spend time with the patients and share her experiences and let them know everything will be all right.

Alyssa is a very modest athlete; through all her successes she remains extremely grounded. Other athletes in Alpine skiing have supported her excitement and have encouraged her through her rigorous training. This is a testament to her character. Alyssa's smile is very contagious as is her sense of humor.

COPS ON TOP Hawaiian Style

By: Ben Moszkowicz, Hawaii LETR Co-Torch Run Director



In 2000, Kurt Kendro became Hawaii's first Cop on Top, spending 64 hours on top of the Waikiki 3 Theaters and raising over \$10,500. Despite tough economic times, Hawaii law enforcement officers have inspired people to contribute to a great cause. On a recent September weekend, over a period of 56 hours, 35 law enforcement officers sitting above 16 grocery stores around the state raised over \$220,000 to benefit Special Olympics athletes in Hawaii.

The event is called Cop on Top and has raised almost \$1.2 million dollars since its inception in 2000. For a three day period each year, teams of two or more police officers, deputy sheriffs and military police officers camp on scaffolding in the parking lot of Safeway grocery stores. Their mission is to stay 'on top' until they raise at least \$10,000 in donations per site. Some teams raise almost double that.

Back in 2000, Honolulu Police Department Lieutenant Kurt Kendro was the first 'Cop on Top' in Hawaii. Kendro and Special Olympics Hawaii (SOHI) CEO Nancy Bottelo attended the 1999 Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) International Conference in St. Louis Missouri. There they heard from Detective Skip Woodward and Officer Kimberly Stein who had done similar events in their home states. At that time, LETR fundraising in Hawaii was limited to t-shirt sales, Cops and Lobsters and a few other small events. Kendro recalls, "We were lucky if we raised \$50,000 a year." After returning home from the conference and many logistical meetings, Kendro agreed

to be the 'Cop on Top' and Bottelo convinced one of her board members, who was in charge of Consolidated Theaters to let them use the Waikiki Theater, ironically in the heart of Kendro's old beat, for the event.

The goal, that first year, was simple; to raise awareness about and to raise funds for Special Olympics Hawaii. Kendro's pledge was to stay on the theater's roof until he inspired people to donate \$10,000 or for 100 hours, whichever came first. He was instantly encouraged by the generosity of the public. "When they found out I was a cop living on the roof for three or maybe even four days, there were a lot of scowls and sour faces. It was miraculous to see the transformation on these people when they found out that I was raising money for Special Olympics. The people I had arrested numerous times for drugs, prostitution and everything else you could imagine would stop and donate money."

The success of the event was electrifying. Local radio stations did live interviews with volunteers and supporters at the site, giving LETR in Hawaii their first ever media coverage.

Kendro remembers, "Fundraising like this was new to Hawaii. Getting volunteers was a challenge." He was able to convince some larger groups like the Law Enforcement Explorers Program and Celtic Pipes and Drums to come out and support him. Cop on Top also proved to be an excellent opportunity for the LETR to learn to develop and cultivate sponsorships to assist with the costs of putting on such a large scale event. That first year Old Navy and Saturn of Hawaii became the first ever corporate sponsors of the Hawaii LETR.

As a result of Kendro's efforts and the public's response, he was able to meet his goal and raised just over \$10,500. He started the event at 6:00 am on Thursday, and was done by 10:00 pm on Sunday. The ability for a \$50,000 a year program to raise such a large amount of money in such a short amount of time was addicting and the event was expanded in 2002 with the addition of Safeway grocery stores as a key sponsor.

In 2002 and 2003, five teams of law enforcement officers were the 'Cops on Top.' The configuration of the rooftops at the grocery stores coupled with insurance concerns caused the event to move into the parking lots where the teams ate, slept and lived on top of scaffolding, erected for the event.

LETR's newfound ability to partner with a corporate sponsor helped to defray the added cost of scaffolding. According to SOHI's Director of Torch Run Development, Melissa Blake, "The introduction of Safway Scaffolding was a key ingredient to the success of our expansion of Cop on Top. Having now expanded to 12 stores in Honolulu, the in-kind value of their donation exceeds \$25,000 a year."

COPS ON TOP

- continued -



"... if you don't 'make the ask,' you will never know how much money a person could have donated."

In 2004, the event grew again to include 12 Safeway stores in Honolulu and six stores on the neighbor islands. The expansion of the event to the neighbor islands was a key step in the event's success. Kendro said, "It has solidified to LETR programs on Maui, Kauai and the island of Hawaii." The event's expansion, however, was not without its growing pains. The unique nature of Hawaii's geography prevents, for example, a car ride to a neighbor island site to address problems, drop off volunteers or deliver t-shirts. Bottelo noticed other challenges, which included, "trying to get the media to all sites, not just a selected few. We also have to make certain that the event on one island looks the same as the ones we have on Oahu – so that banners, signage and recognition is fair across the board."

One important opportunity to address these challenges comes each year during a Cop on Top re-cap meeting with members from each site. Blake explains, "having a meeting a week or so after the event allows our law enforcement volunteers to share their best practices, reveal problems they have encountered and help improve the event for next year."

During the five years of Cop on Top since 2004, the event has hit its stride logistically. Having held the event nine times, most of the 'kinks' have been

worked out and the event has reached thousands of people. Kendro reflects, "it makes me proud to drive around town and see "Cop on Top" t-shirts. These are regular citizens, not law enforcement people. It is an amazing thing to see. Each one of those t-shirts raises the awareness not only about Special Olympics but also about LETR in Hawaii."

Bottelo believes, "the biggest challenge is always keeping the event 'fresh', keeping the LETR folks excited and wanting to do the event, and finding new people to keep the event going when our 'old-timers' decide to pass the torch."

During Cop on Top, a few years ago, a homeless person (who looked very dirty and had a shopping car filled high with belongings) stopped and asked how much a t-shirt was. He pulled his last \$20 from his wallet." Bottelo wanted to just give him the t-shirt, but, "he said 'absolutely not.' He was living on the streets, and he really appreciated the fact that the cops had never harassed him, and were always kind to him, and he wanted to give back. Even today that brings tears to my eyes."



A full range of Cop on Top merchandise is available as an incentive to ask customers for higher donations.

Every year, Cop on Top raises hundreds of thousands of dollars, but for Kendro, the significance of the event and asking the public for donations is much greater. "To this day, you never know who is going to donate and if you don't 'make the ask,' you will never know how much money a person could have donated. Even those people who don't donate, just by virtue of asking them to donate to Special Olympics you are a success in one of the goals of raising awareness about Special Olympics programs. Even if someone says 'no' to a donation, we've planted that seed about Special Olympics, and that can be a success!"

What does the future hold for Cop on Top in Hawaii? The end of the nation's tough economic times may not be in sight, but Bottelo isn't worried. "I believe that people in Hawaii are the most generous of any people anywhere. When times are hard, they still give. I believe we have not even started to tap into the sponsorship possibilities with this event. I can easily see it generating more money in future years!"

Special Olympics Hong Kong Hosts 2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run[®]

"The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics 2008" was organized by Special Olympics Hong Kong (SOHK), supported by 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), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped (HKSAM). The Torch Run originated in the United States and has spread rapidly around the world. More than HK\$1.6 million was raised at this moment for our Special Olympics athletes and HK\$2 million is our target.



The Opening Ceremony of the Law Enforcement Torch Run ®



SOHK chairman Mr. David IP giving a speech

This year, the Opening Ceremony was held on 18 May, 2008 (Sunday) at the Sha Tin Park of Hong Kong. Mr. Ambrose Lee, IDSM, JP Secretary for Security, officiated at the Opening Ceremony. He was accompanied by the officiating party consisting of seven disciplinary departments as well as representatives from Leisure and Cultural Services Department.



SO Global Messenger Tam Wai Yip holding a torch with a guest

Thousands of Law Enforcement officers, joined by Special Olympics athletes and representatives of Commercial Corporations, have been involved in the Run since 1989. The fundraising campaign is organized to raise funds to support long term training and provide opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities to participate in overseas competitions. This year, the funds will support Hong Kong SO athletes to take part in the "2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games" which will be held in Idaho, U.S.A. and several Special Olympics East Asia regional games held in different regions.



2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference HIGHLIGHTS

By: Lt. Mike Peretti, International Conference Planning Committee

The 2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run® International Conference was once again filled with emotion and inspiration held at the beautiful Hilton Anitole Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Attendees were shocked by Dallas PD SWAT dropping through the ceiling of the Chantilly Ballroom as motorcycles from the Dallas PD motor unit escorted the Flame of Hope[™] to its place on stage during the Opening Ceremonies. Speaker highlights included a video message from Tim Shriver himself and inspiring words from the new Special Olympics President and Chief Operations Officer Brady Lum, all of which was topped off with a cameo appearance from the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. This was all followed up by a Host Night event at the famous Eddy Deen's Texas Barbeque.

Awards were plentiful this year with many programs receiving awards of excellence for funds raised well in excess of US\$250,000.00, including ten programs exceeding US\$1 million and five of them exceeding US\$2 million. This was understandable considering the fund raising record breaking announcement by Executive Council Chair Mike Teem of a whopping US\$34 million raised by Torch Run programs worldwide during 2008.

There was no shortage of exchanging information and the attendees learned much more about Polar Plunge® and Truck Convoy® in two intense multi-course training sessions. Leadership and law enforcement organizational support was also a focus as was logo branding. As with all conferences, an array of case studies were reviewed such as Cow Patty Bingo, the Pig Skin Pass, and Live and Silent auctions.

A special guest made a repeat appearance at the live and silent auction. The four year old Kaitlyn Gregoire from Kansas, who stole our hearts in Oklahoma when she auctioned off her Halloween candy was back this year. This time sharing her candy with her Torch Run friends, Kaitlyn raised another \$561.00 for her program. The story of this brave little Torch Runner and "Kaitlyn's Candy" will resonate throughout this movement for years to come.

Pride was in the air at both the Honors Luncheon, featuring the John Carion "Unsung Hero" Award and the Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Banquet. With three new inductees into each category, attendees were inspired by the dedication and commitment of long standing volunteers recognized with these honors, but the best had yet to come.

After the Hall of Fame banquet, in an emotional display of honor and dedication, Richard Candelaria, Texas LETR Director, entered the Chantilly Ballroom with the Flame of Hope[™], escorted by Color and Honor Guards from the LETR Texas program. Draped in music and an inspiring monolog, the Texas Color Guard retired the flags as the Honor Guard united with the Honor Guard from Connecticut symbolizing the strength and unity of the Torch Run. With the passing of the Flame of Hope[™] and a solitude salute, Louis Rosa, Connecticut LETR Director, escorted by athletes from each program, carried the Flame of Hope[™] from the ceremony on its journey to the Foxwoods Resort where we will reunite for the 2009 LETR International Conference.



The 2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run[®] International Conference was held in Dallas, TX, from 30 October - 2 November. At the annual conference, law enforcement officers and Special Olympics staff members from around the world celebrated yet another record-breaking fundraising year as the announcement was made that the Torch Run raised US\$34 million in 2008—an increase of US\$4 million from 2007. This is a true testimonial to the dedication and spirit of the law enforcement community for Special Olympics. Congratulations on your success!

There were many great moments at this year's conference, all filled with that famous Texas hospitality! Here are some of the highlights. For more information on the International Conference and to access more conference photos, visit www.specialolympics.org/2008letrconference.



A reverent moment as the Color Guard enters Opening Ceremonies to begin the 2008 International Conference.



Opening Ceremonies was also full of surprises as Dallas SWAT Team members repelled from the ceiling of the Hilton Anatole's ballroom, this one carrying the Texas flag.



Special Olympics Minnesota athlete and former athlete representative on the Torch Run Executive Council, Sam Stillings, enjoys a photo with members of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleading Team.



Special Olympics Texas athlete and conference host, Colby Bannister, performs with his cheerleading team.



Special Olympics Texas athletes and conference hosts celebrate their conference with SOTX President Margaret Larson, SONA Managing Director Bob Gobrecht and President and COO of Special Olympics, Inc Brady Lum.



The conference couldn't have been done without tremendous help and support provided by these Dallas PD recruits. Thank you!



Bargaining for Torch Run t-shirts at the annual T-Shirt Exchange.



Attendees on the bus to Eddie Deen's for world-famous Texas barbeque.



The Maryland delegation in crab hats.



John Carion Memorial "Unsung Hero" Award honorees Jeff Spaulding of Maryland, Judy Macho of Oregon and Mike Pfau of Montana proudly display their awards. Also in the photo: Executive Council member and Carion Committee Chair Joseph Pellicci, Executive Council member Paul Manuel, John Carion, Jr., former athlete representative to the Executive Council Sam Stillings and Executive Council member Jim Reno.



Runners prepare for the annual 5K.



The winners of the 5K proudly display their medals!



Hall of Fame Inductee Julie Buedding of Wisconsin with Major Michael Teem, Chief Richard LaMunyon and Sam Stillings.



Hall of Fame Inductee Mike Peretti of Northern California with his wife, Mary, and Chief Richard LaMunyon.



Hall of Fame Inductee Ron Casalenda of Wyoming.



Mike Peretti and four-year-old Kaitlyn Gregoire from Kansas. This was the second year in a row that Kaitlyn auctioned off her Halloween candy to raise money for Special Olympics.



Texas Torch Run Director Richard Candelaria passes the Torch to Connecticut Torch Run Director Luis Rosa.

Thank you Texas—see you in Connecticut in 2009!

2008 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DALLAS

PROGRAM FUNDRAISING AWARDS

Increase in Gross Revenue Awards:

Largest Increase in Gross Revenue Maryland Torch Run

Second Largest Increase in Gross Revenue Ontario Torch Run

Third Largest Increase in Gross Revenue Florida Torch Run

Fourth Largest Increase in Gross Revenue New York Torch Run

Fifth Largest Increase in Gross Revenue Minnesota Torch Run

Highest Grossing Program Awards:

Highest Grossing Program Maryland Torch Run

Second Highest Grossing Program Florida Torch Run

Third Highest Grossing Program Ontario Torch Run

Fourth Highest Grossing Program New Jersey Torch Run

Fifth Highest Grossing Program **Illinois Torch Run**

2008 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DALLAS

PROGRAM FUNDRAISING AWARDS

Per Capita Fundraising Awards:

Top Per Capita Fundraising Program Gibraltar Torch Run

Second Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program Maryland Torch Run

Third Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program Northwest Territories Torch Run

Fourth Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program Montana Torch Run

Fifth Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program Hawaii Torch Run

Percentage Growth Awards:

Largest Percentage Growth New Brunswick Torch Run

Second Largest Percentage Growth **Poland Torch Run**

Third Largest Percentage Growth New York Torch Run

Fourth Largest Percentage Growth Nova Scotia Torch Run

Fifth Largest Percentage Growth Manitoba Torch Run

2008 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DALLAS

LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE



Torch Run Programs Raising over \$1,000,000 Florida



Torch Run Programs Raising over \$750,000

Northern California Southern California Kentucky New York Illinois Maryland Minnesota Missouri New Jersey North Carolina Ontario Texas Wisconsin



Torch Run Programs Raising over \$500,000

> Georgia Virginia Washington

Sapphire

Torch Run Programs Raising over \$250,000

Alberta, British Columbia, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina



Region One (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire & Maine) along with each state's Law Enforcement Torch Run Program look forward to welcoming you to the Constitution State and the MGM Grand at Foxwoods for the 2009 International Conference.

Until now, a place like MGM Grand at Foxwoods only existed in your dreams. A place where beauty surrounds you, your senses are heightened, and there's no telling what could happen next. There's something exciting at every turn. We invite you to join us and enter into a world of possibility and adventure. We guarantee it will be an experience like no other!

MGM Grand at Foxwoods is a dynamic entertainment powerhouse that offers the utmost in luxurious accommodations. The exciting new tower offers 825 lavishly appointed rooms and suites. The top of the line amenities and personable services are guaranteed to pamper and delight you throughout your stay.

With over 30 restaurants from "Top Chef" Tom Colicchio's Craftsteak to Hard Rock Café and California Pizza Kitchen, there's a (place) setting for whatever mood you're in. Add to that the many nightclubs, lounges, nightly entertainment, luxury boutiques, the world's largest Native American Museum and, of course, the largest casino in the world and this becomes a destination and conference like no other. Please join the 40,000+ visitors per day at New England's number one resort destination – Foxwoods Resort.

Our goal is to Inspire, Educate and Motivate – Our desire is to WOW YOU! SEE YOU IN CONNECTICUT!

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CATEGORY A: OFFICER & ATHLETE



Special Olympics Connecticut

Submitted by: Lisa Markham



2nd Place

Special Olympics Southern California

Submitted by:

Richard Fernandez



Brd Place Special Olympics Nevada Submitted by: Rachel Commeford



CATEGORY B: GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME®





Special Olympics Quebec

Photo by: Stephanie Brunet



2nd Place

LETR 2006 Final Leg—USA National Games Ssubmitted by: Herb Gelb



3rd Place

Florida LETR Submitted by: Laura Collins



CATEGORY C: Group Photograph





New Jersey LETR Submitted by: Captain Glen Toepert



2nd Place



3rd Place

LETR Final Leg for the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in China Photo submitted by: Herb Gelb

LETR Final Leg for the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in China Photo submitted by: Herb Gelb



CATEGORY D: SPIRIT AWARD



Special Olympics Quebec Submitted by: Isabelle Girard



2nd Place

Special Olympics New York

Submitted by: Renee Snyder

All of these winning photos were selected from a pool of over 400 images submitted by

almost 50 Torch Run programs from all over the world. Judges from the IACP and Special Olympics International – including athletes – met to review the entries at IACP Headquarters.

Each of the winning programs received a copy of their winning images in poster size for their own display. These images were also on display at the 115th Annual IACP Conference in San Diego, California. The top photos are also scheduled for publication in both *Police Chief* and *Spirit* magazines.



Special Olympics Illinois Submitted by: Bob Peacock





3rd Place Special Olympics Missouri Submitted by: Crystal Chalk

SONC ROLLS OUT OF THE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS By: Joe Pellicci, LETR Region 3 Coordinator



With gas prices crippling the budget of many law enforcement agencies, cops on roller skates may be the next newest trend - at least when it comes to raising money for Special Olympics.

On a sweltering South Carolina June afternoon, officers from the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the City of Columbia Police Department laced up their skates for the First Annual "Cops & Carhops" challenge sponsored by SONIC restaurant. The officers actually took over the carhop duties, selling slushies and Special Olympics to the drive-in customers.

Donning aprons, change belts, and fancy computerized bracelets designed to match up the orders with the carhop, officers from the two departments collected a little over \$2,300 in three hours. It didn't take long for the officers to learn how to balance trays filled with hot dogs, hamburgers, tater tots, large drinks, etc. "This was my first time raising money for Special Olympics, and it was a wonderful experience and something I would definitely do again,"

said Richland County Captain Lancy Weeks.

This was also the first big Special Olympics fundraiser for the City of Columbia Police Department. The CPD officers jumped in with both feet, outpacing the Richland County Sheriff's Department for the money title. "I can think of no greater feeling of pride and satisfaction as a law enforcement officer then that which is felt when participating in an awesome cause such as the Sonics Fund Raising for Special Olympics," CPD Sergeant George Drafts said.

"We were delighted to become involved with Special Olympics and law enforcement," said Sutton Shaw, Marketing Director for SONIC.



"SONICS are a fun plan to come, and then you combine that with police officers collecting money for a great cause-it's a win-win for everyone."



Mrs. Shaw is encouraging other SONICS across the nation to duplicate Cops & Carhops. "There's no reason all of our restaurants can't get involved," Shaw said. "We plan on doing this twice a year, and hopefully expanding it to even more of our SONICS and getting more law enforcement agencies involved." Shaw shared that Paris, Kentucky heard about the Cops & Carhops" idea and has already sponsored a similar event of their own, collecting several thousand dollars.

Torch Runner Profile



Major Danielle Bradshaw-Lee Maryland Transportation Authority Police

Danielle Bradshaw-Lee has been a member of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police for 14 years. She is currently the Major in charge of Support Services. In her off duty time she concentrates on her full time job, as a wife and mother of three children, D.J.(14), Katelyn (11), and Patrick (8). Danielle has been involved with Special Olympics since 1998; however it was not until 2007 when Danielle attended her first Torch Run International Conference when she realized the magnitude of the program, and the positive impact that law enforcement has on individuals with intellectual disabilities. "My life was changed forever by the kindness of one Special Olympics athlete from Maryland who was with us at the conference, Adam Hays. Adam held my hand while I wept over the senseless violence of the Oklahoma Bombing and he said

to me, "there's bad people in the world, I am so glad I know you." This life defining moment was the catalyst for Danielle to take that next step in her Torch Run "career." When Danielle returned from the conference in Oklahoma, she immediately sought to increase her personal involvement as well as her agency's involvement in the Torch Run. She put together a Maryland Transportation Authority Police team for the MSP Polar Bear Plunge and raised almost \$20,000 for Special Olympics Maryland. Not only did she get her police academy recruits to plunge, she had her Chief and other members of her Command Staff plunging also!



Danielle presenting medals at the SOMD Winter Games

Since then, she hasn't looked back! Her agency is now at the forefront of the Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run movement and she is spearheading another special event that is like nothing that has ever been done in Maryland. Stay tuned!

Delaware's Torch Master William "Winnie" Spence

By: Jon Buzby



In his 35+ years as a Special Olympics volunteer, William "Winnie" Spence has never been one to criticize without a solution. And better yet, he is always willing to be part of that solution. That's why, when 15 years ago at a board meeting, Spence questioned the purpose of having law enforcement officers run an unlit torch – as they had been doing for ten years - from one end of the state to the other during the annual Torch Run, he offered a simple solution: "Keep the Flame of HopeTM burning!"

"In the early 1990's Winnie insisted that the Delaware Torch Run needed better torches and that we should keep the Flame of Hope lit every step of the way during the Torch Run each year," said John Miller, state director for Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics. "And then he volunteered to keep the Flame of HopeTM lit every step – by

himself." This past June, the 2008 Torch Run marked Spence's 15th year leap-frogging the Torch Run in his truck to have a freshly-lit flame prepared every 2 miles of the torch's 161-mile journey – a trek that spans three days and covers every county in the state.

Although not involved as a law enforcement officer in any capacity during his career, Winnie has been unofficially adopted as one in the state of Delaware. "My earliest memories of running the torch are that the flame was always ready at every mile marker by some obscure person," said Mark Daniels, a longtime Torch Run participant in Delaware. "Little did I know that that obscure person was a member of the Special Olympics Delaware Hall of Fame, and this was just another one of his many volunteer roles."

As a longtime volunteer Spence knows, perhaps better than any of the officers, what raising awareness and funds means to over 3,000 athletes who participate in Special Olympics Delaware. "Our law enforcement officers bring a message of acceptance, celebrating the "abilities" of our athletes," Spence said. "The funds generated from the Torch Run provide opportunities for new sports and improved training and competitions, helping our athletes reach their potential through sports. I am so proud to be a part of our Torch Run team."

Spence's volunteer role started as a coach in the early 1970's when he and his wife, Barbara, worked at a special education school. Using their roles as coaches to spring board their involvement in the organization, both he and Barbara, 76, have stayed intimately involved in the organization ever since. They've served as board and committee members, sports directors, competition organizers and in countless other roles that don't carry official titles.

The Spences received the organization's top honor in 1996, when they were selected as SODE's initial members into its newly-created Hall of Fame. In addition, as a way to permanently display the couple's unmatched devotion to the organization, the classroom in the Special Olympics Delaware office bears their name: Spence Hall.

Although he enjoys his role as the Torch Master, Winnie's role hasn't come without incident. During one run, he severely burned both thumbs on his hand making a torch exchange. "That was the worst of the mishaps," Spence said while giving two thumbs-up!

But despite any mishaps, the torch always remained lit throughout its journey, which begins at a kick-off ceremony in Rehoboth Beach and concludes at the Opening Ceremonies in Newark, where 800+ athletes participate in the Summer Games.

While many of their fondest memories are derived from traveling with teams to several World Summer Games, it's the athletes at the local events that inspire the Spence's the most.

"The Special Olympics athletes have always been an inspiration to us," Barbara said. "We admire their dedication to training and their courage in competition. They are always ready to accept new challenges."

It was years of watching Special Olympics athletes aspire to be the best they could be that inspired Winnie Spence to suggest the Flame of HopeTM remain lit during its entire journey in honor of the athletes for which it stands.

That was 15 years ago, yet to this day, it's the athletes who motivate him every June to head out on his annual trek as the Torch Master, in what are usually hot and humid – and sometimes wet and windy - conditions.

"There is no question that Winnie's contributions to the Torch Run as the Torch Master have taken not only the run, but the meaning behind it, to another level," said Ann Grunert, Executive Director of Special Olympics Delaware. "Winnie" is truly an unsung hero, Miller said. Winnie Spence – a man inspired by our athletes to become the Torch Master – is truly an inspiration to us all.

Bear-ing his Creativity Bear-ing his Creativity Detective Mark Schondelmaier



To Mark Schondelmaier, it was all about the bear head... and the material. "I had done papier-mâché in the past, but knew it wouldn't last in the rain. So, I thought I'd give fiberglass a try." Schondelmaier, a detective with the Emporia Police Department and Polar Plunge® committee member, spent weeks and built a polar bear newsstand for a contest and to raise awareness for the Polar Plunge® in Emporia, Kansas.

The Emporia Arts Council and the Emporia Gazette co-sponsored the local event which allowed six local groups to design custom newsstands supporting their organizations, while raising money for their causes. And Schondelmaier wasn't about to let this opportunity pass. "When we decided to try this contest, the thought was that, at worst, it would be some fun 'advertisement' for people to think about participating in the Polar Plunge® next winter."

The response has been amazing. The custom Polar Plunge® newsstand has already been featured on the front page of the Emporia Gazette and is collecting donations daily for favorite newsstand across the city. A member of the committee for the last few years, Schondelmaier has been integral in making the Emporia Polar Plunge a success, boasting second year profits of nearly \$28,000. "Mark is an asset to the Law Enforcement Torch Run's Polar Plunge® in Emporia. His creativity and commitment to finding unique ways to improve and promote the event has created success in growing the Emporia Polar Plunge." says Jana Fornelli, VP of Development & LETR, Special Olympics Kansas.

But Schondelmaier won't take all the credit. "The committee for the Emporia Polar Plunge is an example of what a committee should be all about. Each of us have strengths and weaknesses, but when we work on a project together, the combination of our strengths help produce successful results that couldn't have been achieved individually. And, isn't that what it's all about?" The unique Polar Plunge newsstand will stand on display in Emporia, collecting donations through the end of September. Next year's Emporia Polar Plunge® is scheduled for February 21, 2009.



How I Got Involved in the Torch Run By: Sergeant Sandra White



Sgt. Sandra White and Special Olympics Texas athlete, Kyle Williams

When I began my career at Rice University Police Department (RUPD) in July of 2001, RUPD officers were still talking about all the fun they had at the Torch Run and Special Olympics Texas Summer Games that had been held that previous May. I couldn't even fathom what they were talking about. The following years I had opportunities to see what the big deal was about, but it wasn't until May 2007 that I finally understood.

It rained. No, it poured during my inaugural Torch Run and Summer Games. I found out quickly this could not and would not dampen the spirits of everyone involved. The athletes and the law enforcement officers never missed a beat. We were all on a mission. I recall running up the grueling incline as we entered the stadium with Christine Victory, a Special Olympics athlete. Her determination was inspiring. I knew right then I was hooked. To this day, Christine and I are good friends. I have never had as many "goose bumps" as I did during the Summer Games Opening Ceremonies that year. Wow! Watching the athletes enter the stadium ready to take on anything was an amazing experience. I will never forget how I felt that day.

Fundraising is always fun. I get to interact with the athletes. We have the opportunity to inform the public of what it is they do and accomplish. I love hearing the athletes recall their accomplishments.

Special Olympics is comprised of such remarkable people. The friendships I have made are dear to me. I plan on staying involved and committed to Special Olympics. No words can adequately describe how I feel when I am participating in a Special Olympics event with the athletes.

2009 TORCH RUN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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