

FALL / WINTER 2007/2008

The Guardian

The Newsletter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council

2007 China Final Leg
Torch Run



Chairman's CORNER

February 3, 2008

Guardians of the Flame:

On behalf of the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council, I would like to wish you all the best success on your Torch Run initiatives and projects in 2008! As you can tell by this Winter Edition of the Guardian, we closed out 2007 in a historic and record-setting fashion. As announced late last year, the collective Torch Run family raised more than US \$30,000,000 in 2007! Just a few years ago none of us would have believed this to be possible. The Torch Run International Conference in Oklahoma City was a great success, and our friends in Oklahoma pulled out all the stops and did a fantastic job of hosting the Torch Run world. Many thanks to the Oklahoma crew and the committees responsible for a job very well done! Another remarkable achievement and success in 2007 was the Final Leg in China, where the powerful, uplifting message of Special Olympics was delivered loud and clear throughout China by a very dedicated and select group of law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes.

The future continues to look very bright for the Torch Run in 2008 and beyond! I've just returned home from Boise, Idaho following meetings there with a very dedicated group of Idaho Torch Runners to discuss Final Leg plans for the Special Olympics World Winter Games. While in Boise I visited Tim Beaudoin, 2003 Final Leg runner and friend, who was in the middle of his Super Plunge along with several colleagues. The fearless foursome successfully completed 98 plunges in 49 hours—now that's dedication! Last weekend I took the opportunity to drop in on the Maryland Super Plunge while in Washington DC for meetings at SOI. I plunged several times (as did Anna Berke of SOI!) and enjoyed visiting with Torch Run friends from Maryland, other US programs, Great Britain and Ireland who had all gathered together for the big event. The Maryland plunge has skyrocketed to over 10,000 plungers and a passionate group of 50 super plungers; this year their plunge generated over US \$3,500,000 in cash!! How incredible is that!? The growth of the Maryland plunge reminds me of how much the Torch Run overall has grown in this decade—truly remarkable and awesome!

The sky is indeed the limit for the Law Enforcement Torch Run as we continue to grow the cause of Special Olympics by heightening awareness, breaking down stereotypes, focusing on abilities, and by striving to do all we can to make it possible for more athletes to get involved in the wonderful world of Special Olympics!

All the Best in 2008,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael".

Michael Teem, Major, Raleigh, NC PD

Chairman, LETR Executive Council



A Journey and Mission of a Lifetime—the 2007 Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg in China

By Michael Teem, Final Leg Team Captain



On September 24, 2007, nine days before the 2007 World Summer Games Opening Ceremonies in Shanghai, the Final Leg Team assembled in Beijing to prepare for a most historic mission. Team members from around the world, representing 82 Special Olympics and Law Enforcement Torch Run Programs, came prepared to serve as “Guardians of the Flame” and share the powerful and inspiring message of Special Olympics with millions of people in China. The

2007 Final Leg Team consisted of 10 Special Olympics athletes, 104 Law Enforcement officials, and 12 Support Team members who together represented the entire Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics movement, a movement responsible for raising over US \$30,000,000 for Special Olympics in 2007 alone!

The Flame of Hope officially arrived in China on September 25th outside of Beijing at the Great Wall of China, where an amazing evening ceremony took place with the Great Wall serving as the backdrop. This event (as well as other Final Leg ceremonies) was broadcast live on TV throughout China and alerted many millions of people that the Special Olympics World Games were about to begin! Following the ceremony, the Final Leg Team was joined by police officers from Beijing in a Torch Run on the Great Wall complete with fireworks, laser lights, and Torch Run cadences. The Team was truly humbled and amazed at the incredible events of the evening!





After spending less than two days together, the Final Leg Team split into twelve separate groups and traveled to all of the Host Town cities as well as to Hong Kong and Macau. Our mission was to conduct scores of Torch Runs and ceremonies to continue to proclaim the message of acceptance, inclusion, hope, and of ability that Special Olympics brings to so many people and families. We were very warmly received and held significant events in the following Host Town cities as well as in Hong Kong and Macau: Beijing,

Dalian, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Harbin, Jiaxing, Nanjing, Suzhou, Wenzhou, Wuxi, and Xi'an.

When the entire Final Leg Team reconnected in Shanghai on September 29th, each group had amazing stories to tell and pictures to share with each other. However, the challenging schedule did not allow for much rest as the Team participated in a gala flame arrival ceremony in Shanghai on the evening of the 29th. Following the high profile and well covered event, the Team joined with Shanghai police officers to enjoy an amazing boat ride on the Huangpu River amidst an incredible display of fireworks before conducting a Torch Run through the busiest streets of Shanghai. Thousands of people lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the Flame of Hope as it passed by!

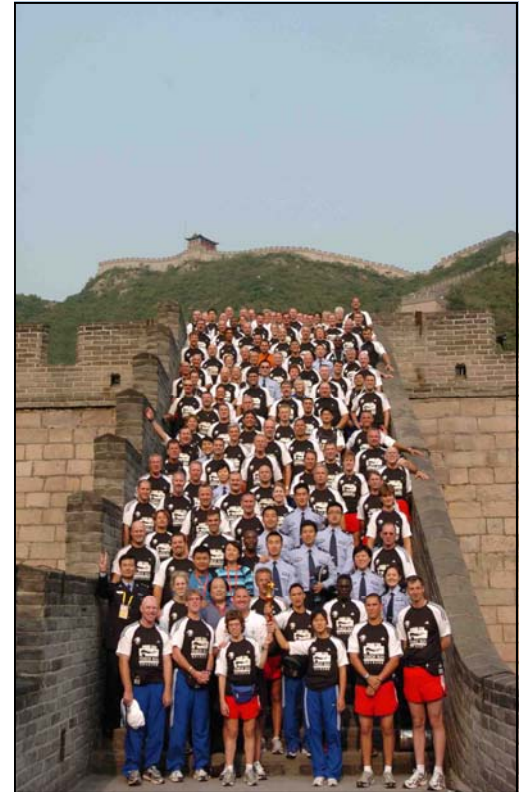
On September 30th and October 1st, the Final Leg Team split into running groups and stayed very busy while conducting 95 ceremonies and Torch Runs in every District of Shanghai. Many thousands of people attended the ceremonies, and we also had large groups of local athletes and officers run with us following every ceremony! The Opening Ceremonies for the Games took place on October 2nd, and it was an unbelievable show that the Final Leg Team was proud to be a part of. The Flame of Hope and World Games Torch, carried by Final Leg Team Member and Special Olympics athlete Edison Onanyang of Uganda, made a grand entrance into Shanghai Stadium to start the athlete relay. The most significant moment of the evening belonged to Cheng Hong, a Special Olympics athlete from China who also was a member of the Final Leg Team, who had the honor of lighting the cauldron to open the Games!





The Special Olympics athletes on the 2007 Final Leg Team share a fun moment on the Great Wall of China

back row, left to right: Edison Onanyang, Uganda, Troy Ford-King, Ontario, Eric Cervantes, Southern California, Brian Wagner, Kansas, Katie Crawford, Indiana, Chris Oster, Maine, Leigh Madgwick, Australia; front row, left to right: William Chan, Hong Kong, Cheng Hong "Alice", China, Karen Dickerson, Virginia



The entire 2007 Final Leg Team on the Great Wall of China



Ben Moszkowicz, Final Leg Law Enforcement Torch Runner from Hawaii, running the Flame of Hope into a local ceremony with a Shanghai Police Officer

While it is very difficult to describe our experience or put it in words, there is no doubt that the 2007 Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg was a monumental success in spreading awareness for Special Olympics and the World Games as well as championing the cause of athletes in China and throughout the world! A special thanks to the 10

incredible athletes who served on the 2007 Final Leg Team—their inspiration, determination and friendship will never be forgotten!





A LETTER FROM CHINA FINAL LEG RUNNER, SHANGHAI POLICE OFFICER SHEN QIAN "GLORIA"

与圣火相伴的日子

The Days Accompanied The Flame of Hope

—写在 2007 年世界特殊奥林匹克夏季运动会执法人员火炬跑之后

能够成为上海市公安局选派的联络警官之一参加 2007 年世界特殊奥林匹克夏季运动会执法人员火炬跑“最后一棒”活动，我深感荣幸。能够身体力行特奥运动在中国的传播奉献热忱，我倍感骄傲。这次活动不仅让我成长，让我收获了友谊，更重要的是让我感受了一种精神，并深深为之震动：“Let me win. But if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempt.”（让我获胜！如果我不能获胜，就让我勇敢地去尝试）短短的半个月已在我的生命里烙下不可磨灭的印记，丰富了我人生的意义。

I felt honoured to be selected to become one of the liaison police officers for the “Final Leg”. I felt proud to become one of the pioneers to promulgate the spirit of Special Olympics to Chinese people. The great programme endued me many valuable social experience and priceless friendship. The most important thing is that I was deeply moved by the spirit the Special Olympic athletes, “Let me win. But if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempt.” The half month with my team member and Special Olympic athletes has rooted in my heart. The heatquake will enrich my whole life.

- CONTINUED -

SHANGHAI POLICE OFFICER SHEN QIAN "GLORIA'S" THOUGHTS ON THE 2007 CHINA FINAL LEG

A Letter To Team 3

It is an honor for me to have made friends with each of you. The great spirit and commitment you have to Special Olympics is beyond words and you have encouraged me to be a part of this great movement called the Law Enforcement Torch Run. You are not only excellent police officers; you are truly concerned for the citizens you serve. The stories you



*Artistic rendition of the "3 Sisters", "Gloria" (L), Anna Berke from SOI (C)
& "Alice" (R), the Chinese SO Athlete on Team 3*

told me about the Torch Run movement for Special Olympics has motivated me and all of the police officers in China. No matter what countries we are from, or our cultures, we are all the same, and have the same faith in what we are doing to help those with intellectual disabilities.

During the Final Leg we built friendships spanning national borders. I think back on my team, Team 3, with pride. John, you are an honorable Team Leader and also an affable eldership to me. Gareth, your gentlemanly style and your concern about Alice, the Chinese athlete on our team is unforgettable. Tom, although it's cold in Canada, you are very full of warmth. Tracy, you are just like my older sister and thank you for always supporting me. Larry, I remember you talking about your granddaughter, I'm sure she is very cute. I'm sure she will be standing by the road yelling "Come on Grandpa" when you are doing your Torch Run in Florida. Jeff, Richard, and Lee, your humor made our team always full of merriment! Ben, I love the Torch Run logo on the t-shirt you gave me and I wear it with pride. Anna, don't forget "3 Sisters!", Alice and I miss you!

My friends, our friendship will last forever. I will follow your examples to devote myself to be a Guardian of the Flame of Hope!

Your friend and fellow Torch Runner;

Shen Qian "Gloria"



"Gloria" (center) with Team 3 at the Great Wall of China

Athlete *Profile*

Bill Hurley

Special Olympics Calgary, Canada

The Canadian Power Lifting Championships took place in Calgary in May and Bill Hurley was there, primed and ready to show his talent in his hometown. "On Friday I had to go and weigh in, they said I had to do it without my clothes, underwear only," recalls Hurley, "but I think they were just kidding me!" There was no kidding around once the competition started though; with an invitation to compete at the upcoming World Championships at stake, the athletes had extra motivation to do their best.

"All the guys talked to me and helped me out all day long," Hurley commented following the event. "They are very big guys and they workout at the same place as I do so I made some new friends at this meet."

Hurley did more than just make friends; he walked away with a gold medal in his weight class. Having only begun power lifting in 2006, he has worked hard with his coach Paul Manuel to achieve this goal and works with a personal trainer each week to prepare for the upcoming World Championships.

Working out once a week with his personal trainer is all he has time for - Hurley is employed three days a week at Wal-Mart as well as co-owning a company. After completing a business course through Varsity Education at the University of Calgary, Hurley and a friend began *Memory Savers*. Together they scan slides, negatives, and photo prints,

burning the high quality reproductions onto CD's.

On top of running the company, Hurley is the bench manager for the University of Calgary Dino basketball team and helps with the local Vipers baseball team. However he is not one to sit back and let others have all the fun - he participates in Special Olympics basketball, floor hockey, 5 pin bowling, golf, soccer, snowshoeing, and of course power lifting.

When asked to describe Hurley, Kathy Urquhart, Special Olympics Calgary Director of Programs, says "he gives it his all, plays by the rules, supports his teammates and never complains if he doesn't win...Bill is a true athlete and exhibits outstanding sportsmanship."

He not only supports his fellow athletes but maintains a healthy relationship with the volunteers, taking time to show his appreciation at the beginning of each training session. According to a power lifting assistant coach, "Bill exemplifies why we volunteer as coaches."

The Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteers appreciate Hurley's regular involvement over the past 5 years. Manuel first met him through LETR events and describes Hurley's relationship with law enforcement officers as "simply amazing, inspiring to all he comes in contact with."

Through his participation in LETR events, fundraising activities, and other community functions, Hurley proudly represents the athletes of Special Olympics. His enthusiasm for Special Olympics has been recognized by his coaches and other volunteers; recently, he received the Calgary Athlete of the Year award.

Karen Hurley began her family's involvement in Special Olympics over 20 years ago. In search of a place for recreational and athletic opportunities, she discovered Special Olympics Calgary. Looking back over the time now, she can see the development in his physical and social skills, as well as an increased ability to be able to focus on the task at hand. "He loves it," she commented, "He can hardly wait till the next practice or competition."



For Bill Hurley, Special Olympics is not just participating and competing in sports, it's a way of life.

LETR Executive Council Expansion



January 18, 2008

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful and blessed Christmas season and also hope that you are off to a great start in 2008! We know that everyone is very busy with kick-off conferences, putting on and planning events, and preparing for another successful Torch Run campaign this year. After eclipsing the US \$30 million mark in 2007, an amazing feat, we are all now focusing on 2008 and continuing to support the incredible athletes of Special Olympics!

As you are probably aware from discussions at the Torch Run Conference and through correspondence, the Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council approved the addition of two Council appointed positions to serve on the LETR Council. We have completed a thorough review and had extended discussions at the nomination committee level as well as the full Council level. We would like to thank all 22 candidates for their interest and desire to serve on Council; the impressive list of very qualified individuals shows how strong our movement is in the areas of experience, expertise and dedication to the cause of Special Olympics. Council looks forward to working with all of the candidates as we work together to grow the Torch Run in many areas.

The decision to select two individuals for the Council appointed positions was not an easy one. However, based on the current needs of the LETR Executive Council, Council is pleased to announce that **Shelly Yielding**, the longstanding Torch Run Liaison for Arkansas, was selected to serve a two year term on Council. Also, Council has appointed **Rodney Seurer**, the Torch Run Director of Minnesota, to serve a one year term. Congratulations to Shelly and Rodney on their selections, and we look forward to their assistance in 2008! The Council expansion initiative will assist the LETR Executive Council with the increasing workload that runs parallel with the incredible growth of our movement.

We hope you have great success with your Torch Run initiatives in 2008, and please let us know if there is anything Council can do to assist you as we all work hard throughout the year to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics!

All the Best on Behalf of the LETR Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael'.

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

INTERNATIONAL LETR CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



The 2007 International Torch Run Conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (USA), from 31 October - 3 November. At the annual conference, law enforcement officers and Special Olympics staff members from around the world celebrated another record-breaking fundraising year. It was announced at the conference that the Torch Run raised US\$30 million in 2007, a true testimonial to the dedication and spirit of the law enforcement community for Special Olympics.

Here are some highlights of the education, inspiration, motivation... and fun that was enjoyed by conference attendees! For more information on the LETR International Conference and to access more conference photos, visit www.specialolympics.org/2007letrconference.



On 31 October, conference attendees competed in a golf tournament at Oak Tree Golf Course.



2007 John Carion Memorial "Unsung Hero" Award winners (from left) Jamie Hainsworth, Brian McKnight (accepting on behalf of his sister, Kathi Christ) and Sam Trujillo pose for a picture with the Carion family, Jenny Jagodzinski, John Carion, Jr. and Jeff Carion.



The Oklahoma Fancy Dancers performed traditional Native American dance during Opening Ceremonies.



On 2 November, Richard Hight and his daughter, Special Olympics athlete Avery, entertained attendees with their chalk drawing/performance. Their artwork sold for \$6,400 at the auction later that day.



Conference attendees also got the chance to put on their dancin' shoes.



Special Olympics Texas athlete Colby Bannister danced to YMCA.

INTERNATIONAL LETR CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Oklahoma athletes, and conference hosts, Chris Paynter, Amy Wollmerhauser, Katy Lew and Lindsay Smith.



Renee Snyder of SONY was the female winner of the Great Oklahoma Buck Off!



Conference attendees visited the beautiful Oklahoma City National Memorial.



Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci spoke at the Hall of Fame Banquet on 3 November.



Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Award winner Susan Stegeman, with Mike Teem, Sam Stillings and Chief Richard LaMunyon.



Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Award winner Tim Craig, with Mike Teem, Sam Stillings and Chief Richard LaMunyon.



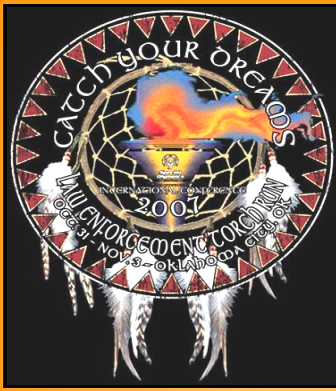
Richard LaMunyon Hall of Fame Award winner Robert Driscoll, with Mike Teem, Sam Stillings and Chief Richard LaMunyon.



Oklahoma Torch Run Director Stewart Meyer passes the Flame of Hope to 2008 Conference Host and Texas Torch Run Director Richard Candelaria.

See you next year!

Thank you, Oklahoma, for a wonderful conference!



2007 International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference HIGHLIGHTS

By: Lt. Mike Peretti, International Conference Planning Committee

OKLAHOMA SHINES, WHILE A THREE YEAR OLD GIRL TOUCHES OUR HEARTS!

Never again will we hear the question, "Oklahoma, why are we going to Oklahoma?" Now, the question is, "when are we going back?"

Referred to by some as the best LETR conference to date, the LETR and SO programs of Oklahoma certainly put their best foot forward this year as they hosted the 2007 International Torch Run Conference in Oklahoma City, October 31– November 3, 2007. From the beautiful Native American dancers in the opening ceremony to the inspirational speakers we heard from throughout the conference, Oklahoma touched our hearts and reminded us of the importance of our support for the Torch Run. Throughout the conference we viewed videos that highlighted the courage and triumphs of athletes and their families; stories of personal successes that would not have been possible without the support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Making these stories even more personal was the fact that these were stories of law enforcement families; officers within Oklahoma that are not only Guardians themselves, but whose children directly benefit from the efforts of the Torch Run.

The line up of keynote speakers was unparalleled as we heard from many including Bart Conner, Nadia Comaneci, Barry Switzer, Admiral Doug McClain, and Artist Richard Hight and his athlete daughter Avery. We were inspired by their words of encouragement and hope, and motivated to reach deeper into our hearts and continue to make miracles happen for our athletes and families. As they celebrated our successes, they also helped us recognize the work we still have to do and the attitudes we have yet to change. We have a long road ahead of us as we move forward globally spreading the word of the Torch Run and Special Olympics, but we also have a great deal to be proud of as we look back upon the trail we have blazed.

Oklahoma introduced us to new fund raising ideas as was evident in the "Boggle Goggle Wobble" where participants with their athlete teammate negotiated through several tasks wearing goggles simulating the effects of alcohol intoxication, doubling as a learning tool in DUI education. We must not forget the first conference "Buck Off" where participants tried their luck riding mechanical bulls while raising money for the Oklahoma program. There was a lot to celebrate this year in the area of fund raising, not only at the conference but throughout the movement as well.

Opening ceremonies welcomed some wonderful comments from many of our law enforcement host agencies, but the crowd came to life when Executive Council Chair and good friend Mike Teem announced that the LETR raised over \$30,000,00.00 dollars this year for local programs, a record setting year. This was not to be the only fund raising record set this year. Oklahoma LETR, determined to make their conference one to remember, nearly raised an astonishing \$50,000.00 during their live and silent auction. Just \$200 short of going over the top, when attendees learned of this, additional donations to the tune of \$900.00 came in, putting them well over the mark. The love and selfless commitment to support the Torch Run was in full bloom in Oklahoma, and no story demonstrates that more than the story of three year old, Katlyn Gregorie.



2007 International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference HIGHLIGHTS

-- continued --

Katlyn, the daughter of a Kansas Officer enjoying the live and silent auction was watching in amazement as auctioneer Officer Greg Askren, also from Kansas, raised the excitement and the bidding of the crowd. Not exactly sure what was happening Katlyn's mother tried to explain to her that items were being sold and bought to raise money for, and to help our athletes. This this explanation and a level of understanding was all she needed, three year old Katlyn told her mother that she wanted to sell her Halloween candy to help. Now you know as well as I do that two days after Halloween nothing is more important to a child than their Halloween candy, but that is what Katlyn wanted to do. They went to their hotel room, retrieved the bag of candy, which could not have been worth more than \$10.00, and returned to the auction. They contacted the auction staff who got the bag of candy to Greg who was on stage. Greg explained this incredibly generous offering and special item to the crowd and the bidding started. In a moment, you could tell that this was no ordinary bag of candy. In fact, it wasn't about the candy at all, it was about what the candy represented. It was about a selfless act of hope, and support to help others. It was about a three year old girl recognizing the love, commitment and sacrifice of our Torch Runners, our Guardians of the Flame, and wanting to be a part of that. It was about everything we represent in the Torch Run, rapped up in a three year old girl's bag of candy.

The bidding went on back and forth until you heard Greg yell, "SOLD, for \$1,100.00"! (That is not a misprint, \$1,100.00.) An officer from New York was the lucky bidder and later came up to me, introduced himself and said "Mike, I got away cheap." Curious as to how he interpreted the value of this candy I asked him what he meant. He told me that he was prepared to go up to \$5,000.00. The story does not stop there. After the bidding ended the candy was delivered to the winning officer who, as you could guess, turned and gave the candy back to Katlyn. If the actions of this little girl had not touched our hearts already, many of us fighting back the tears, Katlyn then opened her bag of candy and shared it with all her new Torch Run friends, believe it or not!

Katlyn changed the world for many of us that day. She truly demonstrated the courage, sacrifice and heroism that all Torch Runners and Special Olympics athletes are committed to. She reminded us that one person can make a difference; one voice can be heard; and one little girl can make dreams come true. A good friend from Maryland once said, "the Torch Run is all about miracles". Katlyn, you are a miracle, and in my book, you are a "Guardian of the Flame."

Congratulations to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Programs for a wonderful experience and sharing your success with the rest of us. Keep the flame burning brightly and we'll see you in Texas!

2007 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY 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
New Jersey Torch Run

Fourth Largest Increase in Gross Revenue
South Carolina 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
New Jersey Torch Run

Third Highest Grossing Program
Illinois Torch Run

Fourth Highest Grossing Program
Florida Torch Run

Fifth Highest Grossing Program
Ontario Torch Run

2007 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY

PROGRAM FUNDRAISING AWARDS

Per Capita Fundraising Awards:

Top Per Capita Fundraising Program
Maryland Torch Run

Second Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program
Hawaii Torch Run

Third Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program
Delaware Torch Run

Fourth Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program
Montana Torch Run

Fifth Highest Per Capita Fundraising Program
Wisconsin Torch Run

Percentage Growth Awards:

Largest Percentage Growth
South Carolina Torch Run

Second Largest Percentage Growth
Gibraltar Torch Run

Third Largest Percentage Growth
Pennsylvania Torch Run

Fourth Largest Percentage Growth
Chinese Taipei Torch Run

Fifth Largest Percentage Growth
New York Torch Run

**2007 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY**

LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE

Diamond

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

Florida

Illinois

Maryland

Missouri

New Jersey

North Carolina

Ontario

Wisconsin

Ruby

Torch Run Programs

Raising over \$750,000

Northern California

Southern California

Kentucky

Minnesota

Texas

Virginia

Emerald

Torch Run Programs

Raising over \$500,000

Alberta

Georgia

Michigan

Washington

Sapphire

Torch Run Programs

Raising over \$250,000

**Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa,
Ohio, Kansas, Montana, New York, Oregon, South Carolina,
British Columbia, Chinese Taipei**



SEVENTH ANNUAL IACP PHOTO CONTEST

CATEGORY A: Law enforcement as the Guardians of the Flame
- personnel carrying the torch, interacting with communities, raising funds and awareness of the events, etc.



Photo submitted by
Kelly Coffey
Special Olympics Texas



Photo submitted by
Dot Kolbach
Special Olympics North Carolina

**TIED
FOR
1ST
PLACE**



2nd Place

Photo Submitted by
Kelly Coffey
Special Olympics Texas



3rd Place
Photo Submitted by
Greg Edelen
Special Olympics Montana



SEVENTH ANNUAL IACP PHOTO CONTEST

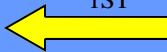
CATEGORY B: Law enforcement in support of the Special Olympics athletes themselves – personnel in interaction with athlete(s)



Photo submitted by
Greg Edelen
Special Olympics Montana



1ST



2nd Place Tie
Photo submitted by
Erin Houlihan
Special Olympics Oregon



2nd Place Tie
Photo submitted by
Richard Hernandez
Special Olympics
Southern California



Take plenty
of pictures
for the 2008
IACP Photo
Contest!



3rd Place Tie
Photo submitted by
Jamie Anderson
Arizona LETR



3rd Place Tie
Photo submitted by
Jana Fornelli
Kansas LETR

All of these winning photos were selected from a pool of over 225 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 114th Annual IACP Conference in New Orleans. The top photos are also scheduled for publication in both *Police Chief* and *Spirit* magazines.

Each year this contest is a reminder of the immeasurable benefits this program offers to both the participating officers and the communities they serve. Thank you to all the agencies that participated this year – the choices were difficult to make.

Connecticut LETR DREAM RIDE 2007

By: Bob Garguilo



On Sunday, August 26th, Connecticut's Law Enforcement Torch Run Program hosted a statewide ride featuring motorcycles and classic cars.

DREAM RIDE 2007 included 8 satellite start locations across the state each converging on the Farmington Club in Farmington Connecticut for a day full of food, fun, vendors, motivational speeches and music! All for the athletes of Special Olympics Connecticut.

Fifty-seven Special Olympics athletes served as "Dream Riders" during the course of the

year. Each athlete attended many motorcycle and car shows across the state during the months preceding Dream Ride representing SOCT and Dream Ride 2007. The athletes spoke on behalf of the event as well as distributed event brochures which included a registration form. These athletes were on hand to greet the riders and participate as passengers in many of the classic cars and trucks.

Law Enforcement Officers were assigned a satellite start location and organized the day of registration, entertainment and refreshments prior to leaving the site for the ride to the Farmington Club. LETR personnel worked during the months leading up to the event distributing brochures, attending organizational meetings, planning their respective route and encouraging volunteer participation.

DREAM RIDE 2007 was a collaborative effort with Bozzuto's Inc. a leading food distributor and Partner Level Sponsor of SOCT. Adam J. Bozzuto, who founded Bozzuto's Inc. in 1945, had a dream of building a training facility in Connecticut for Special Olympics Connecticut athletes. Michael A. Bozzuto, his son and current Chairman, President & CEO, organizes Dream Ride as a way to achieve this vision.

This resilient partnership reaffirms the beliefs that with perseverance, determination and dedication any individual can see self worth and achievement within themselves.

Officially proclaimed "Annual Dream Ride Day" by Governor M. Jodi Rell, Dream Ride 2007 raised \$80,000.00 for Special Olympics Connecticut through its LETR Program.

Torch Runner Profile



Lt. Mark Daniels (right) with SODE Athlete & Japan Final Leg teammate, Kyle Gunton

Lt. Mark Daniels Delaware LETR

Lt. Mark Daniels has been involved with the Delaware Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) since 1992. His first involvement was as a Torch Runner, carrying the Flame of Hope for Special Olympics Delaware. Over the years, Mark has expanded his role, to include becoming an ads solicitor for the SODE yearbook, merchandising, medal presentations at Special Olympics competitions, recruiting Torch Runners and providing logistical support for the Torch Run.

In 1999, Mark Daniels joined the Delaware LETR Executive Committee as Chairperson of the newly created Fund Raising Projects committee. Mark has greatly expanded and enhanced this position and now oversees Delaware Law Enforcement's statewide ads, Torch Run shirt design and merchandising, and the management of two new state sponsors of Delaware LETR - Macy's East and ShopRite food stores.

Lt. Daniels was honored in 2000 as the Delaware LETR "Torch Runner of the Year" and had the distinct honor and privilege of delivering the flame of hope at Opening Ceremonies of SODE Summer Games that year.

Lt. Daniels is the consummate example of a true Torch Run volunteer and unsung hero. Upon notification that he was selected to be Delaware's Final Leg runner in Japan in 2005, Mark was incredulous, truly honored that he would even be considered, not believing that he could possibly be our best choice. It was a typical Mark Daniels Torch Run moment... always the team player, always thinking of others, always humble.

Through his efforts Lt. Daniel's has changed attitudes, demonstrated respect and expanded opportunities for Delaware's citizens with intellectual disabilities - with numerous, yet simple acts of assistance and support.

In the Fall of 2004, upon learning that he (Lt. Daniels), and SODE athlete Kyle Gunton, had been chosen as LETR Final Leg runners for the World Winter Games in Japan, Mark began a running and training program with Kyle, to assure that they were both fully prepared for the rigors of mountain and winter running of the Final Leg in Japan in early 2005.

Kyle Gunton still tells many tales about his amazing Final Leg experience and credits Lt. Mark Daniels for his kindness, mentoring and great friendship during the Final Leg. Kyle and Mark are now friends for life!

Lt. Mark Daniels has recently been named the Special Olympics Delaware "Volunteer of the Year" for 2007. Mark is only the third Delaware law enforcement volunteer to be honored as Special Olympics Delaware's "Volunteer of the Year", since 1987. It is a richly deserved honor.

Wisconsin Athlete Uses Talent As A Public Speaker to Evolve Change Around the World



Martha Hill

Martha Hill, 27 of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is not only an experienced swimmer, who also enjoys playing basketball and bocce on the side, but has made a name for herself as an influential spokesperson for Special Olympics working to change the lives of people around the world with cognitive disabilities. Hill is not a stranger to the pressure of being in the spotlight. She has been using her talents as a gifted athlete and polished speaker to spread the mission of Special Olympics since she was chosen as one of 12 athletes worldwide to become a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger.

You might have seen her on the ABC Family Channel on October 4th, standing on stage in front of 80,000 people with the Chairman of Special Olympics, Timothy Shriver, at the Opening Ceremony of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games. In her most recent travels, she went to China to share her story at the World Games, speaking alongside international celebrities, such as Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Yao Ming, Colin Farrell, Vanessa Williams and other world leaders about the powerful declarations of hope, acceptance, dignity and courage of Special Olympics athletes. Martha tells this story about her experience in China.

“After we had arrived in China, I was sitting on a loud, crowded street waiting for the Law Enforcement Torch Run to arrive. We had had a long day and my jet lag was catching up with me. I was tired and at that moment, I felt very far from home.

All of a sudden, some fireworks started and our leader started hustling us down the street and through a large guarded gate. All at once, we were flooded with bright lights and cameras and found ourselves face-to-face with hundreds of Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteers. All the International Global Messengers began to cheer, but I must say I was the loudest.

Moments later, the gates opened again and we were flooded with light again, but this time it was the light from many torches carried by officers, followed by hundreds of Law Enforcement runners. We were awe struck for only a few minutes and then swept up into the glow.

We joined the run and felt the cadence of the boots as we ran down the streets of Shanghai. My head was swirling, my ears were ringing and my heart was overflowing.

The athletes had become part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Law Enforcement Torch Run had become part of the athletes.” As Martha serves her two year term as an International Global Messenger, she too is carrying a flame of hope around the world.

“Intellectual disabilities are not who we are, it’s just something we have, like blond hair and a pretty smile,” Hill says. “We all have the same hopes and dreams as others; it just might take a little more work to make them come true.”



The History of the Torch Run

The publication of the 25th Anniversary commemorative book at the 2006 International Conference chronicled 25 years of LETR achievements and for many of us, provided the first glimpse at the rich and impressive history of our movement.

The preparation and research put into this publication brought to light that finding and sharing quality LETR images illustrative of significant events and our history can be a daunting and laborious task, even for a professional publisher.

Recognizing the responsibility to make available and pass on a sense of history, the Executive Council proposes to launch an organized and dedicated effort to identify, collect, and preserve our Torch Run history.

Can you help us? What piece of LETR history do you have tucked away in your closet, old shoebox, or scrapbook? Maybe it's a flyer announcing one of the first conferences, a Final Leg jersey, or a photo of a check presentation. Whatever it is, its Torch Run history and we would love to preserve it for the future.

Admittedly, while LETR may not experience the painstaking effort like the publication of the 25th Anniversary commemorative book for another twenty-five years, individual programs, the conference planning committee and others do encounter similar challenges on a regular basis when trying to develop fresh and informative photographic presentations and marketing tools.

In its simplest form, the Executive Council would like to begin compiling a digital record of LETR pictures (the storage of physical items is not the current focus of this project and creates another challenge) which could then be readily accessed when an affordable option for web based management of a large collection of digital photos, videos, documents and other items is identified.

A number of photos were collected from different sources for the 25th Anniversary. Many of those photos have never been published before and provide remarkable insight to the early Torch Run years. Currently these images are being stored by the International Conference Planning Committee and we believe there are many more of these photos out there that need to be identified and preserved.

Initially, all LETR related photos, videos and memorabilia that can be photographed, copied and stored electronically will be collected and cataloged on external hard drives serving as a temporary collection point of the archived images pending the implementation of a long term professional preservation solution. The important thing is to start now before these materials are lost forever.

Please contact John Pratt, jpratt@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us (925) 408-4134 for more information or if you have photographs you would like to submit.



2008 TORCH RUN CONFERENCE

Lt. John Pratt, International Conference Planning Committee

Special Olympics Texas and the Texas Law Enforcement Torch Run are ready to welcome you to the Lone Star State for the 2008 International Conference!

From the time you arrive at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, you'll understand why people say that everything is "bigger and better" in Texas. A Dallas icon, the host hotel is known for its' size and splendor. The Anatole is the largest convention resort in the Southwest, with 1,606 guest rooms, 333,400 square feet of meeting space, an impressive seven-acre sculpture park, and a full service spa. There are seven bars and five restaurants on site; the five-star *Nana* on the 27th floor offers a breathtaking view of the Dallas skyline. You're sure to be "wowed" by the grandeur of the Hilton Anatole.

Although you don't have to leave the hotel for first class food and entertainment, Texas has arranged an exciting outing for Host Night. Upon your arrival at Eddie Deen's Ranch, Killeen-Fort Hood's Cavalry Unit will greet you on horseback. Eddie Deen's barbeque, served at both Gubernatorial and Presidential Inaugurals for President George W. Bush, will be on the menu. Not only will you dine on that world class barbeque, but also Mexican cuisine to give you the complete taste of Texas. Local country breakout star, Jolie Holliday, who can be seen on the Chevrolet stage at NASCAR events, will perform for the evening; there will also be some surprises in store to keep you entertained.

The Conference and its activities will keep you busy, but if time allows there is a lot to see in "Big D"! Dallas is home to four professional sports teams (Stars, Cowboys, Rangers and Mavericks), Southfork Ranch – America's most famous ranch where "Dallas" was filmed, the largest arts district in the United States, Six Flags Over Texas amusement park, and much more.

Mark your calendar, with more details to come in 2008. We hope to see y'all in Texas!

2009 Torch Run Conference Site Announced



Governor M. Jody Rell (center) announced to the state that Connecticut's Law Enforcement Torch Run Program along with Special Olympics Connecticut will host the 2009 International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference. The event which will be held November 11-15, 2009 will be held at the new MGM Grand at Foxwood's Resort.

TORCH RUN IN PARAGUAY

Bill Buford, Chairperson of the International Expansion Committee, has been working hard along with his fellow committee members to grow our Law Enforcement Torch Run efforts around the world. Recently, the committee has been concentrating in Latin and South America, and as evidenced by the letter below, are doing a great job adding fuel to the *flame of hope* around the world!

Dear Bill:

Thank you for sending me the torch. On November 1st in Asunción, Paraguay we held our first Law Enforcement Torch Run in order to welcome home the 14 Special Olympics athletes that had participated in the World Games in Shanghai and also to recognize the inaugural regional games.

The flame of hope departed the police command site on Independent Paraguayo Avenue and was run to the Office of the National Secretary of Sports, a distance of 10 kilometers. The minister of the Interior, the Police Commander, General Commissioners, Cadets and other officials of the National Police as well as, noncommissioned Officers of the National Police.

Those that participated included 10 officials and 150 students from the National Police Academy and the School of Non-Commissioned Officers, 10 Urban Security Guards, as well as motorcyclists, fire trucks, patrol cars, trucks from the Voluntary Fire Firefighters and traffic/transit authorities from the city. Also in attendance were special guests from the National Police, Special Olympics athletes and their families. The police band performed. Additionally, students from the Physical Education school and other local officials (such as representatives from the Honor Guard) volunteered for the event.

The moment that everyone waited for was the presentation of the Flame of Hope and the lighting of the cauldron. This was a very gratifying experience and a proud accomplishment for me. I was able to organize this event, thanks to all that I learned in Valencia, Venezuela. The Flame of Hope is burning in Asunción, Paraguay.

Bill, the first mission is accomplished, and I am already looking forward to the second Torch Run to be held in 2008 in honor of the National Special Olympic Games in Paraguay.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Wilfrido Colman Almada
Coordinator of the Torch Run Paraguay
Academic Chief for the National Police School of
Physical Education





In 2007, the Krispy Kreme Cops on Doughnut Shops fundraisers raised more than \$257,000 for Special Olympics programs. It's now time to start thinking about 2008! The national date has been set for the first weekend in May: Friday, May 2 through Sunday, May 4

EVENT BACKGROUND

- Police officers from local Police Departments will take to the roofs of Krispy Kreme stores on 4-6 May 2008 to raise money for the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics.
- During “Cops on Doughnut Shops” weekend, police officers will collect donations from customers and the general public as they are perched on the rooftops of Krispy Kreme stores.
- Police officers can also make calls from Krispy Kreme rooftops to local individuals and business leaders asking for pledges. Remember to challenge local community officials, sports figures and media personalities to join you on the roof and contribute to your fundraising efforts.
- Customers who donate to the Torch Run for Special Olympics will receive treats from Krispy Kreme ranging from a free doughnut to a free dozen Original glazed doughnuts and a choice of a Special Olympics hat or shirt. Corporations, organizations or individuals donating \$1,000 or more will receive a free Krispy Kreme doughnut party for their employees.
- Special Olympic Athletes can help greet customers and create awareness of the Special Olympics programs in the area. Special Olympic representatives/board members should be present at event.

Documents and resources for planning your 2008 events are available at:

[www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Website/English/Support/Law Enforcement Torch Run/Resources/Krispy+Kreme.htm](http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Website/English/Support/Law+Enforcement+Torch+Run/Resources/Krispy+Kreme.htm)

2008 TORCH RUN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Law Enforcement At-Large (2010)

Mike Teem (Chairman)

mrteem@hotmail.com

Raleigh Police Department

Special Olympics Athlete Appointee (2008)

Sam Stillings

Torchrunmn@yahoo.com

IACP Appointee (2008)

Russ Laine

rlaine@algonquin.org

Algonquin Police Department

IACP Appointee (2009)

Joe Pena

joseb1950@yahoo.com

Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

Law Enforcement At-Large (2009)

Bill Buford

bill.buford@asp.state.ar.us

Arkansas State Police

Law Enforcement At-Large (2008)

Mike Peretti

mperetti@livermorepolice.org

Livermore Police Department

SOI Appointee (2009)

Drake Turrentine

dturrentine@specialolympics.org

Special Olympics, Inc.

SOI Appointee (2008)

Mary Beth McMahon

marybeth@sonc.org

Special Olympics Northern California

Special Olympics At-Large (2010)

Denny Alldridge

dalldridge@specialolympicswisconsin.org

Special Olympics Wisconsin

Special Olympics At-Large (2009)

Nancy Bottelo

ceo@specialolympics.org

Special Olympics Hawaii

Special Olympics At-Large (2008)

Jeff Henson

jhenson@soill.org

Special Olympics Illinois

Chairman Emeritus

Richard LaMunyon

rlamunyon@mac.com

Executive Council Appointee (2008)

Rodney Seurer

rseurer@ci.savage.mn.us

Executive Council Appointee (2009)

Shelly Yielding

shellyyielding@aol.com

REGIONAL COORDINATORS



Region I

CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

Paul Zarnetske

pzarnetske@whpd.com

Region II

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

John Newnan

jnewnan@howardcountymd.gov

Region III

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

Joe Pellicci

jpellicci@rcsd.net

Region IV

IL, IN, KY, MI, OH

Jim Reno

R8574@indvgov.org

Region V

IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Steve Palmer

Spalmer@attornev.co.polk.ia.us

Region VI

AR, KS, LA, MO, OK, TX

Richard Candelaria

rcandelaria@midlandtexas.gov

Region VII

AZ, N.C.A., S.C.A, CO, HI, NV,
NM, UT, Guam

John Pratt

jpratt@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us

Region VIII

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

Grant Holle

freeheeler@centurytel.net

Region IX

Western Europe

Jeremy Adams

jeremvadams@orange.net

Region X

Eastern Europe/Eurasia

Jacek Hachulski

torchrun@olimpiadyspecjalne.pl

Region XI

Canada

Paul Manual

pmanual@calgarypolice.ca

Region XII

FAR EAST

Kurt Kendro

hpd1670@aol.com

Region XIII

Caribbean

Carl A. Alfonso

carlalfonso1144@hotmail.com