**2013 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit**

*Youth Do Change the World* Educational Session #2

EDUCATE – SO Mission and Inclusive Schools and Community Initiatives

**Purpose**

As youth take upon the roles of both learners and teachers, co-leaders for this Educational Session presented the value and impact that Special Olympics has had on themselves and their home communities. Youth Leaders identified and discussed what the Special Olympics Mission meant to him or her through reading the statement in their native language. Even though the words that comprise the SO Mission are the same across the world, its implications and personal meanings is unique to each person. Through each leader contributing a piece to the Special Olympics Quilt, we co-created a “living” meaning of how young people are vital for continuing the Dignity Revolution for All People. Youth Leaders also started to develop a working concept of Inclusion, which would be later defined and enhanced during Session #7.

**Logistics**

1. Co-Leaders presented what SO looks like in his or her home community, and shared favorite personal experiences.
2. Each person read the SO Mission in his or her native language. Leaders were given time to draw or write what the mission looks like in action and spirit.
3. Pictures were presented, where attendees analyzed how they expressed either inclusive or exclusive practices.
4. In groups, participants identified 5-values, behaviors or actions that support inclusion.

**Highlights**

* “Love is the fuel of Special Olympics.” – Team Philippines
* “Unified Partners demonstrate, support and mentor Athletes to perfect their skills.” – Team Kenya
* “Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” – Lao Tzu
* “By the difference, we can make it similar. If we work together, we can do everything. Together We Can.” – M. Farhan, Indonesia.
* “Support of family, friends, and the community every step of the way!”
* “All colors means 1 family” (drew the SO logo in different colors).
* “Be you! Acceptance. Be Inspired! Courage.” – Special Olympics Bahamas.
* “Together we Can! Each step makes our lives better.”

**Action Considerations**

1. Share “your story” of Special Olympics, through either writing a blog post, posting a YouTube Video, or sharing on the [www.SpecialOlympics.org](http://www.SpecialOlympics.org) Website.
2. Commit to asking fellow SO Supporters:
	1. *What is your story?*
	2. *What does Special Olympics mean to you?*
3. Identify how Special Olympics is implemented in other countries, and how the structure of governments and educational systems can either impede or advance our work.
4. Take time to celebrate how your individual involvement in Special Olympics, contributes to the collective impact of supporting awareness, advocating for dignity and promoting social justice for people with ID.

**Personal Reflection**

Allot 10-15 Minutes to think of the following questions:

1. Why do you think we, as young people, are vital for the present and future of Special Olympics?
2. We are humans, not numbers. How can we share the power of Special Olympics of how our experiences have positively impacted our lives?
3. Create an “Elevator Speech” for the Youth Role in Special Olympics.

**For More Information**

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