



Special Olympics
Idaho
The Connection

AUGUST 2008 - 07/31/2008

From the desk of CEO... AUGUST 2008

Special Olympics Idaho just celebrated 36 years of providing sports training and competition to Idaho children and adults with intellectual disabilities. This year, I celebrated my fifth year with Special Olympics Idaho. Because of the great and noble response of hundreds of volunteers and supporters around our state, Special Olympics Idaho is a community unto itself; a self-creating world where cooperation, welcome and celebration find their expression in sports. Over the last 36 years, this kind and passionate world has challenged us, demanded our attention, taught us humility, lightened our spirits, and in every way, been a joy. If one could rank privileges, the highest would be the honor of serving with the athletes and families of Special Olympics. Thank you for that privilege.

Warmest Regards, Laurie La Follette CEO

L.E.T.R. UPDATE - AUGUST 2008

WORLD'S LARGEST TRUCK CONVOY

The World's Largest Truck Convoy is coming! It will take place in Boise on September 13th and in Pocatello and Twin Falls on September 20th. If you are interested in being a part of this great event please visit our website: www.idso.org and click on the truck convoy logo on the right hand side of the screen for more information and a registration packet.



TIP A COP

On September 6th Officer Allen Ashby with the Idaho State Police will be having a Tip A Cop at the Red Lobster in Coeur de' Alene. We will have more information on this event in the next newsletter.

COP ON TOP

We also will be having our Kripsy Kreme Doughnuts Cop On Top October 23rd through the 25th this year. It was originally planned for June but we decided to reschedule it for the fall so that we can get local schools more involved in the event. I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to help hand out fliers for the Cop On Top in June. I apologize that we ended up canceling the date and unable to use you but hope that you can volunteer for the new date in October!

Congratulations to Officer Michelle Wyatt with the Twin Falls Police Department for a very successful Cop On Top event at the Starbucks in Twin Falls. Michelle raised over \$6,000.00 for Special Olympics! Way to go Michelle!!

AUGUST SPORTS AND TRAINING UPDATE

Hello Everyone-

NEW SPORT!

We have a NEW SPORT we will be offering this fall! In the past, we have offered traditional soccer during our summer games. This year, we are going to be offering **Unified Soccer** as part of our Fall area competition. We anticipate the training season to start mid-October and competition to be mid-November. Remember this is UNIFIED only! That means that the team not only consists of Special Olympics athletes, but also volunteers to play and coach the athletes during the game. If you have been waiting for a fun opportunity to volunteer for Special Olympics, what better way than to be an athlete on a soccer team?

If you would like to join a soccer team near you, please contact me and we will find a team that needs your help!

SPORTS MANAGEMENT TEAMS

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are looking for sports managers and sports management team members. A sports management team is a group of volunteers who communicate with each other, coaches, athletes and staff to help us improve our sports specific competitions. If you are an avid skier, you could sit on a sports management team and advise Special Olympics Idaho in whatever your specialty might be; a certain event, equipment, coach's training, officiating, etc.

We are looking for volunteers to take the lead on several of our sports, as well as experts in those sports to help advise. We currently have four superstar volunteers who have taken the lead as the head of a sports management team:

Powerlifting: Andrew Weinstein

Volleyball: Dianne Dimick

Cycling: Pam Sommer and Gary Rasco

We are still looking for volunteers to take the lead on our remaining sports: snowboarding, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, alpine skiing, floor hockey, basketball, athletics (track and field), soccer, aquatics, bowling, softball, and golf.

If you are at all interested and have questions, please feel free to contact me. We need all of the help we can get to ensure that our athletes have high quality, safe and fun competitions!

Thanks for all you do for our athletes!

Corby Goade

Director of Sports and Training

STAY COOL AND HELP SPECIAL OLYMPICS IDAHO!!!



P.O. Box 45316 Boise, ID 83711

887-3667

Tom Clark of Clark Heating and Air Conditioning, RUUD Manufacturing and Western Supply have extended their promotion. From now until September 30, 2008, Clark Heating and Air Conditioning will donate \$100 to Special Olympics Idaho for every air conditioner sold OR furnace sold. Tom Clark is a long-time supporter of Special Olympics Idaho and this is his way to help us send our Idaho Athletes to the 2009 World Winter Games! 'It's a win, win for everyone,' says Clark. To purchase your new air conditioning unit or furnace, call Tom Clark at (208) 887-3667.

Breakfast with Champions Raises more than \$51,000 for SOID!

June 10, 2008, nearly 400 supporters of Special Olympics Idaho were inspired at the 5th Annual Breakfast With Champions by *Athlete of the Year*, **Debi Conley**, as well as keynote speaker, **Loretta Claiborne**. Conley talked about her experience in the program and the opportunities it has given her, such as, going to Washington, D.C. to meet with Idaho's Congressional Delegation. She also talked about the confidence she has gained by participating in Special Olympics Idaho and the pleasure she gets from helping coach other athletes.

Loretta Claiborne, an athlete from Pennsylvania, spoke of the challenges she has overcome and her involvement in the Special Olympics movement. Everyone laughed as Claiborne recounted stories about her mother and her siblings, moving the audience. Claiborne also talked candidly about the hurtful impact of language saying, 'if somebody hits me it lasts a second or it lasts a minute, but if someone calls me a retard constantly or even once, it lasts a lifetime in the back of my mind.' Claiborne ended her address by reminding us that we all have the power to be champions through Special Olympics.

We would like to thank the many champions who helped the Breakfast With Champions raise **\$51,000** for Idaho's athletes!

Event Emcee

Troy McClain

Table Captains

- Michael Lauber, *Healthwise*
- Dave and Barb Wisenor, *SOID parents*
- Jim Kerns, *Boise City Police Department*
- Jim Atkins, *SOID Board of Directors*
- Wendy Claman, *D.L. Evans Bank*
- Susan Valiquette and Ben Murray, *SOID volunteers and parents*
- Traci VanDehey, *AmeriTel Inns*
- Kimber Erickson, *New York Life*
- Maureen O'Keeffe, *St. Luke's Regional Medical Center*
- John Burke, *Hall, Farley, Oberrecht & Blanton, P.A.*
- Melissa Honsinger, *Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital*
- David Ewers, *PacificSource Health Plans*
- Stacy Pearson, *Boise State University*
- Chris Privon, *Hewlett-Packard*
- Teresa Morris, *Sterling Savings Bank*
- Teresa Alexander, *SuperValu*
- Stephanie Martinez, *Assurant Health*
- Trudy Dewey, *Wal-Mart Meridian*
- Trish Greenland, *Wal-Mart Caldwell*
- Tracy Cummings, *Wal-Mart Garden City*
- Helene Probasco, *Wal-Mart Nampa-Garrity*
- John Eck, *Center for Lifetime Health*
- Bruce Schreppe, *2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games*
- Connie Murphy, *LeMasters & Daniels*
- Carrie Hoff, *Moxie Java International*
- Jeff Wimer, *Northwestern Mutual Financial Network*

Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club

Bronze Medal Sponsors

Hewlett-Packard
Dave and Barb Wisenor

Corporate Table Sponsors

Boise State University
D.L. Evans Bank
John Eck, Center for Lifetime Health
Key Bank
LeMasters & Daniels
St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
SuperValu
Wal-Mart Meridian
Wal-Mart Caldwell
Wal-Mart Garden City
Wal-Mart Nampa-Garrity

In-Kind-Sponsors

Area02 Video Productions
Accommodations for Loretta Claiborne provided by: Hampton Inn & Suites, Boise
Moxie Java International

In-Kind-Donors



SOID Athlete of the Year, Debi Conley with Congressman Mike Simpson



"What is a champion, the one who always wins the gold medal? No. A Champion is not afraid to make a sacrifice...The one who goes out in the playing field to be their best whether its first place or whether it's last place. That is the champion. The person who goes out there in support and helps that person succeed, are champions." - Loretta Claiborne

Sterling Savings Bank
Camille Beckman
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Bed, Bath & Beyond
Moxie Java International
The McClain Company
LeMasters & Daniels
Proforma
Blaz'N Diagnostics Auto Care Center
Special Olympics Idaho
Idaho Stampede
Piper Pub & Grill
Dinner's Ready
Boise Hawks
Shadow Valley Golf Course
Rocky Mountain PGA
PF Chang's
D.L. Evans Bank
Dutch Brother's Coffee
Boise Art Museum
Tennis Pro Jan Michael Jordan
Purple Sage Golf Course
Boise Police Department
Mount Royal Ranch
Golf Pro Jenny Busdon
Jamison Rae Jewelry
AAA of Oregon/Idaho
Tupperware Manager, Linda Weinstein
Harrison Plaza Suite Hotel
Cambria Suites
Holiday Inn Express
Fairfield Inn
Hampton Inn
Safari Inn
SuperValu
Ameritel Inn
Inn America
Cactus Pete's
Golf Pro Margie Andrews
Hotel 43
PacificSource Health Plans
Eagle Knoll Winery
Piece Unique & Shoez
Loon Outdoors
Milan Institute

Corporate Spotlight: Wal-Mart and Sam's Club: It's about Diversity and Inclusion

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores in Idaho have donated more than \$50,000 to Special Olympics Idaho this year, making them the 2008 Premier Sponsor! It's not just about the money however. Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Special Olympics share an interest in helping people with intellectual disabilities, providing opportunities that might not otherwise exist. One of the core values of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club is respect for the individual. This value creates a culture where the perspectives of every associate are allowed to flourish. Judy Ortega, whose sons Josh and Tony work at the Wal-Mart in Meridian, is emotional when she talks about how difficult it is to find a job if you have special needs. 'Wal-Mart bends over backwards to work with these guys.'

The commitment of these stores is seen in the enthusiastic participation in Special Olympics Idaho events. In February 2008, more than 450 Wal-Mart and Sam's Club associates participated in the 2008 World Winter Games Invitational. Trudy Dewey, a Wal-Mart Community Involvement Coordinator said participating in the Torch Run, 'showed the real commitment that our associates have in supporting the Special Olympics in Idaho.' Wal-Mart and Sam's Club associates also participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run's Penguin Plunge in February. More than 40 associates took time out of their workday to attend the 5th Annual Breakfast with Champions on June 10. Says Josh Ortega, a Wal-Mart associate and Special Olympics Idaho athlete, 'It's just everyday people hanging out... helping out with something... that's pretty cool!'

Josh, we agree with you. Thank You Wal-Mart and Sam's Club for all that you do for people with intellectual disabilities and for Special Olympics Idaho. We are all part of one community.

Special Olympics Idaho Chosen as a Beneficiary for the 2008 Albertsons Boise Open!

SOID is honored to be one of twelve organizations that have been selected as a beneficiary of the **2008 Albertsons Boise Open presented by KRAFT** which will be held in Boise at the Hillcrest Country Club, **September 8th - 14th**. Since its inception, this annual golf tournament has generated nearly \$1.7 million for Boise area non-profit organizations! The event is a premier event on the Nationwide Tour. The field is always competitive as the future stars of the PGA TOUR move one step closer to fulfilling their lifelong dreams. The Albertsons Boise Open boasts one of the largest purses on the Nationwide Tour at \$725,000. As the tour organizer said, golf tournaments can be intimidating: if you watch a golf tournament on television even the announcer is whispering! So, one of the goals of the Albertsons Boise Open is to ensure that this isn't just a golf tournament. There is something for everyone!



SAVE up to \$150 off the Gate Ticket Price by selecting Special Olympics Idaho as your charity of choice through the *Sara Lee Tickets for Charity Program*. 100% of the proceeds will go to Special Olympics Idaho. Ticket types include:

Weekly Grounds \$25
Weekly Clubhouse \$50
10-Pack Grounds \$200
10-Pack Clubhouse \$400

For more information about the all of the activities at the Albertson Boise Open or to order your tickets, log onto

www.albertsonsboiseopen.com,

call (208) 336-3029,

Or call Christine at Special Olympics Idaho at (208) 323-0482 x. 21

Is Your Team Looking for a Fundraiser???

If you are a coach or an LPC and know of a team that is looking for a fundraising opportunity, participating in the Albertsons Boise Open's *Sara Lee Tickets for Charity Program* could be just the ticket. It's a great way to support an organization that is supporting Special Olympics Idaho and YOUR team will receive 100% of the proceeds of your ticket sales. Get started selling today by contacting Christine at (208) 323-0482 x. 21.

Golf Sprint

13th Annual First American Title Company Golf Sprint

Hosted by MLC/Sotheby's International Realty

To Benefit Special Olympics Idaho

August 25, 2008

Plantation Country Club, Boise

On August 25, 2008 one of the most successful fundraising events for Special Olympics Idaho will be back for the 13th year! The First American Title Company Golf Sprint hosted by MLC/Sotheby's International Realty, will be held at Plantation Country Club in Boise, Idaho beginning at 7:30am and ending at 2:30 pm.

The Golf Sprint is a 36-hole best ball tournament (foursome with the lowest best ball score on each hole; each player must play their own ball). Prizes will be awarded to teams and individuals for highest fundraisers, best scores, the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Each team is asked to pledge a minimum of \$2,000 (\$500 per player) to participate. Hole sponsorship is also available at \$250. Hole sponsors will receive signage at the event, corporate & community networking opportunities, media exposure, product promotional opportunities and recognition in the Idaho Business Review.

All entries and hole sponsorships must be submitted by Wednesday, August 20th by 4 pm. 100% of proceeds will go directly to the athletes of Special Olympics Idaho and are tax deductible.

For more information regarding sponsorship or registration, please contact Christine Jarski at (208) 323-0482 ext. 21.

A Change is Needed, and the Answer is in 'The Power of Partnerships'

By Aaron Olson

On Saturday, August 2nd Robyn Markey, a Director of Organizational Development for Special Olympics North America, came to the Spring Hill Suites Hotel in Boise, Idaho to inspire a better Special Olympics Idaho through *The Power of Partnerships*. Markey is a former Head Basketball Coach from Ball State University (the other BSU), the author of *The Power of Partnerships* curriculum, and a skilled public speaker.

'You all are doing too much,' Markey said as the program commenced. She then set out to prove her characteristically blunt statement to the LPCs, Board Members and Staff who filled the conference room. She handed out a generic organizational chart for a local program and asked everyone in the room to fill it out. After a few minutes, Local Program Coordinators saw in the diagrams before them the reason for their long hours: the word 'me' filled every position. Markey's logical solution was to build partnerships to fill all those slots currently crowded by 'me.'

As the conference progressed, Markey explored the nature and importance of partnerships and how to promote them. She stressed the point that one person cannot hold together an organization. She emphasized that by not sharing the responsibilities, limits are created for how much can be accomplished. Attendees learned the benefits of giving power away and trusting others. They learned how to approach others for help and the tactics to build an emotional investment in Special Olympics Idaho.

Markey ended her lesson with a compelling call for change. Conference goers sat with misty eyes as the video *Johnny the Bagger*, (<http://www.stservicemovie.com/>), played, reminding everyone that all big accomplishments start with a small first action. Every head nodded in agreement when Markey asked, 'do you know now what I meant when I said that you all are doing too much?' Now is the time to take a step toward change and a better Special Olympics Idaho by giving away a little bit of that program you hold so close.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Clayton wins 2008 ISDA Outstanding Dental Hygienist of the Year

Congratulations to Jennifer Clayton for winning 2008 Idaho State Dental Association (ISDA) Outstanding Dental Hygienist of the Year! Jennifer has been a licensed dental hygienist in Idaho for the past 30 years. Jennifer has been actively involved in Special Olympics Idaho, spending 15 years helping coach the Boise aquatics team. She also helped start the Special Olympics *Special Smiles* program in Idaho in 2001 at the Winter Games in Northern Idaho.

Amy Haugen, Co-Director of *Special Smiles*, says, 'Jennifer is such an inspiration and blessing to the dental community and to Special Smiles. The award could not have been received by anyone more deserving. Along with her exceptional talent as a dental hygienist, her love and dedication to the Special Olympics athletes has an amazing way of making everyone smile inside!'

The goal of *Special Smiles* is to identify and serve Special Olympics athletes in Idaho who deserve good dental treatment and help provide access to care. Jennifer attended a Special Smiles training program in 2001 at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Alaska. During the games, Alaska hosted a U.S. Senate Appropriations Hearing on the Health Status and Needs of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. Several dignitaries gave testimonies and Jennifer was so impressed by one speaker in particular, Loretta Claireborne, a Special Olympics Idaho athlete and global messenger, that she realized just how important it was to find access to health care for the Special Olympic athletes of Idaho and thus began the journey in bringing Special Smiles to Idaho, a program that helps so many Special Olympics athletes in the state.

Jennifer co-chaired the *Special Smiles* for Special Athletes of Idaho program for the World Invitational Games in 2008 and will also co-chair the program for the 2009 World Winter Special Olympics.

'I only hope that we can continue to serve the Special Olympics athletes of Idaho. Athletes rock!' says Clayton.

We think that you rock too, Jennifer!

Congratulations also go out to John S. Kriz, DDS for receiving the *2008 IDSA Community Service Award*. Dr. Kriz has been involved with Special Olympics for 35 years and is actively involved with the Special Smiles Program in the Special Athletes Program for the 2009 Special Olympics World Games.

FAMILY SERVICES VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The Family Support Network (FSN) is a structure in which Special Olympics families reach out to new families and welcome them into the Special Olympics community. The objectives are to support families, to develop partnerships with community organizations, to provide resources and to spread the word about Special Olympics Idaho.

SOID is looking for regional coordinator to help get the FSN and Young Athletes Program (YAP) off the ground in Northern Idaho. If you live in Northern Idaho, have great organizational skills, and are enthusiastic about sharing the gift of sports training and competition, then this volunteer opportunity is for you! For a full job description please contact Shanna Endow at sendow@idso.org.

Epilepsy Support Group

The Idaho Epilepsy Support Club, a support group for people and family members with Epilepsy, meets the first and third Saturday of the month at 6:00pm at Richard Hulbert's home. For more information, please contact Richard Hulbert or Suzane at 467-3583 or 250-0602.

2009 World Winter Games

Host Town

The 2009 World Winter Games would like to invite you to participate in the largest multi-day winter sporting event ever held in Idaho! The state of Idaho will host the World Winter Games February 7-13, 2009, offering up to 3,000 athletes from more than 100 countries world-class competition in seven winter sports.

The **Host Town Program** is an opportunity for each and every person to become involved in the World Winter Games on a very personal level. Please join our team by welcoming the athletes from around the world into your homes!

The Host Town experience is one like none other. Prior to the World Winter Games Opening Ceremony, international delegations are hosted in the homes of residents around the state.

For more information, or if you are interested in hosting a delegation and would like to schedule a presentation on this exciting program, please reply to Nicci Cleveland, Host Town Manager, at (208) 377-7237 or HostTown@2009WorldGames.org.

Family Services

World Winter Games is also looking for strong family leaders from Special Olympics Idaho to serve in the following key volunteer positions;

- ✦ Family Services Competition Venue Family Lounge Commissioners (2 for Sun Valley, 1 for McCall and 1 for Bogus Basin) Responsibilities include:
 - ✦ Attend monthly meetings for competition venues representing Family Services
 - ✦ Coordinate Information back to Family Service Manager from meetings
 - ✦ Organize volunteers assigned to Family Lounges at competition venues
 - ✦ Set Up Family Lounge
 - ✦ Over see the day to day operations of the Family Lounge during the Games

- ✦ Family Services Family Ambassador Commissioner (1) Responsibilities include:
 - ✦ Coordinate Information on arrival dates, times, and country origin of registered families coming to the World Games
 - ✦ Organize Volunteers to meet , greet, and give directions to registered families at the airport
 - ✦ Show Idaho hospitality to the registered families of the World Games!

If you are interested in these positions or would like more information, please contact Carrie Leavitt, Manager Family Services, at carrie.leavitt@2009worldgames.org or (208)377-7153.

ATHLETE OFFICIALS

Special Olympics Idaho is looking for athletes interested in becoming Officials for the 2009 World Winter Games coming to Boise in February. Special Olympics Officials Program for Athletes (SOOPA) is a program that helps interested athletes and their volunteer mentors complete officials certification. Through this program athletes are encouraged to explore various volunteer and officiating roles within their sport. Officials are needed in the following sports:

- ✦ Alpine Skiing
- ✦ Cross Country Skiing
- ✦ Snowboarding
- ✦ Snowshoeing
- ✦ Floor Hockey

Responsibilities of Athlete Official

- ✦ Must have Class A Volunteer Mentor
- ✦ Must attend Orientation/training (September TBD)
- ✦ Must participate in training and practicum module as prescribed by SOI/NGB/IF
- ✦ Must meet or exceed expectations set forth by SOI/NGB/IF
- ✦ Perform duties at the highest satisfactory level
- ✦ Abide by regulations set forth by the GOC and SOI during Games time

For a complete list of Mentor responsibilities, qualifications or to submit your name for training, please contact Corby at cg@idso.org or Shanna at sendow@idso.org.
