



Special Olympics **Idaho** **The Connection**

DECEMBER 2007 - 12/14/2007

From the desk of CEO...

Rays of Hope

As we near the end of the year, I wanted to write to thank you. Your support of individuals with intellectual disabilities through Special Olympics Idaho makes such a difference and really changes lives.

39 years ago, founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver's vision took shape . . .to give people with intellectual disabilities the chance to move out of the shadows, to experience sports and to feel success and achievement. Today, that vision has grown to more than 2.5 million athletes, almost 200,000 coaches, and millions of families and volunteers in 165 countries. In neighborhoods throughout Idaho, 2,200 Special Olympics athletes train and compete year-round, thanks to your generosity.

Throughout our 35 year history, Special Olympics Idaho has seen so many happy, confident and achieving athletes in our program that sometimes we forget the daunting challenges they face in everyday life. A national recent survey of athletes, families and coaches confirmed so much of what we see in the lives and faces of our athletes. The study suggested that gains in self-confidence, self-esteem and socialization can carry beyond Special Olympics. For example, more than half (52%) of adult Special Olympic athletes have jobs.

Parents of Special Olympic athletes often say that Special Olympics provided the only ray of hope when they were feeling most isolated, confused and alone. As a mother of a Special Olympic athlete remarked after watching her child participate, 'It was the first time that I realized every child needs to be cheered on, every child has potential, and how much our child is capable of.' Isn't it exciting to hear the life-changing impact of your gifts of time, talent or treasures?

Please consider making a year-end gift to Special Olympics Idaho. You will help us start the New Year ready to offer the Special Olympics experience to new individuals and families around Idaho. Your gift can be mailed to Special Olympics Idaho at: 405 S 8th St Suite 201, Boise ID 83702.



Thank you again for being part of the Special Olympics Idaho family. Your generosity is changing lives and spreading rays of hope and understanding around Idaho and the world!

Gratefully,



Laurie La Follette, CEO

Dear Warm Hearted Friends:

Well, it's that time of year again. Time for the 2008 Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Idaho. Last year, with your help, we raised over \$26,000 for our Idaho athletes. We want to do even better for 2008! So, please consider making a donation to any of our brave plungers so we can accomplish our goal for our athletes! The event is set for February 8, 2008, at the Meridian Wal-Mart. All donations are tax-deductible, so hurry so you can use your gift as a deduction for 2007! You may click [here](#) to make a pledge to one of our plungers.



Corporate Partner Spotlight

Special Olympics Idaho is very thankful for the numerous corporations and foundations that provide the financial support that we need to provide programs for our 2,200 athletes. As a way to show our appreciation for these organizations, we are going to start highlighting our partners each month.

The first corporate sponsor we would like to highlight is Moxie Java International, LLC. Rick Dean, President/CEO of Moxie Java International, like many of our sponsors, not only gives financial support, but also donates his time, participating in our events. When asked why he supported Special Olympics Idaho, Rick said, 'The Special Olympics has touched a lot of the people that I know, as well as many of the independent Moxie Java stores owners. We as a company, based right here in the Treasure Valley, have enjoyed supporting the many athletic activities that go along with Special Olympics. These athletes have a mission and emotional pride of accomplishment at every function they have participated.' Rick and his team stormed the weather with the athletes cheering and wishing them the best. Carrie Hoff, Director of Operations for Moxie Java International said, 'The opportunity to volunteer and hand out medals is an amazing experience. The look on the athlete's faces and the amount of kindness they show to everyone renews our drive and determination to support Special Olympics and reminds us each time why we participate in Special Olympics Idaho.'



In September, Rick drove the Moxie Java truck in the Boise leg of the World's Largest Truck Convoy. He said, 'I was very touched by the turnout and support given by many other businesses at the Truck Convoy this year and all of the supporters that watched along the convoy route. It was very

impressive.' Rick also applauds the kindness and generosity of the other businesses that support Special Olympics Idaho! Thanks Rick. We applaud you too!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FLOOR HOCKEY COACHES

Floor Hockey is a Special Olympics sport making its debut in Idaho for 2007/2008! With the new sport underway some local teams are still looking for Volunteer Coaches and Assistant Coaches. If you are interested in this exciting once a week opportunity please contact Shanna Endow at sendow@idso.org.

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK AND YOUNG ATHLETES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Special Olympics Idaho is starting two exciting new programs; the Family Support Network and the Young Athletes Program.

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!

The Young Athletes Program (YAP) is an innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities designed to introduce them to the world of Special Olympic. Over the years, families of children too young to compete looked for avenues to join the movement. Special Olympics Idaho can now welcome these future athletes and families through the YAP, a developmentally appropriate play program for children 2-7 with intellectual disabilities.

SOID is looking for regional coordinators to help get these programs off the ground! If you are a family member of a Special Olympics Idaho athlete, 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.

Attention Volunteers:

New required volunteer training

According to a new Protective Behaviors policy from Special Olympics Inc, ***all Class A Volunteers must participate in an online training prior to December 31, 2007 to maintain active status.*** Protective Behaviors Training is a critical tool for protecting Special Olympics athletes from sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. Volunteers are required to participate in this new training even if they have been involved with Special Olympics for a long time and have seen older training videos.



Available Online Today!

The training is available online at the end of the General Orientation and only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Once you complete the exam at the end of the training, fill out your information and SOID will be notified that you completed this requirement. Volunteers will need to retake the online training every three years to maintain active status. Go to www.idso.org, click on the Protective Behaviors Red Button on the right side of the screen.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have successfully completed the Protective Behaviors training!

NEW LPCs

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new additions to the Special Olympics Idaho family.

Sun Valley Adaptive Sports

Lilly Davies joined Sun Valley Adaptive Sports in August, 2007. As the new Volunteer and Program Coordinator for SVAS, Lilly brings over 12 years of experience working with youth in outdoor and experiential settings. She recently finished a year of service through Americorps as Youth Program Coordinator for the Wood River Community YMCA, which just saw the opening of their new facility in Ketchum, Idaho. Since August, Lilly has offered her experience to manage SVAS programs, volunteers, events, and administration.

In addition to her responsibilities with SVAS existing programs, Lilly has taken on the role of Local Program Coordinator for the SVAS Special Olympics Team. She has enjoyed managing Special Olympics Bowling practices and engaging athletes, volunteers, and coaches. Team Sun Valley Adaptive Sports recently competed in the Eastern Idaho Regional Bowling Competition in Burley, Id. It was a great pleasure for SVAS to join the other athletes in a regional competition. As a new team joining the Special Olympics Training and Games, SVAS felt welcome and enthused to be a part of the experience! Lilly is looking forward to transitioning the SVAS Team into Winter Training to prepare for the Regional and State competitions in February, 2008. For more information on Sun Valley Adaptive Sports, please visit svasp.org.

Nampa Express

Cheri Lake has taken over the reigns of the Nampa Express Team. Cheri was born and raised in Weiser, Idaho where her parents still reside. She went to school to become a Certified Medical Assistant after the medical struggles her son Ryan went through with Prader-Willi Syndrome. She has four children; Randy a Marine, Kevin an aeronautical engineering student in college, Krysten a senior in High School, and Ryan who turns 13 on December 13th!

Cheri learned about Special Olympics from the internet and wanted Ryan involved. He began bowling and started to learn the sport of golf. She was happy to see how much fun he was having and the progress he was making in his sports. The coaches had such patience and made them feel welcome. Ryan is such a social person and the interaction with other athletes was wonderful. Cheri had this to say about her son; Ryan has taught me so much in life. The need to slow down, take one day at a time, accept everyone, smile and say hello to those we meet and never take anything for granted. Special Olympics athletes have that same ability to teach all of us about how special things are in our lives.

Cheri enjoys being with her children, loves animals, enjoys scrap booking and making cards. She has had a great time organizing the Nampa Express Team, visiting with families and promoting this incredible program.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Special Olympics Idaho would like to recognize individuals that have been inspirational in their volunteerism and dedication. Please submit a short article describing this volunteer and their accomplishments to sendow@idso.org. Feel free to submit photos also! Thank you for your help in recognizing all of the wonderful people involved with our organization. You truly inspire greatness!

Boy Scouts of America Offer Free Snowboarding Lessons for Beginning Shredders!

- ⚡ Who can attend? Special Olympic athletes
- ⚡ Location? Special Olympic training center (Old Bob Rice Ford)
- ⚡ When? December 19th
- ⚡ If you are interested, come join us for the orientation and a fun Time
- ⚡ P.S. For questions email Devin @ dstockwalker@gmail.com

Sport Department Update

Thank you Barb Wisenor:

Barbara Wisenor, a Special Olympics Idaho Vet, has stepped down from her post as the Central Idaho Area

Director. She has been the area director for over six years, and done a consistently excellent job. Barb's attitude and energy have been great assets for our program. Fortunately, she won't be going too far- her son, Matthew is an athlete, and her Husband, Dave, is a board member. Thanks, Barb, for all you have done, and continue to do for Special Olympics of Idaho!

Special Olympics Idaho is Hiring!

With our area director position in the Treasure Valley open, we are hoping to fill it with a dedicated, high quality person. This is a demanding job, and the hours fluctuate wildly. This person would work from their home, and have full access to the SOID staff, supplies and office. I can't stress this enough- you have to be self motivated. This is a job where the majority of the work is done on your own, and you must make deadlines and budget. There will be many weekends and evenings required. This is a tough job, and the pay may be low, but the rewards are many. If this description has not scared you away, feel free to email me at goadec@idso.org. I will gladly answer any questions that you have, and forward you a copy of the job description.

2008 Invitational and 2009 World Games:

There has been some confusion about the upcoming 2008 invitational, and our state winter games. The World Games organizing committee is going to do all of the organizing for our state games this year. They are calling it an 'invitational' because they have invited some other states and countries to come compete as well. All Idaho athletes are invited, and this will serve as our state winter games for this year.

Things are really starting to come together with the Games Organizing Committee here in Boise. There are nearly 40 staff people working hard to ensure these upcoming events showcase all that Idaho has to offer, as well as offering world-class competition and experiences for our athletes. If you have questions about anything 2009 World Winter Games, feel free to contact their headquarters. The phone number is **208-938-5505**, or you can check out the website at: <http://www.2009worldgames.org/>

Are you an expert in one of the sports we offer at Special Olympics Idaho?

We here at SOID are trying to develop a new, more thorough method of managing our sports. We are looking for people in the community who are interested in being more involved with our athletes and making a positive contribution to their experiences. We are focusing in creating sports management teams for each of the sports that we offer. Basically, we would need someone to take the helm of each sport, and help us to develop every aspect of it: athlete training, coaches training, venue relationships, official recruitment and training, etc. Obviously, the needs for each sport would be different based on the particulars of that sport, as well as the needs of the athletes and coaches. These volunteer positions are very opened ended, and can be formed based upon the ideas of the person willing to take charge. We are currently interested in finding people who are very familiar with the ins and outs of the following sports, as well as the communities that participate in them:

- ✍ Volleyball
- ✍ Basketball
- ✍ Golf
- ✍ Cycling
- ✍ Powerlifting
- ✍ Aquatics
- ✍ Track and Field
- ✍ Softball

How much time is involved? Our goal is to minimize the amount of time required for Management Team membership. Management Teams will be asked to participate in one annual planning meeting per program year. Additional meetings will be based on need and will be determined by the SMT itself (no more that 1-2 additional meetings per year).

If you are interested, please let me know. I can be reached at goadec@idso.org

Thanks for all you do!

Corby Goade

Director of Sports and Training

Special Olympics of Idaho

208-323-0482 x 22

Iron Chef IV Benefits Special Olympics Idaho and the Treasure Valley YMCA

On October 22, *Iron Chef IV* was held at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise. Local chef Gino and Boise State Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Hendricks representing Special Olympics Idaho competed against chef Jon Mortimer and Olympic cyclist Kristin Armstrong on behalf of the Treasure Valley YMCA. Approximately 850 people were treated to a battle of culinary talents as the two teams raced against the clock to come up with delectable dishes using the secret ingredient of lamb. In the end, Team YMCA narrowly beat Team Special Olympics Idaho to win the cook off. The event generated nearly \$7,000 for Special Olympics Idaho and the Egyptian Theatre!

We would like to thank Jodi Peterson and her company, Gigala Events & Advertising for producing this fun event. We extend a special thank you to our two teams, Chef Gino, Bart Hendricks, Jon Mortimer and Kristin Armstrong. We would also like to thank all of the sponsors who helped make this event possible including RC Willey, Stein Distributing, Sysco Foods, The Boise Co-Op, BSU Culinary School, Bitter Creek, Larry Miller Subaru and our media sponsors 94.9 The River and KTVB.

John F. Nagel Foundation

Special Olympics Idaho has received a \$25,000 grant from the John F. Nagel Foundation for sports training and athletic competition! The foundation has been a major donor for a number of years. We are truly grateful for the continued support and belief of the John F. Nagel Foundation in the Special Olympics Idaho mission.

Whittenberger Foundation

The Whittenberger Foundation has given a \$2,000 grant to Special Olympics Idaho to help fund the 2008 Leadership Conference. The Whittenberger Foundation currently gives to innovative and enriching projects which significantly improve the quality of life for children and young people.

Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

The RS Naleid Charitable Fund has given \$5,000 towards sports training and athletic competition! The foundation has been a long time supporter of Special Olympics Idaho.

Live Foundation

The Live Foundation is also a long time supporter of Special Olympics Idaho and the mission of providing sports training and competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The foundation has given the program \$5,000 that helped put on the State Summer Games in Boise for 2007.

Thank you to all of the wonderful foundations for their continued support of our program!
