



Special Olympics

MOTTO - Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

Pacific Northwest District

Governor Sylvester's Motto - "Commitment Counts!"

If we were able to take the above mottos to our hearts and work with them, what a great improvement we could all make to our communities and the world. Just think about it.

I have received some feed-back to the requests I put forward by email and in the Insider which I appreciate with thanks. And YES, we do need to become involved with hands-on assistance as the need for volunteers to guide these challenged athletes is always required. Our financial aid is of course very necessary too as rentals, transport, uniforms etc. are very costly. With assistance from volunteers (Kiwansians) our athletes will advance and receive recognition and acceptance in our lives and the community. So I ask you to become committed and go for the gold.

I wish to insert parts of an article given to me from British Columbia Special Olympic's Head Office which I believe says it all:

"Like any competitive athletes, BC Special Olympians train and compete every year, year round in a host of summer and winter sports. 2002 and 2003 are no exceptions - in fact these are milestone years for the athletes from our corner of the world.

This past summer 124 athletes from our province travelled to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan for the Canadian National Summer Games. This gave BC Special Olympics athletes the distinction of the highest average medals won per athlete in the entire country. But the Games were about more than just winning - the athletes, coaches and supporters had fun and were able to celebrate all the hard work they put into training to compete on a national scale.

The opportunities to compete on a broad scale, make new friends and celebrate personal achievements will again be offered to BC Special Olympians in 2003. From February 20th-23rd nearly 500 athletes will come together in Kamloops, BC for the 2003 Provincial Winter Games. The summer of 2003 will be an especially exciting time for eleven BC athletes who qualified in Prince Albert to move on to international competition. These athletes will be part of the 7000 athletes from around the world competing in summer sports in Dublin, Ireland. The fervor surrounding this event is incredible and we hope that there, our athletes can show the world the incredible things people with a mental disability are capable of.

The costs associated with operating such competitions are staggering and we thank Kiwanis Clubs for their varied contributions to Special Olympics and helping provide special athletes the chance to enhance their lives through positive sport experiences."

For any further information please contact Brian Cleaver, District Chair, Special Olympics
Email: bgcleaver@hotmail.com or woolfield@hotmail.com.

I shall be snowbirding from 12 Jan. - 15 March and will check the above addresses periodically.

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Contacts

Listed are contacts within your State or Province who will enable you to be advised of the persons or organization closest to your areas. These contacts will also be able to advise you of the dates of the "Torch Runs" and other events taking place.

Alaska:

Contact Mr. Jim Balamaci, Executive Director
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Idaho:

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British Columbia:

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Oregon:

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California (Northern):

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