



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 9, 2010

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**Greater Dallas and Fort Worth Area Athletes and Coaches Depart
for the Special Olympics U.S.A. National Games**

DALLAS – In one week, 152 Texas athletes and 39 coaches will depart on the journey of a lifetime! **Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) – Greater Dallas and Greater Fort Worth area athletes and coaches will travel on July 17 to Lincoln, Nebraska for the 2010 U.S.A. National Games!**

The Games will be held on and near the University of Nebraska at the Lincoln campus, July 18-23. SOTX athletes will compete in aquatics, athletics, bocce, basketball, bowling, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, softball, flag football, tennis and volleyball.

Among the more than 3,000 competitors from throughout the nation are 152 Special Olympics Texas athletes, including 38 Greater Dallas and 11 Greater Fort Worth area athletes who will represent Team Texas. Eight Greater Dallas area coaches and four Greater Fort Worth area coaches will lead the athletes as they compete at the Games. *(See page two for a list of participating athletes and coaches.)* Athlete bios are available upon request. Updates and results on the Texas athletes will be available online at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

Travel Details

- Twenty-nine Greater Dallas and Fort Worth area athletes and coaches will travel by Cessna airplanes. The Cessnas will leave from Textar Aviation at 3232 Love Field Drive from 12:30 p.m. to 1:10 p.m. on July 17. The Cessna flights will return to Textar on July 24 starting at 2:10 p.m., with the last flight arriving by 2:50 p.m.
- The athletes and coaches traveling on a commercial flight will meet outside of the American Airlines ticketing area on July 17 at 6:50 a.m. at DFW Airport. The group will return to Dallas at 10:05 a.m. on July 24.

Nationwide, more than 160 private jets have been donated, with many of the planes making multiple trips to bring athletes and take them home. The jets will be landing approximately every two minutes for a 9-hour period on Saturday, July 17.

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* **MEDIA NOTE:** Media planning to cover the send off at the airports should notify the Media Contacts listed above in advance

GREATER DALLAS AREA ATHLETES

NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Thomas Candelas	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Natalie Carr	Unified Softball	Highland Village
Allen Domer	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Jim Domer	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Brandon Donner	Unified Softball	Flower Mound
Adam Eck	Unified Volleyball	Fairview
Brantley Grantham	Unified Volleyball	Allen
Lisa Grantham	Unified Volleyball	Allen
Ken Griffin	Unified Softball	Highland Village
Les Griffin	Unified Softball	Highland Village
Blaine Hardin	Golf	McKinney
Joseph Hawkins	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Daniel Hettinger	Aquatics	Heath
Paul Holland	Athletics	Shady Shores
Ralph Holt	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Tim Holt	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Sarah Hunter	Aquatics	Carrollton
Michael Jackson	Unified Volleyball	Allen
Thomas Jaconette	Unified Volleyball	Carrollton
Erika Johnson	Golf	Murphy
Paul Landry	Unified Volleyball	McKinney
Ryan Landry	Unified Volleyball	McKinney
Michael Maples	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Tia McVey	Unified Volleyball	Allen
Dean Morris	Golf	McKinney
Schelly Porter	Bowling	Commerce
Nathan Purcell	Athletics	Trenton
Buddy Randall	Golf	Wylie
Patrick Rooney	Bowling	Highland Village
Samantha Russell	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Katie Shepherd	Gymnastics	Greenville
Katherine Taylor	Unified Softball	The Colony
Matthew Turner	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Robert Wells	Golf	Wylie
Wayne Wilbanks	Golf	Sachse
Jared Williamson	Unified Volleyball	Allen
Jennifer Wolf	Unified Volleyball	McKinney
Austin Youts	Unified Softball	Lewisville

GREATER DALLAS AREA COACHES

NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Sandra Boggs	Unified Volleyball	Plano
Rhonda Call	Athletics	Trenton
Renae Carswell	Unified Softball	Lewisville
Gary Clemens	Unified Softball	Lewisville

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Tracey Crouch	Gymnastics	Greenville
Bo Eck	Unified Volleyball	Fairview
Vicki Griffin	Unified Softball	Highland Village
Jane Morris	Golf	McKinney

GREATER FORT WORTH AREA ATHLETES

NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Joshua Altman	Bocce	North Richland Hills
Brice Cleary	Aquatics	Mansfield
Kevin Collins	Bocce	Arlington
Chan Graves	Aquatics	Arlington
Derek Hawes	Powerlifting	Richland Hills
Miranda Key	Bocce	Ponder
Jamie Novak	Bowling	Mineral Wells
Jessily Rackel	Bocce	Denton
Wayne Rackel	Bocce	Lake Dallas
William Rackel	Bocce	Lake Dallas
Jonathan Richards	Athletics	Fort Worth

GREATER FORT WORTH AREA COACHES

NAME	SPORT	HOMETOWN
Gayla Altman	Aquatics	North Richland Hills
Daniel Hawes	Powerlifting	Richland Hills
Wayne Key	Bocce	Ponder
Vicki Novak	Bowling	Mineral Wells

About Special Olympics Texas

Special Olympics Texas is a privately funded non-profit organization providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for 36,311 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the Lone Star State. Be a part of the movement that is **CHANGING LIVES** in your community. For more information, visit www.specialolympicstexas.org.

About the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games

The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska will showcase and celebrate the Special Olympics movement and athletes from across the United States, while illustrating the power of sports to educate and inform about the true abilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities. From July 18-23, 2010, nearly 3,000 athletes will compete in 13 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 15,000 family and friends. In addition to sports, the USA National Games will offer various programs in health, wellness and education. To learn more, visit www.2010specialolympics.org

Special Olympics Texas Official Partners:

Coca-Cola Bottling Companies of Texas, Food Town,
H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust and the Law Enforcement Torch Run

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