



GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition

EVERY JOURNEY BEGINS WITH JUST ONE STEP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Changing the World-

Is a contact sport.

And Special Olympics is an everyday opportunity to make a difference.

Because of Special Olympics Washington programming, over 14,500 athletes are empowered to shatter stereotypes and exceed their personal bests on the playing field and in life. Yet for every champion, there is another who is waiting for the chance to win.

You can help us make an even bigger impact in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities, their families, and the communities in which we serve by joining us to raise funds and spirits even higher. Your commitment to the Torch Run not only brings greater training and competition opportunities to Washington athletes, but also health and hope.

There are as many as 180,000 people with intellectual disabilities within the State of Washington making our mission an urgent one.

Together we can ensure that no athlete is left on the side-lines!

Where Are We?

Washington's Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign encompasses nearly 2,000 volunteers from an estimated 90 agencies, culminating in over \$557,000 raised during the 2015 fiscal year. Although, the primary support is derived through approximately 150 members from 54 departments.

Where Are We Going?

There are 260 law enforcement agencies, employing 11,411 sworn police officers and just how we want to reach every athlete on the sidelines- we want to reach every officer there too; Partnering to build communities and raising even more funds.

Where Can I Help?

Every journey begins with just one step. Help us reach just one more. One more officer, one more administrative professional, one more chief, one more agency, one more donor, one more supporter, one more fundraiser. Take just one more step with us on our journey to reach the \$1 Million mark.

June 3-5

State Torch Run and Summer Games

June 17

United States Marshals Service Shootout, Spokane

June 25

Sneakers and Sirens Run, Mukilteo

July 29

Fun Run with the Cops, Yakima

August 4

National Night Out

August 7-9

Washington LETR Conference

August 21

Bubble Run, Spokane

August 27

Fun Run with the Cops, Puyallup

September 11

Salmon Bake, Lake Forest Park

September 15-17

International LETR Conference

September 17

Wheels and Wings Show, Monroe

October 22

Red Robin Tip A Cop, State-Wide

Distinguished Recognition

Life Member Appointment, WASPC

Washington’s Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign Executive Director, **Rex Caldwell**, was select to be named a Life Member within the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs [WASPC].

One of only one-hundred have been approved in the over 50 year history of WASPC.

Rex was selected after rendering outstanding service to the organization as an Active Member and receiving distinguished recognition for his significant volunteer work within the



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, the Ronald McDonald House, Stand with Those Who Serve and the Snohomish County Domestic Violence Board.

We’re honored to have you as part of the Special Olympics Washington family, Rex!

CALDWELL

Leading by example, Rex has dedicated his life in service for others. His personal philosophy is, “*Leave things better than you find them*” and he has continued to reflect such though decades of volunteer work. With over 30 years of involvement within Washington’s Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign for Special Olympics, Rex is keeping the Flame of Hope burning bright.



Officer Suniga and his Unified Relay Across America team carrying the Flame of Hope, lighting the way to a future of inclusion and respect for people with intellectual disabilities.

Final Leg

World Winter Games, Austria

The 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria will bring together athletes from over 170 countries to embrace the Olympic ideal.

An important part of this historic event that will undoubtedly leave an incredible mark on all those it touches, is the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg.

The Final Leg will heighten awareness and take the message of Special Olympics to every corner of Austria.

Law Enforcement officials and Special Olympics athletes, unified together as a part of the Final Leg Team will serve as true Guardians of the Flame promoting the powerful message of inclusion, acceptance, and ability each step of the journey.

Warm congratulations to **Officer Mikeal Suniga** of the Airway Heights Police Department, who has been the selected Torch Runner from Washington State by the LETR Executive Council for this once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a unified Final Leg.



The Power of Sports

At Special Olympics, we believe that sports can teach us all **important lessons**. When we train and strive for a goal, it teaches us to dream. When we struggle, it teaches us determination. When we win, we find joy. And if we lose, we can find the strength to try again.



Together We Can

Achieve greater results, breakdown barriers, promote positive reinforcement, bring excitement to every day, make an impact in the community, educate one another, truly help those in need--- and make a real difference. **Through teamwork, all things are possible.**

FAST FACTS

52%

Individuals with intellectual disabilities participating in Special Olympics programming have an average employment rate of 52%, compared to those without at only 10%.

8%

Special Olympics Washington is only serving 8% of the estimated population with intellectual disabilities.

Fundraising Feature

Hoopin' for Hero's, Fife

February 17th, 2016 marked another fundraising milestone for the Fife Police Department through the addition of their new event to benefit Special Olympics Washington—Hoopin' for Hero's.

A collaboration between local law enforcement and the Fife High School, this basketball game pitted officers and teachers against one another, all for a great cause- the community. Nearly 2,000 spectators showed their support culminating into almost \$5,000 in funding collected.

The event was free to the players, while an admission to the game was charged at the rates of \$5/Adult and \$3/Student. T-Shirts were also sold for \$10/Each.

Teams were made up of Fife School District staff from Elementary, Middle, and the High Schools matched against Fife and Milton Police Departments, along with the Tacoma Fire Department.

Assistance received from the Future Business Leaders of America Club within the School was instrumental in the success of this first time fundraiser as they visited area businesses to engage them in the charitable mission. Adding to the fun and proceeds were a donut eating contest at Half-Time, a raffle with donated goods, and full rally to cheer on the players- thanks to the School's Pep Band and Cheer Squad.

Kudo's to the Fife Police Department for picking up the ball and leading the charge!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Officer Patrick Gilbert of the Fife Police Department can be reached via phone at (253) 922-6633 or via e-mail at patrick.gilbert58@yahoo.com.

Athlete Feature

Gold Medalist, Spokane

Washington swimmer, Kamilah Williamson may have captured 3 gold medals during the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles last year but she's been most recognized since that time for capturing the true spirit of Games.

During the 4x100 freestyle relay a member of the team from Hungary arrived on the start platform without his team's black swim cap. Under international rules, all four swimmers must wear matching caps and the team was about to be disqualified.

Williamson was standing next to the Hungarians and heard what was about to happen. She had a spare black cap and she ran to get it so the team could swim.



It was a rare display of sportsmanship at an international competition, and a fairly ordinary act by a Special Olympian.

"That cap is what the spirit of the games is," United States coach Gene Fitch said at the time. "As silly as it is, this is what made the difference for the Hungarian team."

Kamilah is currently in the running as one of only four nominees for Washington State's Athlete of the Year Award to be announced next month.

Circle of Honor

Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign, 2015

The Flame of Hope continues to burn bright in Washington State's Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign thanks to the dedication and commitment of the volunteers within the respective agencies listed below in order of their 2015 fundraising efforts.



Gold Level \$30,000+

Liberty Lake Police Department
 Kennewick Police Department

Silver Level \$15,000+

Yakima Police Department
 Redmond Police Department
 In Memory of Dep Anne Jackson
 Douglas County Sheriff's Office
 Fife Police Department

Bronze Level \$7,500+

Fircrest Police Department
 King County Sheriff's Office
 Pierce County Sheriff's Office
 Puyallup Police Department
 Renton Police Department

Honor Roll \$2,500+

Ruston Police Department
 Monroe Police Department
 Bothell Police Department
 Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
 Clark County Sheriff's Office
 Enumclaw Police Department
 Thurston County Sheriff's Office
 Wenatchee Police Department
 Seattle Police Department
 Lynnwood Police Department
 Spokane US Marshals Office
 Auburn Police Department
 Centralia Police Department
 Spokane CSO & Detention Services
 Issaquah Police Department
 Bellevue Police Department
 Bonney Lake Police Department
 Port of Seattle Police Department
 Kent Police Department

Supporters

Everett Police Department
 Fort Lewis Police Department
 Des Moines Police Department
 Bellingham Police Department
 Yakima County Sheriff's Department
 Kirkland Police Department
 Marysville Police Department
 Ellensburg Police Department
 Mercer Island Police Department
 Lacey Police Department
 Edmonds Police Department
 Federal Way Police Department
 Vancouver Police Department
 Woodinville Police Department
 Tumwater Police Department
 Lakewood Police Department
 University of Washington Police
 Mukilteo Police Department
 Covington Police Department
 Lake Forest Park Police Department
 Snohomish County Sheriff Department
 Lake Stevens Police Department
 Kettle Falls Police Department
 Spokane Police Department

Special Thanks

To our partners at Claim Jumpers, Fraternal Order of Police, Joint Base Lewis McCord Police, Red Robin, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Washington's Most Wanted, as well as the Washington State Patrol Troopers Association.

To our sponsors at Fred Meyer and QFC, Papa Murphy's, Moneytree, Washington State Law Enforcement Association, and Waste Connections.

AROUND THE STATE



Liberty Lake Police Department

Campaign efforts lead jointly by Chief Brian Asmus of the Liberty Lake Police Department and Officer Mike Suniga of the Airway Heights Police Department [Pictured Above], placed these two Torch Runners in first for overall monies raised. Topping the Gold Level, they collected a total of \$56,560. Fundraisers through 2015 included their 9th annual Polar Plunge, Tip-A-Cop in partnership with Red Robin, and an inaugural Ugly Sweater 5K Fun Run.



Kennewick Police Department

Campaign efforts lead by Officer Shirrell Veitenheimer [Pictured Above Holding The Torch On Right], placed the Kennewick Police Department second in the State for overall monies raised. Ranking in the Gold Level, their agency collected a total of \$55,648. Fundraisers through 2015 included their 9th annual Polar Plunge and Tip-A-Cop in partnership with Red Robin.

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