



Department Commander Joe Socha has selected Special Olympics Pennsylvania as his project for the 2009-2010 Legion year.

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

The Special Olympics movement *transforms* communities by inspiring people to *open* their minds, to *accept* and *include* people with intellectual disabilities, *celebrating differences* among *all* people...recognizing and respecting the *similarities we all share*.

With over 20,000 athletes statewide it takes many volunteers to assist the over 260 local, nine sectional and four state competitions each year. **How can we, as Legionnaires, help?** 1) Donate monies to Special Olympics PA to be used for event sponsorship, or 2) Donate your time and engage in the activities as a volunteer. Volunteers are the backbone of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. They could not exist without the dedication of thousands of Pennsylvania citizens. The time, energy and enthusiasm of volunteers fuel their movement and make the athletes' dreams a reality.

For more information on Special Olympics PA or to complete a Volunteer Registration Form, please visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

For those interested in making a donation, please send check (**payable to Special Olympics PA**) to:

The American Legion
ATTN: SPECIAL OLYMPICS
PO Box 2324
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Be a Fan of...Acceptance...Courage...Generosity...Joy...Inclusion...Respect...Strength