



Special Olympics Flagler County Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

-Special Olympics Athlete Oath-

Winter Edition
Jan-Feb-Mar 2012

“Let me win. But If I cannot win, Let me be brave in the attempt.”

Athlete of the Month / Unified Partner of the Month



Special Olympics Flagler County would like to congratulate our athlete of the month Austin White and Unified Partner of the Month, DeShawn Matos.

Austin White has been with Special Olympics Flagler County for the past 5 years. Austin has participated in Aquatics, Basketball, Bowling, and Soccer winning several 1st and 2nd place ribbons in competitions in County and Area levels. Austin has also completed in the State level as well winning Gold, Silver and Bronze in basketball and soccer. We are extremely proud of Austin, he has grown into his own and from a very shy boy, he’s come a long way. Austin is extremely helpful to his fellow athletes and coaches. Austin has matured into a

loving and respectful young gentleman. Way to go Austin !!!

DeShawn Matos is our pick for Unified Partner of the Month. We are proud to have DeShawn as part of our Special Olympics family. DeShawn is new to our family and joined us this past fall in our Basketball season. DeShawn is playing alongside our Masters Unified Team and with his skill has help our team to grow stronger. DeShawn has demonstrated his caring and encouragement to all our athletes and coaches off and on the court. When DeShawn is not on the basketball court, he’s cutting hair at Frans Hair Design on Old Kings Road in Palm Coast.



Both Austin and DeShawn are great additions to our Family of Athletes and Unified Partners that make up Flagler County Special Olympics TEAM.



WAY TO GO FLAGLER!!!!

Congratulations.. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU ALL!!!



Skill ~ Courage ~ Sharing ~ Joy

Inside this issue:

<i>Athlete of the Month / Unified Partner of the Month</i>	1
<i>Coach/Volunteer of the Month</i>	2
<i>Polar Plunge</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Polar Plunge cont.</i>	3
<i>Volunteers/Coaches Needed</i>	4
<i>Special Olympics History</i>	4
<i>Contact Us</i>	
<i>3rd Annual ProAm Golf Tournament -insert</i>	
<i>Summer Sports Sign Up-Insert</i>	

Coach/Volunteer of the Month



Special Olympics Flagler County is proud to announce Coach and Volunteer of the Month, Lt. Gerald Ditolla of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office. Gerry joined Special Olympics Flagler County 2 years ago when he volunteered to coach Powerlifting as a new added sport to our program. Gerry's wife Sherry had a lot to do with Gerry's decision to join our family. Gerry's sister-in-law is unable to walk and is legally blind. They believed they could be involved with Special Olympics, since Gerry has prior experience in weightlifting. Gerry also became our LETR (Law Enforcement Torch Run) liaison. Since then, not only has our Powerlifting Team taken off with a BANG, Gerry also put Flagler County Special Olympics back on track with the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Through his fundraising efforts, selling cruise tickets, t-shirts, hats and standing by our athletes at the Local Publix tables, these past two years have been phenomenal. Gerry has been with the sheriff's department since 1997, since then he has diligently worked his way up through the ranks and on November 16, 2011 was promoted to Lieutenant. He has been nominated for Community Service Awards from his office for the outstanding work he has done and continues to do for Special Olympics Flagler County.

It is so awesome to see how our athletes look up to Gerry and his partners in the powerlifting team. Our athletes now feel proud and honored to have Gerry as their coach and mentor.

Congratulations GERRY from one VERY SPECIAL—SPECIAL OLYMPICS FAMILY !

THANK YOU!!!

Polar Plunge

2012 Special Olympics Florida Polar Plunge

Be a part of the *coolest* event of the year!
"Freezin' for a Reason"



What: Plunging into chilly water for a great cause - our **ATHLETES!**

Why: To raise more than \$2,000 to support Special Olympics Flagler County and to promote awareness, acceptance and inclusion of all people with Intellectual disabilities.

How: Through individuals who seek donations from friends, families and co-workers to sponsor their participation in the Polar Plunge.

When: Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 9:30 am.

Where: Aquatica at Sea World in Orlando, Florida.

Who: *Everyone!* Our Polar Plunge is growing every year and we expect to have more than 300 participants this year.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
January 14, 2012	Area 5 Basketball Competition	Interlachen, Florida	All Day Event
January 21, 2012	Polar Plunge	Aquatica at Sea World	9:00 am
January 21, 2012	Publix Torch Run Table Displays	All 5 Flagler County Publix locations	10:00 am—4:00 pm
January 23, 2012	Summer Sports Sign up Night	Indian Trails Middle School Gym	5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
February 4, 2012	Coaches Training (summer sports)	TBA	
February 10-11, 2012	State Basketball Competition	Gainesville, FL	Weekend Event
February 18, 2012	Champion's Gala	Orlando Florida	
March 19, 2012	Open Meeting	Matanzas High School	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
March 31, 2012	Area 5 Summer Games	Jacksonville, Florida	All Day Event

Polar Plunge cont.

Joining and raising money is easy and you may get cool incentives...prizes along the way! Just visit the link below, register and be sure to join the

"Flagler County Chilly Willies" Team

Also, feel free to make up your own team. You can also take a virtual plunge, if you don't want to freeze. Take a look at this power point presentation to help you get started. [Polar Plunge 2012](#)

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/brandoncurrier/2012floridapolarplunge>

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/john-fitton/2012floridapolarplunge>

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/margaritaorozco/2012floridapolarplunge>

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/abrahamorozco/2012floridapolarplunge>)

or you can make your Check Payable to:

Special Olympics Florida-Flagler County

PO Box 350790

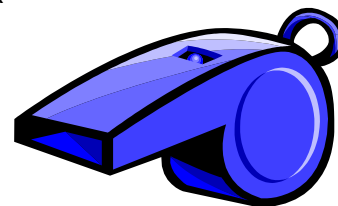
Palm Coast, FL 32135-0790

Volunteers/Coaches Needed



Special Olympics Flagler County is in great need of volunteers and coaches to help out with our Summer Sports program. Summer Sports includes: Athletics (Track & Field), Bocce, Cycling, Soccer and Tennis.

Your time, energy and enthusiasm will help fuel our movement and help make our athletes' dreams a reality. If you are interested in becoming a coach, contact Christina Pinto at the address below.



Contact Us

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Special Olympics History Corner

12-14 July 2001

Cape Town, Johannesburg and Sun City, South Africa host Special Olympics African Hope. Former President Nelson Mandela, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Special Olympics athletes gather to light the Flame of Hope and kick off the largest Law Enforcement Torch Run through the streets of Cape Town. The event generates awareness of the movement throughout the continent. It also launches a major push to reach 100,000 new athletes in Africa by 2005.



Special Olympics

*Florida
Flagler County*

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