



**Special Olympics**  
Alaska  
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Tanana Valley Community

# Newsletter

Summer 2011

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## Summer brings farewell, success



**By Debbie Hall**

The past several months have been marked both by several examples of notable success, and by a farewell to a treasured member of our community.

In July, we lost a dear friend and a staunch supporter of Special Olympics: Marilyn Gentleman. Marilyn was involved for many years with our local program and most recently handled medical records as part of our Management Team.

During the last visit I had with Marilyn she asked me to promise to keep the local program strong and that she would be watching and guiding over us when she was gone. I told her she had taught us well and that we would now carry her torch

### Director's corner

and her love for Special Olympics, its athletes and its volunteers into the future. We will miss you Marilyn!

#### Summer Sports

In June we sent 47 athletes to state to compete in various sports. We brought home eight gold, 22 silver, and 24 bronze medals. A special thank you to our head of delegation Mary Bunten; coaches Shaun Lewis, Sandy Hutchins, Patti Davis, Barbara Cornwall, Meghan Heim and Gerald Damron; assistant coaches Andy Bunten, Alex Cain and Mandy Gentleman; and our wonderful chaperones. Without you, this wonderful trip would simply not be possible.

#### Torch Run and Charity Walk

May was a great month for our local program as we received \$10,758 from our torch run event. There were about 120 runners this year and over 35 volunteers that made

it such a huge success. Special thanks goes out to the Fairbanks, UAF, North Pole, and Fort Wainwright Police Departments, Fairbanks Probations Office, Eielson Security Forces, Alaska Railroad Police, and the Alaska State Troopers who did a lot of the groundwork to make our first "real" run happen. Also thanks to the Chena Kiwanis Club, the Knights of Columbus, and members of the Alaska Running Club for helping out that day and sharing in the excitement of the event. We also received a donation from the local chapter of the Alaska Peace Officers Association in the amount of \$777.37 to help us reach our goal of \$10,000.00 and \$839 from the Charity Walk. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers and supporters. The next time you see any of these folks, please be sure and tell them thank you!

### Upcoming events

**Aug. 10**  
5-6 p.m., Noel Wien Library  
Bowling preseason meeting

**Aug. 11**  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Pioneer Park bocce court  
Bocce local games

**Aug. 20**  
5-8 p.m., Pioneer Park  
Wilderness Pavilion  
End of summer picnic for all athletes, families and care providers - Sponsored by Knights of Columbus

**Aug. 27**  
1-3 p.m., Arctic Bowl  
Bowling practice begins

### Thank you!

- Bruegger's Bagels
- Langston Family Foundation
- WalMart
- Chena Kiwanis
- Elements
- Alaska Peace Officers Fairbanks Chapter
- 2011 Charity Walk
- Liam Ortega, founder and president of Driven to Move made a \$1832 donation from the first Driven to Move Golf Scramble benefiting Special Olympics in June. Thanks Liam for your continued support and commitment to our athletes.

## **Management team**

**Debbie Hall**

*Community director*

**Gerald Damron**

*Sports & training*

**Marmian Grimes**

*Public relations*

**Angela Wittenberg**

*Volunteers*

**Barbara Cornwall**

*Family services*

**Meghan Heim**

*Medical records*

**Joanne Howard**

*Outreach*

**Mandy Gentleman**

*Athletes*

**Ken Hall**

*Fundraising*

**Diane Leithead**

*Finance*

**Special Olympics Alaska  
Tanana Valley Community  
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## **Athletes, law enforcement officers raise \$10,000**



Participants in the 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run gather in front of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department station.

*Contact us via email at [tananavalley@specialolympicalaska.org](mailto:tananavalley@specialolympicalaska.org)  
or call 907-385-7123.*