



**Special Olympics**  
Alaska  
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Tanana Valley Community

# Newsletter

December 2009

[tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org](mailto:tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org)

## Cain dedicates 18 years to community

Joyce Cain has been involved with Special Olympics for the past 18 years. During her nearly two decades of service, she has held a wide variety of volunteer positions in the Tanana Valley Community, including management team member, community director, head of delegation for state games and chaperone. She just finished her 12th season as head bowling coach.

Joyce says that she has enjoyed watching her son, Alex, grow up as a Special Olympics athlete and take on a leadership role as an assistant

coach. Other highlights of her time with Special Olympics include working with her oldest son side-by-side helping athletes and working with so many volunteers and athletes throughout Alaska.

Her dedication has helped build a strong program for athletes in the Tanana Valley, says community director Debbie Hall.

“Thank you, Joyce, for all you have done and continue to do for our athletes and our community,” says Hall.

## Hall named community director for Tanana Valley



By *Debbie Hall*

I am very excited to be the new community director for Special Olympics Alaska Tanana Valley Community.

I want to share a little bit about my

### Director's corner

family and myself. I was born and raised in Fairbanks, where my husband, Ken, and I have raised our three children, Robby, Stacey and Brandon. I am in my 12th year of teaching fourth grade in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Although this is a new role for me, I have enjoyed watching our

daughter, Stacey, participate in various Special Olympics activities throughout the past eight years. I can't think of a better organization to volunteer for.

I look forward to working and meeting with you in the months and years to come.

Happy holidays to you all.

## Upcoming events

**Weekly on Friday**  
7-8 p.m., Jungle Gym  
Powerlifting training

**Dec. 7**  
Winter sports  
registration deadline  
Visit

[www.specialolympicsalaska.org](http://www.specialolympicsalaska.org)  
or e-mail us at the address at the top of the page for information.

**Dec. 10**  
7 p.m., Pioneer Park  
Civic Center  
Floor hockey begins  
Bocce practice

**Dec. 19**  
7 p.m., Elks Lodge  
December dance

## Thank you!

Thank you to the following supporters for their generous donations this fall: James Anderson, Sandra Buhite, James and Barbara Mathews, T. Millar Bryce, Kathleen Thompson, Linwood and Ellen Ayotte, Tom and Jan Weaver, Nancy Tarnai, Mary Mitchell, Shirley Gordon, Hope Helms, Lawrence and Arloine Finstad, Beverly Musterman, Glenda Burbank, Robert and Lucy Andersen, Janet Johnson, Stephan Hall, Safeway and the Langston Family Foundation.

## **Management team**

Debbie Hall  
*Community director*

Gerald Damron  
*Sports & training*

Marmian Grimes  
*Public relations*

Angela Wittenberg  
*Volunteers*

Barbara Cornwall  
*Family services*

Marilyn Gentleman  
*Medical records*

Joanne Howard  
*Outreach*

Mandy Gentlemen  
*Athletes*

Ken Hall  
*Fundraising*

Virginia Damron  
*Finance*

**Special Olympics Alaska  
Tanana Valley Community  
PO Box 82425  
Fairbanks, AK 99708**

## **Athletes travel to state bowling tournament**

A dozen local athletes and partners represented the Tanana Valley Community at the state bowling tournament Nov. 20-22 in Anchorage.

Delegation members included Andy Bunten, Alex Cain, Stacey Hall, Dan Bunten, Guy West, Chrissy Petri, Mandy Gentleman, Jennifer Anderson, Alex Benedetti, Connor Casady, Renae Cassidy and Bill Powell. Val Benedetti, Dan Bunten and Joe Ofeldt served as chaperones and Joyce Cain led the delegation as head coach. Following are team and individual results from the state tournament:

### **Speed Bowlers – 6th place**

*Name (singles, doubles placement)*

J. Anderson (6th, 8th)

M. Gentleman (7th, 8th)

C. Petri (5th, 4th)

G. West (6th, 4th)

### **Turkeys – 7th place**

*Name (singles, doubles placement)*

C. Casady (2nd, 3rd)

R. Cassidy (5th, 3rd)

A. Benedetti (3rd, 8th)

B. Powell (3rd, 8th)

### **X-Men – 3rd place**

*Name (singles, doubles placement)*

S. Hall (4th, 5th)

A. Bunten (5th, 5th)

A. Cain (4th, 4th)

D. Bunten (2nd, 4th)

***Contact us via e-mail at [tananavalley@specialolympicalaska.org](mailto:tananavalley@specialolympicalaska.org)***