



THE CHAMPION

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT: SOTX WOWS THE WORLD!



It was a summer of great successes for SOTX athletes! I had the absolute pleasure of traveling with 35 Texas athletes to the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. Our athletes represented SOTX in an exemplary manner, earned

the respect of athletes from around the world, and made the United States proud! Though they earned an astounding 30 GOLD, 8 SILVER, 7 BRONZE medals for Team USA; even more inspiring was how they played their hearts out, regardless of what place they finished. Kudos to the athletes, coaches, families... and supporters like you, whose gifts make these journeys of a lifetime possible for our athletes.

For more photos of SOTX athletes at World Games, visit www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsTX.

Margaret Larsen
President & CEO



THE WILL TO GIVE

Swimming on Sunday, golf on Monday, bowling on Tuesday, softball on Thursday and bowling again on Saturday. No, it's not the weekly line up for ESPN; it's the action-packed schedule for Special Olympics Texas – Greater Houston area athlete, Kevin Harrell. Without such a busy life, Harrell's mom, Jane, explained, "Our lives would be very quiet. Kevin would be isolated from the community. I think I would too."



From left: Jane Harrell and Janet Smith

Harrell said Special Olympics Texas has changed both Kevin's and her life "completely." Not only is she passionate about the impact the organization's had on her son, but also the difference it's made on those around her. "It has opened up a whole world of friendships for him," she beamed. "It has been a life-changing experience. I think it's changed the lives of everyone with a special child."

Harrell's faith in and positive experience with SOTX over the years compelled her to make a generous contribution to the organization. She decided to will her entire estate to SOTX.

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"I have very little family and I know how much SOTX has meant to my son, and there's no price to put on what Special Olympics Texas has done for Kevin," Harrell said while choking back tears. "That's what motivated it, the love of SOTX."

Harrell has always been a contributor of both time and money. She makes financial contributions when she can to support the Greater Houston area. Despite her son's hectic sports schedule, Harrell also finds time to volunteer as a SOTX golf and bowling coach.

Her message to other parents of special needs adults and children about getting involved is simple and straight to the point. "Do it," she exclaimed. "It's the most life-changing thing that you'll ever do for your child. Parents that let their child sit at home after [graduating from] high school are doing them a terrible disservice. [Special needs] programs come and go as their staff changes; Special Olympics Texas is consistent and always does their job."



To learn how easy it is to include SOTX in your will or estate plan, visit www.specialolympicstexas.org.

OLYMPUS SOCIETY

The Olympus Society is a unique circle of caring individuals who ensure the growth of Special Olympics Texas' mission today and long into the future through personal, multi-year contributions starting at \$2,500. The levels are as follows:

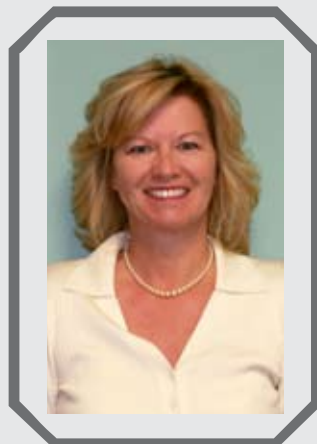
- Founder's Circle** \$100,000+
- Chairman's Circle** \$50,000 - \$99,999
- Director's Circle** \$25,000 - \$49,999
- Athletes' Circle** \$10,000 - \$24,999
- Coaches' Circle** \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Winners' Circle** \$2,500 - \$4,999

To learn more, contact:

Janet Smith 817.332.3433 or jsmith@sotx.org
Mary Davison 512.491.2942 or mdavison@sotx.org

MEET MARY DAVISON

SOTX is thrilled to announce the addition of our newest Major Gifts Officer for the East and South/Central Regions, Mary Davison.



Before joining the SOTX staff, Mary worked for Doctors Without Borders (Medicins Sans Frontieres), an international medical humanitarian NGO, where she lived in Uganda with responsibility for Finance and Human Resources for projects including a large HIV/AIDS hospital and two refugee camps. Her past experience also includes serving as the Vice President of Charitable Giving for Inner Harbour Hospital for Children, Director of Development for St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Managing Director for Habitat for Humanity of Cobb County.

Mary graduated from DePaul University in Chicago with a M.S. in Management of Public Services. She earned her B.A. degree from Murray State University, where she majored in English.



Janet Smith, Major Gifts Officer and Angela Grace, East Texas Area Director, presented the SOTX Steadfast Recognition Award to Randy George, President of the Betty and Murphy George Foundation. This award is given in appreciation of the Foundation's more than 10 years of support and leadership, and for contributing to the successes of more than 40,000 athletes across the state.

TAX SAVINGS OPPORTUNITY

Donors 70 years and older may be eligible for a tax savings opportunity thanks to the charitable IRA rollover legislation. It allows you to transfer lifetime gifts up to \$100,000 using funds from your IRA without undesirable tax effects, but this opportunity is only available through December 31, 2011.

You may contribute funds this way if:

- You are age 70½ or older at the time of the gift.
- The gift total is any amount up to \$100,000 in 2011.
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA.
- You transfer the gifts outright to one or more qualified charities, but not to supporting organizations, or for gift annuities, charitable trusts or donor advised funds.

Q: Can my gift be used as my minimum required distribution under the law?

A: Yes. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution, the charitable IRA rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement. Contact your IRA custodian to complete the gift.

Q: Do I need to give my entire IRA to be eligible for the tax break?

A: No. You can give any amount under this provision, as long as it is \$100,000 or less this year. If your IRA is valued at more than \$100,000, you can transfer a portion of it to fund a charitable gift.

Q: I have two charities I want to support. Can I give \$100,000 from my IRA to each?

A: No. Under the law, you can give a maximum of \$100,000. For example, you can give each organization \$50,000 this year or any other combination that totals \$100,000 or less. Any amount of more than \$100,000 in one year must be reported as taxable income.

Q: My spouse and I would like to give more than \$100,000. How can we do that?

A: If you have a spouse (as defined by the IRS) who is 70½ or older and has an IRA, he or she can also give up to \$100,000 from his or her IRA.

By making a gift this year of up to \$100,000 from your IRA, you can see your philanthropic dollars at work. You are jump-starting the legacy you would like to leave and giving yourself the joy of watching your philanthropy take shape. Moreover, you can fulfill any outstanding pledge you may have already made by transferring that amount from your IRA under this legislation as long as it is \$100,000 or less for the year.

A LASTING IMPACT

A gift to Special Olympics Texas in your will or trust is an indication of your confidence that we will continue to serve our mission and carry on to make a difference in the lives of future generations of SOTX athletes.

A bequest:

- Is easy to arrange.
- Will not alter your current lifestyle in any way.
- Can be modified to address your changing needs.



The official legal bequest language for SOTX is: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give devise and bequeath to Special Olympics Texas [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Address: Special Olympics Texas, Inc.
7715 Chevy Chase Drive, Suite 120
Austin, TX 78752

Attention: Margaret Larsen, President & CEO

EIN: 74-1998367

KNIGHTS KNOWN FOR SUPPORT

On August 31, Margaret Larsen and Janet Smith met with the Texas Knights of Columbus State Council to discuss strengthening the relationship with Special Olympics Texas and the Knights, and to present an award in recognition of all that the Texas Knights of Columbus State Council has done for Special Olympics Texas.



Forty years ago, the first Special Olympics Games was held in Chicago, and the Knights of Columbus were there to help from the very first day. Joining with Knight Sargent Shriver and his wife, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the order helped spread support of Special Olympics throughout the United States and world, with both financial and volunteer support.

The Knights support SOTX by providing manpower and funding to conduct the local, regional, and state competitions. The State Charities donated \$22,000 to SOTX last year, and the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council provided another \$6,500 in matching funds to bring this total to \$28,500. The matching funds were given to recognize the many volunteer and fundraising hours provided by the Texas Knights to SOTX. They hope to exceed that amount this year!

For more information about the Texas Knights of Columbus, contact:

Jack Harvey
Texas State Council Chairman
harvey_jack@msn.com
972.771.5044

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Join SOTX and start off the new year by celebrating athletes' successes at the 2012 Winter Games, February 9-12 in Austin!



More than 2,000 athletes from across the state will gather to compete in bowling, figure skating, powerlifting, table tennis and volleyball. Mark your calendar to join us as a volunteer or spectator. Planning to attend? R.S.V.P. to Janet Smith or Mary Davison via the contact information at the bottom of the page. We'd love to see you there!

For a complete listing of SOTX competitions and events, visit www.sotx.org/calendar.



Special Olympics
Texas

PLANNED GIVING

For additional information about SOTX and Planned Giving opportunities, or to sign up to receive SOTX eNewsletters, visit:

www.specialolympicstexas.org

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