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www.somt.org

Special Olympics Montana Celebrates 40th Anniversary with 40 Honorees

(Great Falls, MT, August 20, 2010) 2010 marks Special Olympics Montana's 40th Anniversary. A 40th Anniversary Gala takes place Saturday evening, September 25, 2010, at the Mansfield Convention Center in Great Falls with First Interstate BancSystem the premier sponsor of the event. Tom Scott, First Interstate BancSystem Chairman of the Board, and his wife Joan Scott, will attend as honorary co-chairs for the evening.

40 key influencers – individuals, organizations and businesses from all across Montana – will be honored at the 40th Anniversary Gala. According to Bob Norbie, President/CEO of Special Olympics Montana, "Through sports, the 40 game changers have helped create a world of respect, acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities. These honorees carry the Flame of Hope and span our rich history - some for short periods of time and early on; others more recent and relatively new to the movement. Each, however, ignited a spark that has blazed across this state to make an appreciable and meaningful difference in the lives of all touched by the Special Olympics mission."

Honorees to be recognized include:

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Founder (1921-2009)	Josh Anderson, Great Falls
Bresnan Communications	Theresa & Terry Baldry Family, Miles City
BSW, Inc., Butte	Don Byers, Great Falls
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation	Nick Cladis, Billings
Century Gaming, Missoula	Star & Dana Darko Family, Great Falls
City Motor Company, Great Falls	Kayla Hoar, Butte
Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, Missoula	Jim & Joanne Kack, Bozeman
First Interstate BancSystem & Foundation	Great Falls Public Schools
Chuck Kohut, Great Falls	Havre Public Schools
Pat Lee, Kalispell	Montana Knights of Columbus State Council
Judy Magruder, Brady	Montana Law Enforcement Torch Run®
Tricia & John McKenna Family, Bozeman	Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply
Samantha McLeod, Great Falls	NEW Customer Service Companies
Gary McManus, Great Falls	NorthWestern Energy
WyAnn Northrop, Missoula	Oro Y Plata Foundation, Kalispell
Jodel Petroni, Butte	Roberts Yogo Company, Great Falls
Kerrie Sheets, Billings	Special K Ranch, Columbus
John Skees, Great Falls	Tire-Rama

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Honorees (continued):

Dan Tilton, Billings

Jack & Bobbie Whelan Family, Butte

Town Pump & Town Pump Charitable Foundation

Bob Williamson, Billings

*** Complete stories about honorees local to your markets are available by contacting Bob Norbie at Special Olympics Montana.

To celebrate the lifetime commitment and honoring the legacy of Special Olympics founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, September 25 also marks the first annual Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day. Special Olympics Montana's 40th Anniversary Gala will celebrate the inspiration, impact and indomitable spirit of Mrs. Shriver by inspiring the next generation of leaders to be passionate and purposeful architects of change.

The Gala will also feature a wonderful dinner, inspiring moments shared by athletes, a silent auction, presentation of a commemorative book, introduction of the 2010 Athlete of the Year and other joyful surprises. As part of this festive and fun evening, entertainment and dancing will be provided by the internationally acclaimed Pink Flamingos. Having performed for the World Cup Soccer Finals in Paris, Federal Express in Monte Carlo, Ameritech in Brussels and many other Fortune 500 companies, Sir Richard Bronson calls the Pink Flamingos "world-class entertainment". Visit www.thepinkflamingos.com to learn more about this great dance band.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Individual tickets are \$75. Sponsored tables for eight are \$1,000. For more information visit www.somt.org. For reservations contact arue@somt.org or call 800-242-6876 or 406-216-5327.

Gala Premier Sponsor: First Interstate BancSystem. Gold Medal Sponsors include: Bresnan Communications, City Motor Company, Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company and Transystems. Silver Medal Sponsors include: Anderson Steel Supply Co, Benefis Healthcare, Great Falls Prerelease Center, Guy Tabacco Construction, and NorthWestern Energy. Bronze Medal Sponsors include: Conner & Pinski PLLP, CTA, Davidson Companies, FISERV, JCCS, Lumber Yard Supply, *NEW* Customer Service Companies, Pacific Steel & Recycling, and RightNow Technologies.

As a world-class sports organization, the Special Olympics movement now serves more than 3.5 million athletes in more than 170 nations and touches the lives of hundreds of millions more. Changing the world, one athlete at a time right here in Montana, we now serve more than 2,000 children and adults in 120 programs across the state annually. And we are restless and determined to serve more!

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