

Brother Knights:

The Ontario jurisdiction is proud to be an active supporter of Special Olympics through our various Flag Relay programs and events, such as the Tootsie Roll campaign, the Hometown Games, the K of C Blue Jays Day, and the 50/50 Draws for Special Olympics just to name a few.

The Ontario State Board invites all Councils to participate in our Tootsie Roll campaign. Your Council can run this special fundraising event for the Special Olympics either on its own, with another Council, or as part of a District fundraiser. Our goal is for this campaign to be province wide and for us to achieve this we will need your help. The guidelines for the Tootsie Roll program can be found on the State website at www.ontariokofc.ca/Tootsie_Roll.htm.

Hometown Games are Special Olympics Ontario's local competitions, which are held within the communities where Special Olympian athletes live. Special Olympics Ontario is committed to expand and enhance these local competitions, and they are inviting the Knights of Columbus Councils in these communities to take on a leadership role with these events, be it as volunteers, sponsors or hosts.

As host for a Hometown Game, you take on the primary responsibility of planning, organizing, funding and operating the competition. Special Olympics Ontario currently has plans to hold a number of Hometown Games throughout the province. For more information or to find the Special Olympics' representative in your area please visit their website at www.specialolympicsontario.com.

The 6th Annual Knights of Columbus Blue Jays Day at the Rogers Centre will be held on Saturday July 28th (Jays vs. Detroit). Councils throughout Ontario are invited to support this event by sponsoring tickets for Special Olympians from across the province. Last year over 250 athletes attended the game and Special Olympians took part in the first pitch and the seventh inning stretch, while our State Secretary Kevin Daudlin was present to make a cheque presentation to Special Olympics Ontario for \$116,652, which represents the money raised for Special Olympics by the Ontario Knights during the 2010-2011 fraternal year. I want to thank all the Councils, Assemblies and sponsors that supported this event for their kind generosity.



Special Olympics Ontario has again invited the Knights of Columbus to partner with them in volunteering to run a number of 50/50 Draws at the Toronto Maple Leafs', Ottawa Senators, Toronto

Raptors' and Toronto FC games. Last year we have raised over \$35,000 for Special Olympics. I would like to thank the Brother Knights and the Squires, their families and friends who have volunteered their time to help us with these events. Your continued support is truly appreciated.

The 2012 Special Olympics Spring Games will be held in Kingston from May 31st – June 3rd, and the organizing committee is again looking forward to the Knights of Columbus being actively involved. Anyone interested in volunteering for these Games or would like more information, please visit their website at www.specialolympics2012games.com.

Councils whose members will be unable to actively participate in these Games, may wish to consider being a part of this event by holding a flag raising event to promote these Games in your community or by adopting a Special Olympics athlete from your area, which will help in covering the costs for travel, meals and accommodations.

The past two years we have extended an invitation to the Special Olympian athletes from across the province to join us in our Free Throw, Soccer Challenge and Hockey Shoot Out competitions. A number of Special Olympians have participated at the various levels of these competitions and they all truly enjoyed the experience and were well received by everyone in attendance.

To obtain a better understanding as to how actively involved the Knights in Ontario are with regards to the Special Olympics movement, we ask that you please complete the Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4584), which was due on January 31st. Supreme Council uses the information provided in this report to rank each jurisdiction by their involvement with Special Olympics, which in turn determines the contribution Supreme makes to the jurisdiction to assist them with their various Special Olympics programs based on their ranking. Last year the Ontario jurisdiction was ranked 3rd in the Order for which Ontario State Council received over \$5,800.

Should you wish to become more involved with the Special Olympics program in your area, an events calendar listing all of the upcoming events throughout the province can be found at...
<http://events.specialolympicsontario.com/#year=2012&month=2&day=20&view=month>.

This year the Ontario State Board is introducing the John P. (Jack) Clancey Award, which will be presented annually to a Council for its involvement with Special Olympics based on the information reported on the Award's application form which will be available on the State website.

Councils are invited to submit pictures and articles for our website at kofcflagrelay.com where you will find the latest information about the work the Ontario Knights do with Special Olympics.

If you should have any pictures or articles to submit or have any questions or require assistance, please feel free to contact me at jcm@3web.net.

Thank you for your continued support of Special Olympics.

Vivat Jesus.

Fraternally,

Bro. Joe Mathews,
State Director for Special Olympics