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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Kelly Coffey –Vice President of Communications, Special Olympics Texas
512.491.2928; 512.740.5245 (cell-media only); kcoffey@sotx.org

Andi Baca Kelly – Public Relations Coordinator, Special Olympics Texas
512.491.2959; 512.674.5483 (cell-media only); akelly@sotx.org

**Special Olympics Texas Athletes Travel to China
for World Games This Month**

San Antonio Athletes to Join Team USA for International Competition

SAN ANTONIO – Eleven Special Olympics Texas athletes from San Antonio are about to embark on an international adventure – competing at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China. The San Antonio athletes and 49 other Special Olympics Texas athletes are proud to represent Texas in the World Games as a part of Team USA.

The following athletes from the San Antonio area will compete at the 2007 World Summer Games:

<u>Athlete Name</u>	<u>Sport</u>
Earl Bell	Bowling
Jenie Cardenas	Basketball
Arturo Esquivel	Basketball
Naser Harhara	Basketball
Wayne Hoffman	Basketball
Stephen Koehn	Basketball
Ashley Muth	Basketball
Jim Scarl	Basketball
Joe Spade	Basketball
Zach Thompson	Basketball
Katy Walding	Basketball

(MORE)

The San Antonio athletes will depart for Los Angeles on September 25. On September 26, the athletes will leave Los Angeles for China. The World Games competition will be held October 2-11. This Games is the largest international sporting event to happen in 2007, bringing together nearly 7,500 athletes from 160 countries with support from tens of thousands of volunteers, family members and spectators. Ten of the San Antonio athletes will compete as a team in basketball; one athlete will compete in bowling. **The athletes will return to Texas on October 13.**

Daily updates from the Games will be available at www.specialolympicstexas.org.

About Special Olympics Texas

Special Olympics Texas is a privately funded non-profit organization, providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for 25,841 children and adults with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation] in the Lone Star State. For more information, visit www.specialolympicstexas.org or call 800.876.JOIN.

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