

LOCAL COPS GEARING-UP TO 'WAIT' TABLES

Kitsap County Law Enforcement Officers' fund raising event

Port Orchard, Wash. -- Local police officers and Sheriff's deputies will gear-up in different uniforms and assume new duties this Friday (July 18), when they don aprons, take meal orders and carry serving trays on as part of an international fund-raising effort to generate money specifically for the Special Olympics program.

Entitled "Cops & Lobsters 2003," this yearly event has local law enforcement personnel serving as volunteer "celebrity waiters" at the Red Lobster Restaurant, 3208 NW Randall Way, Silverdale. Nationwide, similar efforts will take place at other Red Lobster restaurants. This year officers and deputies will perform their duties during both the lunch time and dinner "rush hours," from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The volunteer 'waitering' performed by the deputies and officers occurs during their off-duty hours.

Officer and deputies from law enforcement agencies in Kitsap County have joined together to form **Team KOSSO** (Kitsap Officers Supporting Special Olympics). Participating agencies include: Bainbridge Island Police Department; Bremerton Police Department; Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and Kitsap County Deputy Sheriff's Guild; Port Orchard Police Department and Poulsbo Police Department.

Money earned by the "celebrity waiters," in the form of tips/gratuities, is donated directly to Special Olympics of Washington/Northwest Region in order to help support this worthwhile program. Other events hosted by **Team KOSSO** include courthouse Bar-B-Ques; workplace dress-down days; car washes, merchandise sales and more. The team's initial effort kicked-off May 30, when the Sheriff's Office **Deputy Dawgs Blowtorch Team** carried the Special Olympics torch, the *Flame of Hope*, throughout Central Kitsap during a running relay, ending up in Port Orchard after the torch was carried by kayak across Sinclair Inlet.

This year's goal of **KOSSO** is to raise \$20,000 for Special Olympics athletes.

The vision of Special Olympics is to help bring all persons with mental retardation or closely related development disability into larger society under conditions where they are accepted, respected and given a chance to become useful and productive citizens.

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sporting events for children and adult athletes, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage,

experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community. More than 8,000 athletes compete in Special Olympics Washington; some one million athletes compete in Special Olympics programs in more than 165 countries.

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