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## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN PUERTO RICO

Northern Virginia athletes and coaches to participate in Latin American Games

Seven Special Olympics athletes and their three coaches will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico February 18-28, 2010 to compete in the Triathlon as well as long distance running and distance swimming events at the Latin American Games. The triathlon is a new event for Special Olympics and will be offered for the first time ever at the Latin American Games. Athletes in the triathlon will compete in the 500m open water (ocean) swim, the 10K bike ride and the 3K run.

Athletes representing Special Olympics Virginia and Northern Virginia Area 26 are Jennifer Mitchell (Alexandria), Michael England (Alexandria), Bruce McGiboney (Herndon), Katy Sanchez (Springfield), Catie Cunningham (Fairfax), Tony Ward (Alexandria) and Khang Le (Alexandria). This will be Mitchell's second international experience. She was a bronze medal winner in Aquatics at the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai, China.

All athletes are members of the Flying Eagles Cycling Club, a Special Olympics team based in Northern Virginia. They have been participating in triathlons, duathlons and relay triathlons for several years. Special Olympics athletes from Latin America and Arizona will also participate in this event.

Special Olympics Virginia, Northern Virginia serves all of the communities of Arlington County, City of Alexandria, and Fairfax County. The mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.