



Special Olympics
Massachusetts

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...For Immediate Release

\$2.5 Million Gift Puts Shovels in the Ground for New Special Olympics MA Home
New 25,000 square foot facility in Marlborough to be named the Yawkey Sports Training Center

Boston, MA –Special Olympics Massachusetts has announced plans to construct a 25,000 square foot, state of the art training center in the City of Marlborough. Due to a generous grant of \$2.5 million from the Yawkey Foundation, the new building will be named the Yawkey Sports Training Center.

“Special Olympics Massachusetts thanks the Yawkey Foundation for setting the pace of our \$10.5 million goal,” said Bob Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics MA. “This support, along with future support from other organizations brings us closer to producing a brand new headquarters for our 10,000 athletes statewide.”

The Special Olympics MA headquarters will move from Danvers to Marlborough, a decision based on Marlborough’s growing economy, business community and accessibility ease.

The future Special Olympics Massachusetts headquarters will be situated on five acres and will enable the organization to realize greater efficiencies in its field operations, providing higher quality training experiences for a growing number of volunteers, coaches and athletes. Currently Special Olympics MA serves more than 10,000 athletes, 11,000 volunteers and 1600 coaches.

"The Trustees of the Yawkey Foundation are pleased to support the vital work of Special Olympics Massachusetts with this grant. We are confident that the new center in Marlborough will serve as a centerpiece and a catalyst for future growth and success," added James Healey, president and trustee of the Yawkey Foundation.

The multi-functional building will also provide high-tech training rooms for coaches, volunteers, athletes, medical professionals and Special Olympics MA staff.

By bringing together people with and without intellectual disabilities at Special Olympics programs, longstanding myths are dispelled, negative attitudes changed, and new opportunities are created to embrace and celebrate the giftedness of people with intellectual disabilities. This is accomplished in great part by the thousands of volunteers who give of their time and energy to ensure that our athletes have the best experience possible; and by our very generous corporate sponsors like the Yawkey Foundation, who provide both vital financial and volunteer resources needed to accomplish our programmatic goals.

Groundbreaking is expected in the late Fall of 2008. Opportunities for supporting the campaign for a new building for Special Olympics are still available.

About Special Olympics Massachusetts

Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) provides year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programming for 10,708 athletes with intellectual disabilities. SOMA offers over 126 year round sporting competitions. Through the power of sport, our movement transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. It also unites everyone by fostering a sense of community and building a civil society. For more information visit <http://www.SpecialOlympicsMA.org>.