



News Media Contact:
Michelle Avila
603-643-3441
pr@hypertherm.com

Special Olympics Athletes Gearing Up for Fall Games

HANOVER, N.H.—Sept. 9, 2009—Special Olympics athletes are gearing up for the 2009 Regional Fall Games scheduled for later this month in two Upper Valley communities. In all, more than 200 athletes from throughout New England are expected to take part in at least one of three events: volleyball, bowling, and an equestrian competition.

The opening ceremony at Harford High School in White River Junction will feature Hypertherm founder and president Dick Couch along with speakers from the Special Olympics. The Boy Scouts will lead a color guard and parade of athletes. This year's event will include a moment of silence in honor of the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics. After, athletes will recite the Special Olympics oath: *Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.*

Hanover based Hypertherm is organizing the Upper Valley games for a fourth straight year. In addition to providing financial support, Hypertherm associates are donating countless hours of volunteer time.

"The Special Olympics is grateful to Hypertherm for its continued support of this event. Hypertherm's commitment is really making a difference in the lives of the athletes who work so hard to participate in these games," said Pete Bleyler, Upper Valley regional director for the Special Olympics.

The mission of the Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, 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, Special Olympics athletes and the community.

As with any of the Special Olympics regional events, the public is encouraged to cheer on the athletes and share in the joy of this great sports competition. Anyone wanting more information should contact Allison Menday at 603-643-3441 x1643 or allison.menday@hypertherm.com. Events take place on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27. Locations and times follow.

What	Where	When
Opening Ceremony	Hartford High School, White River Junction VT	Sat. at 10 a.m.
Volleyball	Hartford High School, White River Junction VT	Sat. at 11 a.m.
Bowling	Upper Valley Lanes & Games, White River Junction VT	Sat. at Noon
Equestrian Event	Dartmouth Riding Center, Etna NH	Sun. at 11 a.m.