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**Dozens of Athletes Heading to Upper Valley for  
Special Olympics Regional Fall Games**

**HANOVER, NH—Sept. 18, 2008**—The Beijing Olympics may be over but the Olympic spirit lives on. Later this month, nearly 200 athletes will descend on the Upper Valley for the start of the Special Olympics Regional Fall Games.

The games span two days, kicking off on Saturday, September 27 with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. There, athletes will recite the Special Olympics oath: *Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.*

As with last year, the 2008 games will take place in three Upper Valley Communities: White River Junction, Thetford, and Hanover. The athletes will come from as far away as Nashua, Burlington and Western Massachusetts to participate in four sporting events: volleyball, cross-country running, bowling, and an equestrian competition.

The Special Olympic athletes are always appreciative when they have someone to cheer them on. As such, Upper Valley residents are encouraged to attend all or some of the events. A list of event locations and times follows:

Opening Ceremony	Hartford High School, WRJ	Sat. at 10 a.m.
Cross County Running	Thetford Academy, Thetford	Sat. at 11 a.m.
Volleyball	Hartford High School, WRJ	Sat. at 11 a.m.
Bowling	Upper Valley Lanes & Games, WRJ	Sat. at Noon
Equestrian Competition	Dartmouth Riding Center, Etna	Sun. at 11 a.m.

For a third straight year, Hanover based Hypertherm is the official host of the fall games. In addition to providing financial support, Hypertherm associates are donating countless hours of volunteer time.

“Hypertherm’s continued commitment to the Special Olympics is making it possible for dozens of determined athletes to live out their dream,” said Pete Bleyler, Upper Valley Regional Director for the Special Olympics. “It is wonderful to have the support of such a community focused partner.”

**About 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, other 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](mailto:allison.menday@hypertherm.com)

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