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...for immediate release

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Olympic Spirit In Worcester During Annual Winter Games
Special Olympics Massachusetts comes to Worcester for 5th consecutive year

Worcester, MA. – The 2008 Special Olympics Winter Games are coming back to the greater Worcester area for a weekend of sporting competition and celebration of abilities. For the fifth consecutive year, the DCU Center and City of Worcester have welcomed the Special Olympics Massachusetts Winter Games to the Worcester community. The weekend-long Winter Games bring over 3,000 athletes, coaches, volunteers, families and supporters to the area, generating over \$2 million for the Greater Worcester area economy.

The Games will kick off on Friday February 29th at the DCU Center as the Worcester Sharks host a memorable night and help start the Winter Games off right. The Sharks team up with the Special Olympics and host the Opening Ceremonies for the second year in a row when they take on Manchester. Opening Ceremonies at 6:30, puck drops at 8:05pm

The players will sport a special collector's jersey custom made for this very special occasion. The jersey's will be signed and auctioned off after the game to raise funds for the Special Olympics and Sharks Charities.

Saturday and Sunday (3/1-3/2) continue with competitions in the following sports and venues:

Alpine Skiing: Wachusett Mountain - Princeton

Basketball: Final Venues - Assumption College, Bancroft School, Burncoat High School, Clark University, Forest Grove Middle School, Holy Cross, Norrback Elementary School, Worcester Technical High School

Basketball Skills: Notre Dame Academy

Bowling Traditional: AMF Town and Country Lanes - Shrewsbury

Bowling Unified: AMF Lanes - Auburn

Figure Skating: Buffone Arena - Worcester

Floor Hockey: South High School - Worcester

Nordic Skiing: The Finnish Center at Saima Park - Fitchburg

Speed Skating: Buffone Arena - Worcester

The 2008 Winter Games are free and open to the public.

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Schedule of events for the 2008 Winter Games weekend are as follows:

Friday, February 29, 2008

5:45 pm	Doors to DCU Center Open
6:30 pm	SOMA Opening Ceremonies
8:00 pm	Sharks game begins
9:30 pm	Sharks game ends (approximately)

Saturday, March 1, 2008

8:00 am	Competition Begins
6:00 pm	Olympics Town Opens
7:00 pm	Athlete Dance

Sunday, March 2

8:00 am	Competition Begins
3:30 pm	Competition ending

For more information and exact locations please visit:

<http://www.specialolympicsma.org/events/index.asp?page=winter>

About Special Olympics Massachusetts

Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) provides year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programming for nearly 10,000 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 and unites everyone by fostering a sense of community and building a civil society.

The 2008 Special Olympics Massachusetts Winter Games are made possible by: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Unum, Price Chopper Supermarkets, Polar Beverages and the Worcester Sharks.