



**Special Olympics**  
New Jersey

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 02, 2009

### **SONJ Law Enforcement Fundraising Ranked #2 in the World!**

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) has raised **\$2,436,887.15** in 2009, making them **#2 in the world!** Each and every one of the events put on by New Jersey Law Enforcement this year has been an success and has benefitted the more than 18,000 Special Olympics athletes that train and compete throughout the state.

Here are some highlights from the year:

- January: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Polar Bear Plunge in Wildwood**, held at Wildwoods Convention Center had 500 participants.
- February: The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual **Polar Bear Plunge in Seaside Heights** had 3,600 participants -- a record for number of participants at this event.
- April: The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Lincoln Tunnel Challenge** had record numbers of participants and set a new fundraising record for the event.
- June: The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual **Law Enforcement Torch Run** – 2,900 police officers carried the “Flame of Hope” a distance of over 900 miles for the opening of the 2009 Summer Games.
- September: The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual **Continental Airlines Plane Pull** held at Continental Airlines at Newark Intl. Airport consisted of 42 teams (also, a record for number of participants)
- August: **Chik’N’Plunge and Fest** where 112 people participated at this first time event in Wildwood.
- November: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual **Thanks’4’Giving Plunge** was held at Crystal Lakes in Oakland, NJ on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. There were 61 Plungers, and \$16,000 was raised making this one of the most successful 1<sup>st</sup> time Plunges.

For more information and a full listing of events presented by The Law Enforcement Torch for Special Olympics New Jersey, visit [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org)

-30-

***ABOUT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN: The Law Enforcement Torch Run is part of an international campaign for Special Olympics coordinated and managed by all divisions of Law Enforcement officers and officials from throughout the world whose mission is to raise dollars and awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide.***

***ABOUT SONJ: Special Olympics New Jersey provides 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.***