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MOST INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETE SELECTED

AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS SUMMER GAMES

Mission, Kansas -- Every year Special Olympics Kansas recognizes a Most Inspirational Athlete at Summer Games in Wichita, KS. The Most Inspirational Athlete Award is not just about competing well in events, but it is about being positive and encouraging to others both on and off the field. At the recent Summer Games, Brayden Hugunin of Burlington received the award for 2013. He was selected from almost 1400 athletes who participated.

Finding inspiration at the Summer Games is never hard. During last years games, Brayden inspired his twin sister Raelynn with his personal motto: "In a world where you can be anything, be yourself."

Brayden finds his own inspiration from some of his favorite activities. In addition to training for his wheel chair events and the tennis ball toss, he loves Monster Trucks. He embraces technology and loves using You Tube. His Mp3 player is full of music that inspires him for practice, learning or sometimes simply relaxing on a ride with Grandpa, or fishing in his own special pond on his family farm.

This years theme for Special Olympics Kansas is "Good for the Sole". Debbie Ringle, Volunteer and Chair of the Most Inspirational Athlete Committee states, "It is truly an honor and very humbling to be able to spend the weekend meeting athletes and their teams and learning their stories. Every so often, something special happens and we find inspiration when we're looking in a different direction. When those moments happen, I promise you that it is good for the soul."

Over the weekend Brayden won 4 gold medals in motorized wheel chair races and a silver in tennis ball throw. He participated in Opening Ceremonies and in 2014 will light the cauldron with the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

This was the 43rd Annual Summer Games of Special Olympics Kansas. Special Olympics Kansas is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, respected members of society through sports, health and nutrition programs and leadership development. For more information on Special Olympics Kansas visit, www.kssso.org

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