

Celebrating Champions 08-2010

Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "As you get older it is harder to have heroes, but it is sort of necessary." While it may be difficult to find those heroes, one can simply look to one amazing Special Olympics Kansas athlete - **Bill Story**, for inspiration.

Bill began his participation with Special Olympics Kansas in 1974 - only four years after the founding of the program! At 32, he was a self-proclaimed, bona fide couch potato extraordinaire. Fortunately, his neighbors approached him and suggested he give Special Olympics a try. He quickly joined the JCPRD Rangers.

Since that day, Bill has fully embraced Special Olympics-- both as an athlete and coach. Through countless area and state competitions, Bill fostered a love for competition and expanded his social network. He made lifelong friends among other athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers.

His love of competition took him to 2 World Games - once as part of the Kansas soccer team and once representing the Kansas softball team. While his favorite sport is softball, at 68, Bill has said it's time to hang up his cleats and begin coaching. As a coach, he inspires his athletes and teaches them the valuable lessons of competition and sportsmanship.

When he's not coaching or competing, Bill can be found working at Barnes & Noble Bookstore on the Plaza. He shares an apartment in Overland Park - but he can often be found traveling with the JCPRD Special Pop's group. He is always the first to sign up for the trips!

Bill is a champion. Throughout his time with Special Olympics, he has become an inspiration to other athletes, friends, coaches and volunteers. His enthusiastic spirit, willingness to help others and steadfast commitment to Special Olympics make him someone that we can all call a hero.