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CATERPILLAR NAMED SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

NORMAL, Ill. – Caterpillar has been named 2012 Special Olympics Illinois Outstanding Organization of the Year. The company was honored at a reception held on June 15 before the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games Opening Ceremonies at Illinois State University in Normal.

The Outstanding Organization Award recognizes a club, business or organization whose efforts have significantly improved the Special Olympics Illinois athletes' experiences either locally or statewide.

Caterpillar has been a supporter of Special Olympics Illinois for more than 17 years. The employees have contributed their time and efforts towards providing programming to Special Olympics athletes in Peoria, Decatur, Bloomington-Normal and other locations. They have also devoted time towards helping to expand program opportunities and services to athletes.

More than 30 Caterpillar employees are active local volunteers in Peoria, Decatur, and Bloomington-Normal. In addition, Caterpillar has also provided Special Olympics Illinois with technology support.

The company has given \$214,767 to Special Olympics Illinois in support of events and programming since 1994. "The majority of these funds have been raised through reliable \$10,000 gifts over the past decade. This includes their max gift of \$20,000 in 2008," said Caterpillar's nominator.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for nearly 21,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and more than 6,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics changes lives by empowering people with intellectual disabilities to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org.

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