

For Immediate Release

IDOC Emergency Response Teams Compete in FedEx Plane Pull Challenge

Indianapolis, Indiana (August 25, 2008)—Three teams from the Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Emergency Response Operations Division recently participated in the FedEx Plane Pull Challenge 2008 at the Indianapolis International Airport on August 9.

The challenge pits teams of up to 20 people in a tug-of-war competition against a FedEx Boeing 727 jet weighing more than 147,000 pounds. The teams had to pull the jet a distance of 12 feet in the least amount of time. Westville Correctional Facility's team recorded the fastest time overall and in the public safety division at 4.746 seconds. The Miami Correctional Facility team came in second place in the public safety division at 5.3 seconds, and the northern ERO team came in fifth place. The Plainfield Correctional Complex E-Squad also participated in the public safety division.

The event was held to raise money for the Special Olympics of Indiana. Westville Correctional Facility's team and the northern ERO team both raised \$1,000, and the Miami Correctional Facility team raised \$1,005. The Plainfield Complex E-Squad raised the most with \$1,383.55.

"This event truly showcases how friendly competition can benefit a worthy cause. I am proud of the IDOC teams that participated, and I commend their willingness to give back to the community," said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

Plane Pull History

Trademarked as a fundraising event unique to Special Olympics programs throughout the United States, the FedEx Plane Pull® Challenge got its start in Indiana in 2002 through the inspiration of FedEx Senior Ramp Tower Controller and Special Olympics Indiana volunteer Eric Garrett. After hearing of Special Olympics Virginia's success with its own Plane Pull event, Garrett introduced the idea to Special Olympics Indiana. The Indiana Plane Pull grew from about 15 teams in 2002 to more than 54 in 2008.

About Special Olympics Indiana

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in over 21 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 12,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal or state appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information about Special Olympics Indiana, call (317) 328-2000 or visit <http://www.soindiana.org>.

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