



6th ANNUAL Breakfast With Champions

- Description of Event:** *Breakfast With Champions* is an annual fundraising event for Special Olympics Washington (SOWA) athletes in the greater Inland Empire. SOWA is a non-profit organization providing year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Currently, over 1,200 athletes participate in the Spokane area. By participating in sports, physical fitness and healthcare education programs, SOWA athletes increase self-confidence and social skills, improve physical and motor skills and succeed in leading more productive and independent lives.
- Date of Event:** Tuesday, October 7, 2008
- Time:** 7:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
- Location:** The Spokane Convention Center
- Keynote Speaker:** *Three Time Olympian Ruben Gonzalez, "The Luge Man"*
He wasn't a gifted athlete. He didn't take up the sport of luge until he was 21. Against all odds, four years later he was competing in the Winter Olympics. At the age of 39 he was racing against 20-year-olds in the Salt Lake City Olympics! He's proof that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. Ruben has appeared in film, radio and television; he is the author of several books including "The Courage to Succeed"; he is a successful Houston businessman and publishes the column "High Achievement" in journals across the nation.
- Emcee:** *Dan Kleckner, KHQ Television Main Anchor*
Dan has been with KHQ for the past 23 years, his last seven years as Main Anchor. His involvement with Special Olympics Washington goes back more than 20 years to when he was the Sports Anchor at KHQ. His earlier involvement included emceeing at many sports events, such as bowling, basketball, skiing and track and field.
- Information:** Linda Safford
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*"If only we open our eyes and hearts, we will find in the athletes of Special Olympics the best of the human spirit, and through them, each of us will find the best in ourselves."
Eunice Kennedy Shriver*