



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Colorado Athletes Capture GOLD at 2009 World Winter Games

DENVER, Colo. -- Special Olympics Colorado snowshoeing athletes **Brydie Charles (Aurora)** and **Josh Reynolds (Greeley)** captured a gold medal in the 1600-meter relay Wednesday at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho. Charles collected her second medal of the World Games with her third-place bronze medal finish in the 400 Thursday. In addition Reynolds turned in a fourth-place finish in the 200, while Charles earned a ribbon with her fifth-place mark in the 800.

Charles and Reynolds were medalists in their first-ever Special Olympics World Games competition. Their combined winning time of 11:26.72 in the 1600 relay was 30 seconds faster than the second place finisher, another foursome from Team USA. Charles edged Gaele Cauret of France by two seconds with a 03:37.66 clocking to take the bronze in the 400.

Charles has competed in snowshoeing for eight years. A Special Olympics Global Messenger, she also competes in aquatics, bowling, cycling and track & field. She credits participation in Special Olympics for teaching her team spirit and discipline. Attending the World Games has been a lifelong goal for the 21-year old multiple gold medalist.

Reynolds has participated in snowshoeing for just over one year. A four-year participant in Special Olympics, he also competes in basketball, soccer and swimming. This past fall, Reynolds enhanced his training for the World Games by joining his school's cross country team. The 13-year old credits Special Olympics for providing him opportunities to compete and meet people in an environment of acceptance.

After closing ceremonies for the week-long event tonight (Friday), the athletes depart Idaho and return to Denver International Airport Sunday.



Brydie Charles



Josh Reynolds

2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games Results

Snowshoeing Competition

<u>Event</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Time</u>
1600 M Relay	1st	Team USA -- Charles (Colorado) , Loop (Alaska), Reynolds (Colorado) , Cunningham (Calif.)	11:26.72
400 M Race	3rd	Brydie Charles (Colorado), Team USA	03:37.66
800 M Race	5th	Brydie Charles (Colorado), Team USA	08:09.60
200 M Race	4th	Josh Reynolds (Colorado), Team USA	00:48.68

If you are a FAN of courage, then you are a FAN of Special Olympics