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**For Immediate Release**

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS COLORADO PRESENTS GATSBY IN THE PARK  
A BENEFIT SUPPORTING THE STATE'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES**

**COLORADO'S LEGENDARY JAZZ SINGER, HAZEL MILLER TO PERFORM AT THE AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup> EVENT  
AT THE PAVILION AT CITY PARK**

**Denver, CO, August 7, 2007** – On the evening of Saturday, August 18, 2007 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) will host a party that would rival one thrown by Jay Gatsby himself. The party is the premier fundraiser for SOCO.

Gatsby In the Park's event invitations set the tone for the night and were designed to resemble a vinyl record from the '20's era. Hazel Miller who will perform the night of the party lends two cuts from her *I'm Still Looking* cd that is part of the custom invitation. The Pavilion at City Park (next to Ferrill Lake) serves as the ideal setting to replicate the feel of Gatsby's grounds and as guests arrive, a green light on the bank will be a glow to greet them. Vintage cars from the 20's and 30's will line the red carpet as guests enter a scene from the Gatsby-era.

Guests at the event will enjoy a gaming parlor with casino games including black jack, roulette and crapes, lawn sports (bocce & croquet), paddle boat rides, food and beverage and other surprises throughout the evening. Special Olympics Colorado athletes will be on hand to assist with games and share their experiences with guests. Athletes who participate in bocce (one of the summer sports offered by SOCO) will serve as honorary coaches for guests on the bocce court.

"We hope that Gatsby In the Park becomes our signature annual event. The idea is to freshen up the black tie fundraiser by providing guests with a memorable evening in support of a fantastic cause...Special Olympics Colorado athletes," said Mindy Watrous, President & CEO. "Funds raised through this event will help provide high quality sports training and competition opportunities for over 8,500 athletes across the state. It will be a wonderful event and unique to the Denver social scene."

Individual tickets and corporate sponsorships are still available. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$125 and corporate sponsorships begin at \$2,500. For more information visit Special Olympics Colorado website at [www.specialolympicsco.org](http://www.specialolympicsco.org) or call (800) 777-5767.

All monies raised will go directly to support Colorado's 8,500+ Special Olympics athletes. The state's program provides year-round sports training and competitions in over 20 Olympic-type sports and hosts over 100 area level and 5 state level competitions every year. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities (ages 8+) as well as non-disabled peers (Unified Sports®) have the opportunity to participate in the program at no cost. Special Olympics Colorado relies entirely on the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations and service clubs for financial support. The program does not receive funding from federal or state government agencies, the Kennedy Foundation or the United Way.

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## About Special Olympics Colorado

Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) strives to change lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, and socially; families are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united in understanding people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance. Through year-round sports training and athletic competitions as well as other related programming for over 8,500 children and adults (ages 8 and up) with intellectual disabilities across Colorado, SOCO has created a model community that celebrates people's diverse gifts. Special Olympics Colorado provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics Colorado. ***For more information contact Terri Takata-Smith, Marketing Manager at (720)359-3115 / [tts@specialolympicsco.org](mailto:tts@specialolympicsco.org) or visit [www.specialolympicsco.org](http://www.specialolympicsco.org).***