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**CONTACT:**

Dimitri Senaratna  
1-651-994-5275 (USA)

Maureen Walsh  
094-72251

**DECARE INTERNATIONAL DONATES €10,000  
TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

**January 17, 2003 (MINNESOTA, USA)** — U.S. dental health insurer, DeCare International, announced today it would be donating €10,000 towards the 11<sup>th</sup> Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Dublin, Ireland this summer.

The donation will sponsor 10 athletes at €1,000 each under the Special Olympics' *Support an Athlete* sponsorship program: DeCare's Claremorris-based claims processing facility will sponsor five athletes from Tanzania and its Cork-based software company will sponsor five athletes from Mexico, to coincide with the Special Olympics decision to delegate Claremorris and Cork as official "hosts" of those countries.

"We are pleased to play a role in supporting the Special Olympics' World Games in Ireland," said Michael F. Walsh, a native of County Mayo and president and CEO of DeCare International. "In addition to the corporate donation to the *Support an Athlete* program, our facilities in Claremorris and Cork will play an active role in supporting Special Olympics' events at both the local and national level."

According to Special Olympics' organizers, donations to the *Support an Athlete* program will go towards paying for athlete accommodation, transportation, medical supplies, venues and ceremonies connected to the Games. In return, the Claremorris and Cork facilities will receive a portfolio on each of the five athletes they sponsor, including a

**(more)**

## **Special Olympics...page 2**

detailed biography, photos and events that they will be entering. Sponsors will have the ability to track each athlete's progress at the Games via the Special Olympics Web site ([www.2003specialolympics.com](http://www.2003specialolympics.com)).

Maureen Walsh, general manager of DeCare's Claremorris facility, said employees are excited to support the Games and have planned a numbers of fundraisers to possibly sponsor an additional athlete through the *Support an Athlete* program. "We are also looking forward to welcoming the Tanzanian athletic delegation, which will be visiting the Claremorris Township as part of the Special Olympics' *Host Town Program*," she said. "I anticipate employees will enjoy meeting some of the athletes we helped sponsor. We are also exploring additional opportunities to work with the local organizers on related events, too."

An innovator in oral health benefit plans, Minnesota-based DeCare International and its family of companies provide dental insurance benefits and related services for a variety of clientele. DeCare provides dental insurance coverage to approximately 3.2 million individuals – employed at more than 12,000 companies in the Unites States. Through an exclusive partnership with Europ Assistance it now provides access to dental care for individuals outside the United States. DeCare International's European operations include a claim processing center in Claremorris, Ireland and a software development company in Cork, Ireland. The company is also developing a third facility in Crossmolina, which it hopes to complete in 2003.

All media inquiries should be directed to Dimitri Senaratna at 001-(651)-994-5275 (USA) or [dsenaratna@decare.com](mailto:dsenaratna@decare.com).