



Special Olympics
Massachusetts

Someone You Should Know...

Athlete Profile: Denise Carriere



Denise Carriere was inducted into the SOMA Hall of Fame at the 2008 Gala celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Special Olympics movement.

"I have made a lot of new friends," Carriere says about the biggest benefit of her involvement. "It has also given me more pride and courage."

For Denise Carriere Special Olympics has been a part of her life for a long time now. Twenty-six years to be exact. Carriere, who is now 33 years-old, got involved with Special Olympics when she was eight years-old.

Carriere has competed in track and field, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, swimming and volleyball. She is currently competing in soccer and swimming.

Two years ago, Carriere also took on another large task with Special Olympics when she not only became a global messenger, but also a member of the board of directors for Special Olympics Massachusetts.

For Carriere the best part of Special Olympics is, "going around meeting new people and making new friends. And just being myself."

One of Carriere's favorite memories of her involvement with Special Olympics came last year at

the Teachers Convention in Boston when she spoke in front of a crowd of more than 4,000 teachers. As a global messenger for Special Olympics, Carriere speaks in front of crowds often and acknowledges she occasionally gets nervous, but doesn't let it bother her.

Carriere's favorite sport is swimming where she completes in the 50 meter freestyle, the 25 meter backstroke, and is the captain of the relay team. Though she loves swimming, soccer is a close second, and Carriere competes with her friends on the Andover Stars.

"I have other friends that participate in Special Olympics," Carriere said. "In soccer my friends and I compete and I am very proud of my soccer team."

For Carriere Special Olympics has been a significant aspect of her life for 26 years, and has plans to continue her involvement not only playing sports but on the board and as a global messenger.

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