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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Goodwill Columbus Athlete to Compete in Special Olympics[®] World Games in Athens, Greece

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 1, 2011 – Jeff Brewer, an athlete at Goodwill Columbus, has qualified to compete, June 25 to July 4, in track and field events at the 2011 Special Olympics[®] World Games in the white marble Panathinaiko Stadium in Athens, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

“This is a special opportunity to be able to compete against others from all over the world in a country that is rich in cultural history,” said Brewer, who has participated in Special Olympics for the last six years.

His coach and mentor at Goodwill Columbus is Steve Weaver. He said, “Jeff is an exceptional athlete on the playing field and a notable leader in the community, giving of his time to work and church and helping educate children and provide for the homeless.”

At the world games, Brewer will be among 7,500 athletes and 2,500 coaches from 185 nations. The world games are held by Special Olympics every two years to recognize and honor the abilities of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Team U.S.A., of which Brewer will be a member and represent Ohio, will consist of about 300 athletes from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Brewer said he is prepared for the trip to Europe and welcomes the fellowship.

“The things I have done at Goodwill and with Special Olympics have helped me to be more outgoing, develop a sense of accomplishment and take pride in doing my best while working toward this goal,” he said.

Training at Goodwill Columbus

Through participation in Goodwill Columbus’ athletic program over the last three years, Brewer has trained and competed in Special Olympics’ track and field events at local, state and national levels. The 37-year-old specializes in the pentathlon which involves him in a 100-yard dash, running long jump, shot put, high jump and 400-meter dash. Additionally, Brewer runs the 4 X 100-meter relay. He earned two silver medals for these events last summer at the Special Olympics 2010 National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Before the world games in Athens begin, Brewer will spend four days, June 20-24, with fellow U.S.A. athletes in a “host town” program in Rhodes, Greece. There he will train, taste traditional cuisine and experience Greek sporting, cultural and artistic events. From the host town, Brewer will travel to the Olympic Stadium in Athens, Greece, part of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex. Accompanying him on the trip will be Amanda Gump from Special Olympics in Wood County, Ohio.

The trip will require Brewer to take some time off work and his community obligations. Locally, he has a job in maintenance at Staples in the Karl Plaza at 1666 E. Dublin-Granville Road. He is an active member of his church, Crestview Presbyterian, 350 E. Tulane Road, where he sings in the choir and assists a classroom of second graders with reading. Jeff also has volunteered his time to help the homeless by working locally at the Faith Mission.

“I will be doing my best at the world games, knowing all my family and friends in Columbus will be cheering me,” Brewer said.

For more information on the 2011 Special Olympics World Games, visit <http://www.specialolympicsteamusa.org/2011/news>.

Goodwill Columbus has been serving the local community since 1939. It is the ninth largest nonprofit in central Ohio and is among the top 100 employers. Each year Goodwill Columbus provides 1.2 million hours of service to more than 3,400 participants with disabilities and other barriers through day habilitation programs, community-based supported living services, employment training and job placement services. For more information on Goodwill Columbus, visit www.goodwillcolumbus.org.

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