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## **Special Olympics Fundraiser Invites Adventure-Seekers to Rappel 51 stories from Rio's Masquerade Tower, VooDoo Lounge**

LAS VEGAS, Thursday, September 2, 2010 — If you're an adrenaline junkie and you're looking for something new to do in Sin City, you might consider joining your friends and a few celebrities on the roof off the 51-story Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino next week and enjoying the views as you rappel more than 400 feet to the bottom. More than 40 people are already registered and Las Vegas celebrities like Frank Mir (UFC fighter), Nathan Burton (Flamingo headliner) and Joe Sebok (professional poker player) will be on hand and will take the 'leap' as well.

The Rio is known for its signature purple and red glass and having one of the wildest nightspots in Las Vegas – the VooDoo Lounge. “Now it's about to get a little wilder with Special Olympics' inaugural *Over the Edge* event this year,” explained Maggie Schwarz, Regional Vice President of Special Olympics Nevada. “This event is made for Las Vegas and we are so excited that Harrah's Entertainment and the team at the Rio were visionary enough to make history with Special Olympics Nevada.”

The Rio in Las Vegas will host a fundraising rappelling event for Special Olympics Nevada on October 8. As many as 100 people will make their way down the northwest side of the building on two ropes. Those who climb down the hotel wall will be gathering pledges from donors leading up to the event.

“We're excited about offering a new experience while raising much-needed funds for our athletes,” said Rick Collett, CEO and President of Special Olympics Nevada. “Our athletes have a lot of courage and take risks everyday when they try to do something thought to be impossible by most. Likewise, this event will take a lot of courage for anyone who decides to rappel 400 feet in the middle of Las Vegas.”

All participants must be in good health and weigh no less than 110 pounds and no more than 300 pounds and no experience is necessary. The rappelling will be supervised by *Over the Edge*, a Nova Scotia company that has organized dozens of rappelling events all over North America.

Over the Edge for Special Olympics is a day-long event, which runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Rio. Family, friends and spectators are invited to come down and support participants. All funds raised will go



directly toward providing training opportunities, equipment, uniforms and practice venues for some 4,000 Special Olympics athletes in Nevada.

Interested climbers may sign up online at [www.OverTheEdgeLasVegas.com](http://www.OverTheEdgeLasVegas.com)

### **About Special Olympics Nevada**

Special Olympics Northern California is a free year-round sports training and competition program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. About 4,000 compete in 12 sports. This gives them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Financial support comes almost exclusively from individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations. Find out how you can be a fan and visit [www.SONV.org](http://www.SONV.org).

### **About The Rio**

The **Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino** is located off the Las Vegas Strip in the incorporated area of Paradise, Nevada. It is owned and operated by [Harras Entertainment](http://www.harras.com). The Rio was the first all suite resort in the Las Vegas area. It was named after the city of Rio de Janeiro and is influenced by Brazilian culture. The hotel towers are covered in the signature purple and red glass. The Rio hotel's 2,522 suites range in size from 600 to 13,000 sq ft (56 to 1,200 m<sup>2</sup>) and have floor to ceiling windows. There are several private villas on property for high-rollers.

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