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PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: April 22, 2019

SAN FERNANDO POLICE ANNOUNCE "TIP-A-COP" **TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

San Fernando, CA – The San Fernando Police Department will host its fourth annual Tip-A-Cop event on **Thursday, May 2, from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm**, at Heavenly Pancakes, located at 665 N. Maclay Avenue, San Fernando.

This is your chance to have a uniformed Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant or maybe even our Chief of Police serve you as you enjoy a meal. The public is invited and encouraged to join the Department to support this great cause. Officers will be raising money for the Special Olympics of Southern California Tri-Valley area, which serves people with intellectual disabilities in the City of San Fernando.

"We are so pleased to be hosting our fourth annual Tip a Cop. I know the community will come out and support us" says Detective Evelyn Diaz, event chairperson/organizer. "The money we raise is for a great cause, Special Olympics. Last year, we raised over \$8,000 with the community's support! We had the second highest local Tip-a-Cop Fundraiser. It shows our city may be small in numbers, but has a big heart!" Law Enforcement and Special Olympics have a great partnership beyond this Tip-A-Cop event, including participating in The Torch Run, volunteering at Opening Ceremonies, and awarding athlete medals and ribbons at competitions throughout the region.

San Fernando Police Chief Anthony Vairo, 2019 Special Olympics Award of Excellence recipient, said, "We are proud to support this event again and have our department members donate their time to such a great cause." Chief Anthony Vairo also said, "We cherish the relationship we have with Special Olympics and the chance to not only raise funds but to raise community awareness."

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“All the money raised at Tip-A-Cop stays right here in the Central Division, which serves people in San Fernando, and benefits our local athletes with intellectual disabilities. The money raised helps pay for equipment, transportation, competitions, and uniforms for our athletes so they are able to participate at no cost to them and their families. The programs include basketball here in San Fernando and the upcoming May 4th Regional Swim Competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities being held for the second straight year at the San Fernando Regional Pool,” said Laura Mayo, Special Olympics Assistant Vice President.

To make a donation if you can't attend, you can **text: GIVESFPD to: 44-321** or go to <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/special-olympics-southern-california/tip-a-cop-sfpd>

Tri-Valley has over 650 athletes who are training in six sports in the Spring/ Summer season and four in the Fall/ Winter. If you are interested in volunteering to be a coach, or know someone who would like to be an athlete, please call **Special Olympics Tri-Valley** office at 661.489.0540 or email lmayo@sosc.org.

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