

SPEED T & F
6757 SUMMER GRACE STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80922
PH: (719) 573-6022 WWW.SPEEDTF.COM

Dear Friend,

Speed T & F is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization serving a diverse cross-section of the families in El Paso County, Colorado since 1996. We are a registered USA Track and Field Association team that provides the opportunity for the youth within the community to compete at the Junior Olympic level. Although our team motto, “*Running Toward Success*,” is couched in terms of competitive athletics, the driving purpose of our organization is to enable boys and girls to experience “success” in a much broader sense. The mission of Speed T & F is: **To identify and facilitate excellence, respect for others, and civic responsibility within the context of a competitive track and field program for youth in the local community.**

Our program emphasizes *excellence* both in sports and academics. We mentor our young people to enable them to set ambitious, yet achievable, goals — both on and off the field. Thereafter, our staff works individually with each team member to develop their own personal plan for success. And together as a team, we encourage these valuable members of our community to live out their plan so that they can regularly attain their personal best — in practice, in school, in informal gatherings, and at scheduled competitions. It is no coincidence then, that when our youth are *running toward success*, they are simultaneously running away from gang influence, illiteracy, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and many of the other social ills that plague our society today.

Excellence though, is only one aspect of a successful life. Another is measured in terms of the *respect* that one has for himself/herself and for other individuals. Knowing this, we teach young people to value the individual and their given abilities rather than the “group” from which they come. To participate as a member of Speed T & F, we require that a teen actively and consistently contribute not only toward achieving their own goals, but also toward achieving those of their fellow team members. We stress *tolerance*, yet we extend this concept by insisting upon *respect* — for gender, for life situation, for race, for religious affiliation, and for any other aspect of humanity that makes this world so incredibly diverse and interesting. And because we teach that all individuals are of value, it is no accident that Speed T & F is perhaps one of the most diverse track and field teams in the state. We certainly want winners on the field, but our overall goal is to produce leaders off the field.

Our program also underscores *civic responsibility*. A leader gratefully acknowledges that he/she is part of a larger community, and that it is a privilege to share one’s resources and talents. For teenagers, we stress giving of their time and efforts within their family units first. In addition, we regularly discuss selected topics with a view toward increasing a teen’s level of social awareness and imparting a sense of community responsibility that will motivate them to give back. Moreover, we provide opportunities for these young people to give back through partnerships with local charitable organizations.

Would you consider making a one-time financial contribution to our organization? Better yet, would you consider partnering with us in this endeavor? While we are very grateful for one-time and in-kind gifts, we provide recognition for our partners in ways commensurate with their level of sponsorship such as co-branding or logo placement on our website www.speedtf.com, programs, brochures, flyers, event banners etc. We currently need funds to offset costs for facility rental, participation fees, athletic education, travel, equipment, additional training, and to provide scholarship opportunities for select at-promise youth. Our winter and summer program lasts approximately 23 weeks and are designed to give our young people the very best in coaching and mentoring for success. In 2007 Speed T & F had over 53% of its participants qualify for the Regional USA Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship; of those, 69% qualified for the Junior Olympic National Championships. The average GPA for our team is 3.75. We are committed to serving the youth and your support will have a phenomenal impact on our ability to retain high quality mentors/coaches and to enable at-promise youth to participate. Please feel free to contact me at 719-237-6058 should you have any questions or if I can provide any further information about our program. **Please make your tax deductible donation payable to Speed T&F, 6757 Summer Grace Street, Colorado Springs Colorado 80923.**

Sincerely,

CHARMAS B. LEE
Executive Director and Founder