

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This is a special story. We need more co-operation than competition.

Several years ago, something amazing happened at the Special Olympics in Seattle.

The race was the 100-yard dash and nine contestants, all with physical disabilities, stood ready at the starting line.

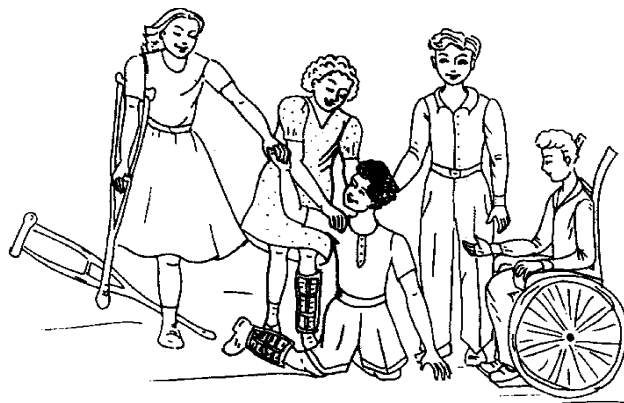
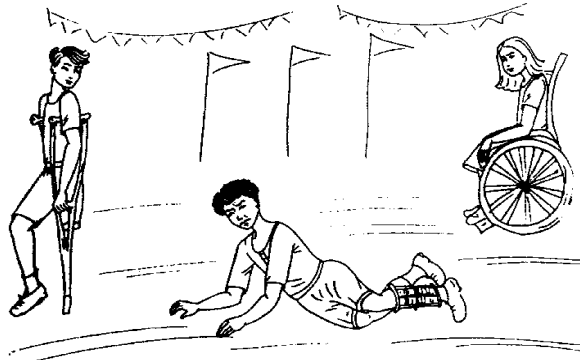
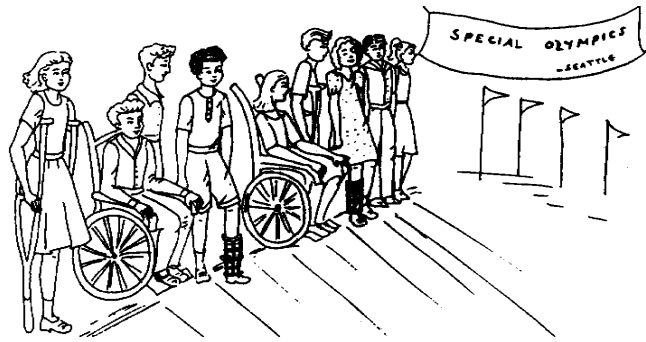
The gun fired and everyone took off, not exactly in a dash, but all eager to win. All, that is, except for a little boy who stumbled and tripped, then fell to the ground and began to cry.

Hearing him, the other contestants stopped running to see what had happened. Then one by one, they turned around and went back to help him up. Every single one of them.

When he was back on his feet, dusted off and tears dried one girl with Downs Syndrome had put her arms around him and kissed him gently, saying, 'This will make him better.'

Afterwards all nine children joined hands and the audience watched spellbound as they walked together to the finish line.

Nine gold medals were awarded in that race and the crowd that cheered the winners on with a standing ovation learned something about friendship that day that they would never forget.



From *Chicken Soup for the Soul*
(Pix by Abha Mehrotra)