

PRESS RELEASE

**SAFILO GROUP SUPPORTS
THE 2009 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES**

Padova, 6 february 2009 – The Safilo Group, world leader in top-of-the-range and luxury eyewear, is pleased to support the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, which will be held from 7 to 13 February as a global supplier and visible sponsor for the Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes[®] vision program.

The extraordinary World Winter Games event will take place in **Boise, Idaho (USA)**: for a week, the town will host over **2,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities** from **more than 100 nations** to compete in many different sports: **alpine skiing, cross-country, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding and more.**

The Safilo Group, which **since 2003 Safilo renews its support to this important project**, furnishes optical frames and sunglasses to the participants in the sports competitions promoted by the Special Olympics worldwide, within the “Opening Eyes” vision screening program.

As part of Special Olympics’ Healthy Athletes[®] public health initiative, Opening Eyes is the largest program in the world dedicated to providing vision care for the global population of people with intellectual disabilities. Opening Eyes and the Healthy Athletes program have been operating for more than 10-years for proving critical health services for Special Olympics athletes worldwide.

Thanks to Safilo’s involvement in 2008 more than **16,000 Special Olympics athletes** received optical and technical frames, while more than **12,000 athletes** received sunglasses to protect their eyes.

“We are very enthusiastic about supporting such an important project for such a long time” – says Samantha Tabacchi, Safilo’s Corporate Communication and Identity Director. – “In these years with Special Olympics we organized many activities that, thanks to Safilo’s generosity and worldwide networking, allowed us to provide direct support in helping thousands of people with intellectual disabilities worldwide improve their sight. Safilo’s commitment to the integration and welfare of the intellectually disabled does not stop with an annual donation of glasses, rather it involves a number of employees in volunteer work at Special Olympics events worldwide.”

About Safilo Group

The Safilo Group is worldwide leader in the premium eyewear sector and maintains a leadership position in the prescription, sunglasses, fashion and sports eyewear sectors. Present in the international market through exclusive distributors and 32 subsidiaries in primary markets (U.S.A., Europe and Far East). The main proprietary branded collections distributed are: Safilo, Carrera, Smith, Oxydo, Blue Bay, and the licensed branded collections are: Alexander McQueen, A/X Armani Exchange, Balenciaga, Banana Republic, Bottega Veneta, BOSS by Hugo Boss, Diesel, 55DSL, Dior, Emporio Armani, Fossil, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, HUGO by Hugo Boss, J.Lo by Jennifer Lopez, Jimmy Choo, Juicy Couture, Kate Spade, Liz Claiborne, Marc Jacobs, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Max Mara, Max&Co., Nine West, Pierre Cardin, Saks Fifth Avenue, Valentino, Yves Saint Laurent.

About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition to 2.5 million adults and children with intellectual disabilities across 165 countries and territories. The Special Olympics movement offers one of the world’s greatest platforms for acceptance and inclusion for all people-regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or cultural differences. Find out how you can become involved at <http://www.specialolympics.org>.