

Magical inspiration

Special Olympians have much to teach about what's important



I've heard a thousand speeches in my life and maybe made a thousand myself. But one of the best occurred the other day at the East Calgary Rotary Club.

Steve Harmer's the name, and he has the unusual combination of 21 years teaching in Calgary public schools and 22 years as a professional magician, recognized by the world of magic throughout the nation.

Educator and entertainer — that's a wonderful combination.

Steve is simply mesmerizing — an incredible motivational speaker. And the magic, plus the message is being put to good use by Steve, who's touring the community, focusing primarily on talking with kids about bullies.

Meanwhile, he's pulling rabbits out of hats and doves out of thin air. His violence-prevention presentations are making a vital contribution to our community.

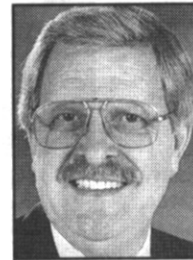
Steve related a tale about Special Olympians, a group of lovely young people who could give all of us lessons on what's really important in life.

The moment happened in Seattle during the 1995 Special Olympics Games — it's a true story.

The big event was about to happen on the track — the 100-metre dash. The gun sounded and eight runners were off.

However, one girl soon fell, skinned her knee and began crying.

One by one her competitors stopped,



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turned around and returned to the victim to help her.

Then, all eight did the most amazing thing — they held hands.

And all of them crossed the finish line TOGETHER!

God, what a moving lesson for the rest of us, all too consumed as we are with our materialistic world that dictates winning at all costs and getting rich in the process.

I've been fortunate to have been associated with Special Olympics for years, and the story we've just related illustrates why.