



Olympian Feat

There's a special sporting transformation happening on our islands – and you can help BY CHERYL MARKOSKY

Once a very shy young man, who rarely made eye contact and mumbled when he spoke, Robert Liddie now walks with confidence and cracks jokes.

The turning point for the 34-year-old came on Cotton Ground, Nevis, when he joined Special Olympics St. Kitts and Nevis, part of the worldwide Special Olympics – the biggest organisation for people with intellectual disabilities, with more than 4.7 million athletes in 169 countries.

After mentoring and encouragement from his coaches, Robert overcame his

inherent fear of the ocean – common on the islands – to swim in the first ever Special Olympics relay in the 2016 Nevis to St. Kitts Cross Channel Swim.

Two years later, he completed a two-kilometre leg of the relay – and this year, he hopes to swim the entire four-kilometre channel swim. Quite an achievement, as Nevis has no public pools for training.

Robert's also a member of the first Special Olympics SKN endurance training team, hoping for a place on the 2019 Abu Dhabi World Games team in the disciplines of open water swimming, cycling and the newest SO sport, triathlon.



You might see him early in the morning improving his stroke in the sea or cycling with his teammates, before heading off to work at Ram's, a local grocery store.

Robert's not a 'natural' athlete. He's had to work hard for his achievements. But his dedication is what makes Robert – and the Special Olympics – so special.

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Robert is one of 13 athletes from the Federation participating in swimming, cycling, triathlon, athletics, bocce and tennis events in Abu Dhabi. In order to make the journey to the United Arab Emirates, however, he and his fellow athletes need your help.

If you'd like to make a donation or volunteer to support the St. Kitts and Nevis squad, please contact Terri Andrews, SOSKN Sports Director, at: terriandrews@gmail.com 📧

Nevis to St. Kitts Cross Channel Swim

