**United States Deaf Swimming**

David Tolstyka
Brownstown MI 48183

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January 20, 2011

The greatest honor that an athlete can achieve is an invitation to represent his or her country at an international competition. I have been selected to the 21 member team to represent the United States of America at the **2011 World Deaf Swimming Championships** in Coimbra Portugal, this August 2011.

In 2010 I became profoundly deaf in both ears, after suffering an unknown virus. I have been competitively swimming since I was 9 years old, and joined my 1st USA team at the age of 10. In 2009 I represented the state of Michigan at the Central Zone Championships. In 2010, I broke numerous freshmen and a varsity record at Woodhaven Brownstown High School. Currently I am a sophomore and an honors student. This will be my first opportunity to swim in an **international competition**. I am an active competitive member of Plymouth Canton Cruisers (PCC) a USA sanctioned swim club.

I am a member of USA Swimming, United States Deaf Swimming and the USA Deaf Sports Federation. The burden of cost for training and international competition is entirely mine. **The USA Deaf Sports Federation, an affiliate national governing body of the United States Olympic Committee, is not a USOC funded entity.** While able bodied ***(think Dara Torres and Michael Phelps)*** and paralympic athletes receive training and travel funds, deaf athletes do not. The cost per athlete for the 2011 World Deaf Championships is at least $4,000.00 per athlete.

**I humbly request your support.** Your tax deductible donation to United States Deaf Swimming a 501(c)3 organization, will provide my teammates and I the opportunity to travel to Portugal and participate in 8 days of intense competition on behalf of the USA. We are proud to represent the United States. **No amount is too small.** You can learn more about United States Deaf Swimming and the National team at www.unitedstatesdeafswimming.org Donations can be mailed to USDS, c/o Dana Elam at the address below, please write my name in the memo line.

I look forward to your support and am very proud of the opportunity to serve as an ambassador for the United States of America.

Sincerely,

David Tolstyka