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**Special Olympian conquers Alcatraz for children with special needs**

Orlando, Fla. – On a cool, blustery morning, Krista Pohorenc braved the cold, choppy waters in the San Francisco Bay and conquered Alcatraz in 57 minutes. Diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth, Krista swam the 51 degree waters from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park on Saturday, September 30, 2006 to raise awareness for early intervention services for children with special needs and to raise funds for UCP of Central Florida.

“The water was very cold, but the kids were counting on me so I couldn’t turn back”, said Krista.

Friends and family members were equally excited to see Krista reach her goal as she ran onto shore.

“Krista did a tremendous job”, said Nancy Schober, Krista’s mother. “We couldn’t be happier. Her hard work and determination shows those with disabilities can reach their dreams.”

For Krista, the Alcatraz swim is just the beginning. She plans to continue volunteering as a teacher’s aide at UCP’s Child Development Center in Lake Mary. And in the future she hopes to become a motivational speaker to help create a better world for all people, with and without disabilities.

Founded in 1955, UCP of Central Florida, a non-profit organization, operates six inclusive pre-school/kindergarten charter schools in the Central Florida community for children with all types of disabilities and developmental delays, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida, autism and others.

UCP also provides outpatient pediatric physical, speech, and occupational therapy, as well as family support and foster care services for children with disabilities.

For more information on UCP of Central Florida call (407) 852-3300 or visit [www.ucpcf.org](http://www.ucpcf.org).

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