

# Lending a Hand at the Special Olympics



On June 4, 2010, AmeriCorps members Alisha Williams and Angela Murray representing the Partnership to End Homelessness joined with AmeriCorps members from all around the state to help out with the Special Olympics event in Cary, NC! The members were assigned to help in the Aquatics Venue where the swimmers gave their all in pursuit of a gold medal. Serving with AmeriCorps were the cadets from Tarheel Challenge, all of whom were only days away from graduation.

Alisha, who has served in the Youth Focus and Disability Assistance roles, and Angela, who has served in the Weaver House role, spent time *outside* of the event, talking with the spectators and participants. They gave them information about the Partnership to End Homelessness program and explained what it is like to be a member in AmeriCorps. They also spent time *inside* of the event serving as athlete timer/assistants, cheering the swimmers on, helping them get out of the pool, and using stopwatches to help time



the events. Athletes of all ages competed and the stands were filled with supportive friends and family members. The first athlete Angela timed was hearing impaired and she got a late start to her 15 lap race. However, she did her best, pulled into the lead, and ended up winning the event. She showed everyone that it isn't how you start but how you finish that matters. All of the participants had a good time. Even if they didn't win a medal, every swimmer got a ribbon.