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WOMAN SENTENCED FOR TAKING MONEY FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – A former bookkeeper for the Special Olympics was sentenced yesterday to prison for stealing over \$163,000 from the non-profit organization. Victoria Jarvis, 48, of Mineral Wells, West Virginia, was sentenced by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston to six months in prison, to be followed by an additional two months of home confinement and three years of supervised release. Jarvis was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$120,653, the remaining amount owed to the Special Olympics.

U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin stated, “Stealing money from charities like the Special Olympics is simply intolerable. This sentence should deter others, who work in a position of trust, from stealing money from those organizations that serve our most vulnerable citizens.”

Jarvis previously pleaded guilty in June 2010 to identity theft. Jarvis admitted from 2002 until 2008, while working as a bookkeeper for Special Olympics, West Virginia, she used a computer and check creation software to make counterfeit checks payable to herself. Jarvis then placed the computer generated signature of the CEO of the Special Olympics on the checks, and deposited the checks in her personal checking account. The investigation revealed that Jarvis created approximately 108 fraudulent checks resulting in a loss of approximately \$163,650 to the Special Olympics.

This case was pursued as part of the United States Attorney’s Identity Theft Initiative where cases of identity theft are pursued at the federal level based on the vulnerability of the victim and the amount of loss. The West Virginia State Police conducted the investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes.

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